

LIVING WAGE struggles affecting more than a million workers are now unfolding.

And as the gap grows between the wages workers need and the profits bosses want, massive worker action for a living wage seems likely this year.

In the metal and mining sectors — the backbone of Cosatu's living wage campaign — the wages and conditions of nearly 900 000 workers are presently under negotiation.

The 370 000-strong National Union of Mineworkers is demanding, among other things:

- An across-the-board increase of between 45% and 55%.
- Danger pay.
- An end to PAYE tax deductions from July 1.
- A reduction in hours of work.

The mine bosses are offering a 12% increase for coal mines and an increase of up to 16,9% on gold mines.

The NUM has already declared a dispute with the mine bosses and will be able to go on a legal strike within a month.

Meanwhile the Metal and Allied Workers' Union and other metal unions in the Industrial Council for the metal industry are headed for a similar dispute.

The bosses are offering 10,5% increases — well below the rate of inflation — which have been rejected by the unions.

The unions are demanding that the bosses lower the difference between what semi-skilled workers earn and what unskilled workers earn.

All Cosatu unions are, meanwhile, building the living wage campaign to fight for:

- A living wage for all workers.
- An end to tax deductions.
- Decent education and training for all.
- An end to the hostel/migrant labour system and decent



Join the Living Wage campaign — build worker unity.

housing near our place of work.

- A 40-hour week.
- Six months' paid maternity leave.

Under attack

YOUR newspaper, Cosatu News, is under attack.

The second issue, produced in November 1986, was banned because the state felt it was "too militant". Cosatu is appealing against the banning.

The fourth issue, produced in May 1987, was also immediately banned. But before it was banned, the police raided our offices countrywide and confiscated about 55 000 copies under the emergency regulations. We were unable to print the Zulu and Sotho editions because of this.

The Cosatu Executive Message, which was produced in February this year, was also seized all over the country. Close to 100 000 copies were

taken by the police.

Last week the police once again raided Cosatu offices countrywide and confiscated pamphlets about the attacks on our organisation.

WORKERS and subscribers: Because of the attacks on Cosatu House, Cosatu News and other Cosatu publications, Cosatu's Executive Committee has decided that we can no longer produce Cosatu News as a standard newspaper for the time being.

Cosatu News will still come out — but it will be the size of this issue, between 4 and 8 pages thick, and more regular.

SUBSCRIBERS: We have been unable to get all our records from Cosatu House, so please bear with us. We will be restructuring our subscription service in line with the changes to Cosatu News. You will soon be receiving Cosatu News and other information.

Forward to the National Congress!

COSATU's first National Congress (NC) since our launch in December 1985 will take place in Johannesburg in July.

The congress is the most important decision-making body in Cosatu.

It is the place where our policies are changed or added to.

It is the place where our constitution can be changed.

It is the place where we elect our national leaders.

The NC is democratic. Every union in Cosatu is entitled to one delegate for every 500 paid-up members it has. There must be a majority of worker delegates in every delegation.

With Cosatu's paid-up membership of over 700 000, there will be at least 1 400 delegates at the NC.

Unions in the 12 major industrial sectors must merge before the NC is held, or face disciplinary action by Cosatu. Unions in the mining, metal, food, domestic and construction sectors have already merged into big industrial unions. Once all mergers are complete, there will be 14 unions in Cosatu — including the farm and unemployed unions.

This NC is taking place when our country is in crisis — attacks and repression against the worker and democratic movement are greater than ever.

But workers are leading the mass struggle against poverty and oppression.

The decisions that come out of our NC will guide Cosatu for the next two years, and will have a major impact on the future of our struggle and our country.

Every worker in Cosatu must make sure that resolutions and policies for Cosatu's NC are being widely discussed in your union.

Forward to the NC!