



# NUM NEWS

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NEWSLETTER OF THE UNION OF MINeworkERS

## MASSACRE BY PROTEA SAP

# POLICE KILL NUM LEADER

### Editorial Comment

We, the mineworkers of South Africa, mourn the death of our friend, Comrade and leader, Chris Hani. He personified our aims and aspirations. He was one of us. But he was more than that. Through his dynamic personality and actions he reflected all that was best in ordinary people, in workers and peasants, men and women, young and old. He never separated himself from any of the oppressed classes. He had great humanity, listened to our problems. We did not have to look for him. He sought us out.

We followed Chris in his unwavering belief in Socialism. Nothing that happened in the rest of the world undermined that belief. For Chris, liberation meant more than getting the vote or setting the date for the democratic elections. It meant the economic emancipation of all the oppressed classes. His aim was to abolish poverty, unemployment, homelessness, illiteracy and everything that destroyed the lives of our people.

Chris wanted a South Africa without racism and exploitation, where everyone could develop his or her full potential. And where everyone could equally enjoy the wealth on which the South African economy is built. That is what we want.

We shall miss Chris Hani. His guiding hand in the negotiation process was essential for its success. He was a person of stature who evoked respect whenever he went and from whoever he met. He was a Communist and fighter and for those qualities we admired him.

But while we shall miss him we shall never forget him or allow him or his vision and ideals to be forgotten. Chris Hani will remain an inspiration for all mineworkers in South Africa. The National Union of Mineworkers salutes Chris Hani. May his soul live for ever.

NUM President - James Motlatsi

### Comrade Sam Tambani, Chairperson of National Education Sub-Committee (NESCO) and a member of NUM National Executive Committee was killed by the police on 14 April 1993 at Protea Police Station in Soweto.

Tambani was murdered when the police open a volley of fire on thousands of peaceful protesters after having delivered a memorandum to protest the assassination of the South African Communist Party General Secretary, Comrade Chris Hani.

The marchers were from a protest rally on Hani's killing, held at Jabulani Amphitheatre, Soweto, where ANC President addressed the mourners.

Tambani was leading the protest march as the ANC Soweto Sub-Regional Secretary when eight people were massacred.

Thousands of people attended Tambani's funeral held on April 24 with speakers from the ANC, SACP, COSATU, CIVICS and NUM paying tributes to the fallen fighter.

### FREEDOM FIGHTER

Born of a poor peasant family in Northern Transvaal, Sam Tambani developed to become a seasoned revolutionary dedicated to the emancipation of the oppressed from national and social enslavement.

He joined the ranks of the working masses at an early age and never failed to fight against poverty wages, poor working conditions, joblessness, homelessness and apartheid in general.

He understood the link of workers' oppression at the hands of bosses with the broader political repression of apartheid.

Inspired by the undying love of freedom for his people he refused to become an armchair revolutionary and joined the ANC the SACP and NUM.

It was in the actual field of struggle against forces of apartheid tyranny that he was moulded into an unwavering freedom fighter until his death at the hands of his lifetime enemies.

The bullets of the apartheid police have destroyed the mortal Sam Tambani. No amount of firepower can ever kill ideals of freedom, justice, democracy and social progress for which Sam lived and died.

He left a legacy of selfless dedication to the cause of the poor of which we can emulate. All freedom loving people of our country will find an inspiration from Sam's revolutionary life history.

In the true tradition of revolutionaries the world over he was the first to advance and the last to retreat.

Ours is to take his fallen spear and continue to wage an unrelenting struggle against apartheid capitalism until victory is won.



Sam Tambani, NUM leader who was murdered by the Protea Police while leading a peaceful protest.