

# State of emergency on the mines



Behind Anglo's anti-apartheid talk lies vicious anti-worker action. Ask any mineworker and they will tell you - "Anglo's anti-apartheid talk means nothing. Our reality is starvation wages, mass dismissals, naked racism and vicious repression. Capitalism and apartheid are two sides of the same bloody coin. Our struggle is to change these things - against both Botha and the bosses."

A recent survey by NUM into the state of emergency of the mine bosses on Anglo mines reveals an all out attack on the NUM. The NUM has been built from the sweat and blood of workers. Through determination and struggle workers forced management to recognise the union and negotiate on wages and working conditions. The NUM became the backbone of COSATU and a thorn in the flesh of the apartheid-capitalist cheap labour system.

But since the 1987 strike, when the bosses dismissed over 40 000 workers in a legal strike, the bosses have waged war against the union in

an attempt to roll back the gains mineworkers have made. There have been dismissals, physical assaults, disciplinary charges, police-style raids and terrible harassment. They have one aim: to break the power of NUM and turn it, as NUM President James Molatsi has said, "into a toothless welfare association of mineworkers".

NUM's investigation into Anglo's state of emergency on the mines found:

- mass dismissals and retrenchments
- assaults on workers by mine security
- banning of union meetings
- shaft stewards harassed
- workers intimidated by mine security on horses
- 38% of recognition agreements have been cancelled
- not recognition of shaft stewards
- closing of NUM offices on the mines
- stopping telephone use by the union
- spiteful charges against workers
- refusal to negotiate wages and

- working conditions
- union officials denied access to mine premises
- stopping union officials and outside speakers from addressing union meetings
- bans on workers songs at meetings and on mine premises
- union meeting agendas censored and controlled
- time restrictions on union meetings
- union meetings recorded on video and tapes
- distribution of anti-union pamphlets
- anti-union propaganda through intercom systems and bosses radios
- dog squads and patrols by armed casspirs and hippos
- racism
- overcrowding compounds
- encouraging tribalism and ethnicity

This brutality is an attack on the worker power of COSATU as a whole. All unions and COSATU structures should discuss ways to mobilise to defend NUM now.

**Defend the NUM!**