

# MINERS SQUARE UP FOR A BATTLE FOR A LIVING WAGE

360 000 mineworkers and members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) have gone on strike -demonstrating once again the formidable power of the workers by pulling off South Africa's ever legal strike.

Their demands are:

- 30% increase in wages.
- 30 days paid leave a year.
- June 16th as a paid holiday.
- Danger pay.
- Death benefits to be increased to five years's earnings.

When negotiations were deadlocked last month, 95% of NUM's members voted to strike.

## **A LIVING WAGE**

The mineworkers demand for a living wage is based on the fact that despite the economic recession, the mining companies continue to make huge profits. The mineworkers, however, remain the lowest paid workers in the country while doing the most dangerous and hardest work. On the gold mines the minimum wage is R238 and on coal mines R225.

## **MIGRANT LABOUR SYSTEM MUST GO**

For over a century the migrant labour system has subjected workers to slave conditions and has dehumanised workers on an unforgivable scale. It has broken families and destroyed the lives of workers in concentration camp like hostels.

## **BOSSES AND THE GOVERNMENT**

The collaboration between the mine bosses and the apartheid government, in the name of protecting cheap labour, has led to the seige of workers behind barbed wire fences and private stormtroopers.

## **CONGRESS, LYL, LESCO, JOYCO AND LAYCO SALUTES THE MINeworkERS**

The disciplined united action of the NUM confirms the political maturity and the leading role of the working class. We salute their determination and preparedness to sacrifice in the face the violence of the mine and the state security forces.

## **SUPPORT MINeworkERS RELIEF FUND SAYS UDF**

The UDF has pledged its active support of the striking mineworkers. In addition the UDF has committed itself to work towards a more constructive relationship with the trade unions.

Thus it calls on:

All members, supporters and affiliates to show their support for striking mineworkers by:

- Donating R1 to the NUM Relief Fund, P.O. Box 2424 Johannesburg.
- Send non-perishable foods to the NUM Office in your area.

We call on all democrats, both in South Africa and internationally to actively support this battle against the apartheid's oppression and exploitation of South Africa's mineworkers.

**Hands off NUM!**

**A living wage for all workers!**

**An injury to one is an injury to all!**

