

MINEWORKER BRIEFS

May Day celebrated in force

THOUSANDS of workers participated in over 35 May Day rallies around South Africa.

From Atlantis to Madadani, from Phalaborwa to New Brighton, workers took part in a day of culture, freedom songs and speeches. The biggest May Day since 1986 showed that workers were determined in their demand for a paid public holiday on May 1, and not on Botha's "Workers Day".

NUM condemns Emergency

THE NUM condemned the re-imposition of the State of Emergency on 12 June.

It was a "clear indication that the racist minority government is committed to the use of brute force to suppress the democratic rights of the majority of South Africans."

Kriel anger over unsafe shafts

THE health and safety campaign has been taken very seriously at Kriel Colliery where workers have stopped working twice because of dangerous conditions.

On 29 May workers stayed away at H9 section but were forced back to work after management got a court interdict. The mine inspector was called to inspect the place. But the problems were not resolved because there was no report from the mine inspector, and the same working area carried on falling when there was blasting or drilling. Management then accused workers of not keeping the place safe. Workers, however, blamed management.

H9 workers refused to enter the section on 21 June. In the afternoon all workers went on strike because the H9 crew was suspended pending disciplinary action. Workers went back on 22 June, except for the H9 crew.

On 23 June it was reported that H9 section had fallen, damaging machinery as there were no workers. The H9 crew has now gone back to work after the union intervened.

Victory for nurses at Rand Mutual

NURSES at Rand Mutual Hospital have won an arbitration award.

The nurses, who are NUM members, were not being paid properly or graded properly in terms of their skills.

Combi fares stop work at colliery

WORKERS at Newcastle Coal Mine held a work stoppage from 11 to 15 May after management did not pay for transport to work.

Workers had been told by management to hire combis because of the bus boycott by the community of Newcastle against increased bus fares. Workers went back after management agreed to pay out for transport.

Worker leader buried in Soweto

A FOUNDER member of SACTU, veteran of the ANC and former member of the SACP, Comrade Elliot Goldberg Tshabangu, 62, was recently buried at the Avalon cemetery in Soweto.

Comrade "Chairman Mao", as he was affectionately known, was a tireless fighter in the cause of national liberation and social emancipation.

Comrade Tshabangu organised coal miners and became General Secretary of the Transvaal Coal Miners Union in 1961.

Murder leads to work stoppage

ABOUT 1500 workers stopped work at New Denmark on Monday 17 April after a NUM member was murdered.

It was alleged he was killed by members of UWUSA. The NUM blamed the violent events on the migrant labour system with its ethnically based compounds which divide workers.

Anglo throws away R150 million

ANGLO'S Minorco company spent R150 million in its failed attempt to take over the Consgold mining company.

The money was spent on lawyers, accountants and publicity.

Fighting on the wrong side

FIFTY eight black employees at Hlobane Colliery have joined the SADF Northern Natal Commando.

The union is investigating this as well as the increase in mine security on many mines.

Repression at Anglo mine

THE private army of Anglo American broke up a wage negotiation report back and dispersed thousands of mineworkers with teargas at Freddie's gold mine at the beginning of July.

Mineworkers held an open air mass meeting at No. 7 shaft bus terminus to get the latest developments on wage negotiations between NUM and the Chamber of Mines.

The meeting - held with the permission of the mine management - took a dramatic turn when armed mine security personnel interfered with the proceedings of the meeting.

Mineworkers say that a military armoured personnel carrier arrived at the meeting place full of security personnel.

Members of their paramilitary force forcibly took control of the mass meeting by grabbing the loud hailer.

Workers who wanted to air their views on the wage offer were asked to provide their personal particulars to mine security before they could speak.

They were forced to give their names and company numbers. Mineworkers felt that this was a severe restriction on freedom of expression and assembly and refused to comply.

Mine security then fired teargas into the crowd.

Meanwhile a fully fledged platoon of black commandos con-

crised the mining industry.

The existence of the mining bosses' private army with hippos and vicious dog squads became clear during the 1987 Great Miners Strike. The brutality of this repressive machinery left several miners dead and hundreds injured.

With the introduction of the commandos it is now clear that mineworkers have their own "state" within a state.

The mining bosses have their own trained armies deployed on the mines ready to unleash terror.

Late last year the NUM research team unmasked the "liberal" face of AAC by exposing severe repression existing on Anglo mines.

In an attempt to end repressive measures on Anglo mines, the NUM has drafted a Code of Conduct.

Negotiations with Anglo American started early this year and are still continuing. But repression on the mines remains unchanged if not escalating.

The mine state of emergency has to be lifted if conditions conducive to good industrial relations are to be created.



Flashback to January: no decrease in repression

sisting of some employees of Hlobane Colliery, has been deployed in Northern Natal.

The inclusion of black mine employees into SADF structures is a new development in the milit-

The longest strike is over

THE longest strike in the history of the mining industry by 543 comrades of the National Union of Mineworkers is over.

The strike waged at the Rustenburg Platinum Refinery, a subsidiary of JCI, lasted a bitter 80 days before management and the union reached settlement.

NUM News spoke to two of the comrades involved in the strike. They said the main reason they embarked on the strike was that they demanded a living wage.

"This wage increment should be in line with other minimum wages in similar refineries."

Despite having been on strike for nearly three months, morale was high.

"Every day, workers entered the plant as per their normal working hours, chanted and sang in the open until it is time to knock off."

They said the attitude of the company had been extremely hard-line during the strike and in negotiations.

"During the first two weeks of the strike, we slept in the company premises. We were not allowed any shelter and had to



Rustenburg Refineries workers show placards saying "JCI pay a living wage" as police escort them out of town

sleep in the cold open air"

"When our families came with food parcels, they were turned away or confiscated by the security."

"Then, we arranged to come to Johannesburg to hold a placard demonstration outside JCI's headquarters."

"But they called the police who escorted our buses out to Krugersdorp. These actions were despite an agreement between the police and the NUM that the demonstration could take place."

"This action clearly showed that the bosses and the police are

bent on repressing our legitimate rights."

Management granted workers a wage increment of 14,5 percent payable for January and February, and June 16 off for those workers who requested leave. Workers had been demanding a 22 percent increase and four months maternity leave.

"Although we have not won all our demands, the strike has showed that workers in our plant are determined to sacrifice for working class liberation and also that we want to push the realisation of NUM Wage Policy."