

ON June 12, 1986, PW Botha's government declared another state of emergency in an attempt to smash the spirit of resistance which had swept across South Africa since late 1984.

On June 12, 1987, the state of emergency will still be in force -- and so will the spirit of resistance.

The "anniversary" of South Africa's third and longest emergency gives us an opportunity to look back on the past year to see the impact of the most terrible period of repression in the country's history.

In that period, PW Botha and other reactionaries have:

- Launched massive attacks on the union movement and promoted the establishment of vigilante forces to attack workers.
- Detained at least 30 000 activists, many of them members of Cosatu and our affiliates.
- Killed more than 1 000 people in our townships, many of them youths.
- Invaded many of our neighbouring countries.

Perhaps the biggest insult of all came from PW Botha himself — he called an all-white election on his wife's birthday to get a mandate for more repression.

Now, as we remember the introduction of the state of emergency, a few names and places are worth remembering, too:

- Moses Mayekiso, Noel Williams, Lizzie Phike, Mathew Oliphant, Denis Neer, Enoch Godongwana, Amos Masondo, Richmond Buti and the hundreds of other Cosatu members who are still in detention.
- The Kinross mine disaster where 177 workers died.
- The Cosatu House bombs and the bombing of our offices in Nelspruit.
- The sieges of Cosatu House.
- The sacking of 16 000 SATS workers, and the subsequent shooting of at least seven workers at Germiston and Doornfontein.
- The shooting of Mawu members at their rally in



# THE STATE'S EMERGENCY

## NOT EVEN TANKS AND TROOPS CAN BREAK OUR SPIRIT

Durban.

The list is endless.

Then, there are the dozens of security police raids on our offices and meetings; the countless vigilante attacks on our members, especially in Natal; the seizing of our newspaper and pamphlets; the constant bannings of our rallies — especially our living wage rallies, and the total crackdown on the celebration of May Day as a true workers' holiday.

Yes, PW Botha, his government and the other reactionaries have done their best to try and squash the spirit of resistance.

Have they succeeded?

Judge for yourself, on just a few examples:

On June 16 last year, when the emergency was just four days old, millions of people stayed away in solidarity with the youth and in protest against emergency repression.

Tens of thousands of workers, mainly from shops and mines, went on strike against the detention of union leaders under the emergency.

On July 14, hundreds of thousands of workers in different parts of the country took strike action against the emergency.

On October 1 more than 300 000 Cosatu workers mobilised behind 300 000 NUM workers for the biggest national industrial strike ever in our struggle. The strike was

in protest against the unsafe conditions on the mines which led to the death of our Kinross comrades.

On December 1, hundreds of thousands of workers again took action in protest against the vicious attack on the MAWU rally in Durban which left one worker dead.

Then from December till February over 10 000 OK Bazaars workers mobilised the longest-ever national strike for a living wage — and won.

And in March over 20 000 railway workers and 8 000 post office workers came out on strike. The post office workers returned to work after a month — victorious. Our railway comrades are still on strike, still strong and still united.

On May 1, the whole country stopped as millions of workers stayed away to celebrate May Day.

On May 5 and 6, 11 months into the emergency, more than three-million people stayed away from work in protest against the election. Despite the detention of leaders, and vicious attempts to smash existing structures, people stayed away in their millions in solidarity with the dismissed SATS workers and to protest the racist election, the repression and the continued detention of our comrades.

The spirit of resistance is stronger than ever before. The workers' movement is more determined than ever before. Worker action and leadership of the mass democratic struggle is greater than ever before.

More than ever before, millions of workers are determined that this time we will continue to go forward. The bomb that hit Cosatu House might have been the biggest on the Witwatersrand, but it was nothing compared to the power and strength of the millions of workers and youth who supported the two-day protest action on May 5 and 6.

Nothing on earth — not even nuclear bombs — is as strong as the organised power of the working class.