

Boycott hits mining town hard

CARLETONVILLE mineworkers and Khutsong residents are not buying at white shops in racist Conservative Party controlled Carletonville.

The town is as quiet as a graveyard, and worried businessmen have turned against the Conservative Party - who refuse to budge.

Blacks are not allowed to sit in public parks - where "Whites Only" signs have been put up - or use toilets in Carletonville.

If they walk on the streets after 8 at night it is likely they will get arrested by the police for "trespassing" and fined R60.

Many people, including three mineworkers, have been attacked and assaulted by white vigilantes.

The boycott started on 27 February after the COSATU local action committee consulted with church representatives, community organisations, taverners, taxi drivers and traders.

Sit-ins in park

A sit-in demonstration in the town's main park was cancelled after police intervened. However local action committee member and NUM organiser, Hlubi Biyana, said sit-ins would still take place and that they would not be intimidated. "Our fighting gloves are not yet off", he said.

The local action committee met with Indian traders and other un affected businesses and said that people would buy from them instead of white shops.

But, the local action committee called on unaffected businesses to improve conditions of work, pay better, let employees join trade unions and withdraw any support for the Conservative Party.

The demands of the Khutsong residents and mineworkers are:

- the scrapping of the Separate Amenities Act in town and protection against Conservative Party violence in town, on the factories and mines;

- Anglo to end repression and stop its dealing with the Conservative Party town council

On October 26 the Conservative party took control of the Carletonville town council and many other towns in the Transvaal.

They started introducing the Separate Amenities Act preventing black people from sitting in parks and wanted to introduce a curfew not allowing black people into town at night.

Hit them in pockets

The COSATU local action committee said that in Boksburg thousands of people were refusing to buy from racist white shops. A pamphlet said: "We are

opened fire and killed six mineworkers who were part of 150 workers in an anti-dismissal protest in June 1987.

Workers were protesting what they considered to be an unfair dismissal. More than 250 workers were injured in the incident.

When everything had settled down, the bodies of two white managers were found.

There is no evidence that comrade Lucky killed these managers. The judge found Lucky to be a leader and on the basis of "common purpose", responsible for the murders.

NUM has taken a decision to see to it that the Save the Patriots is properly launched in all structures of the union.

NUM will work hand in hand with other unions and community organisations in furthering the objectives of the campaign.

Forty thousand sign petition to save Mgedezi from death row

MORE than 40 000 mineworkers have petitioned the State President, P W Botha, to save comrade Tyelevuyo Mgedezi from death by hanging.

The petition calling for mercy was handed in on 20 January by NUM lawyers.

With the petition were supporting letters from a number of foreign embassies urging P W Botha to show clemency for Mgedezi.

Anglo American director, Peter Gush, also sent a message in opposition to death penalty as a form of punishment.

NUM is waiting for the State President's response.

NUM has another member on death row, Valford Lucky Nomnganga from Western Holdings Gold Mine.

Nomnganga was sentenced to death for his alleged complicity in the death of two white managers. The alleged incident occurred after the police had



The Conservative Party has put up "Whites Only" signs in the parks. A sit-in demonstration led by ELIJAH BARAYI was cancelled after police intervened

going to hurt all the whites in the only place they will feel the pain - their pockets."

"We are going to sit in our parks. We are going to stay as late as we like in town, and we are going to defy oppose apartheid."

The COSATU local action committee said the decision would be "painful" but workers and residents "had no alternative but to strike back in defence of our political, economic and human rights".

It said racist incidents were not only beginning to happen more often in town, but also on the mines where workers were being called names such as "kaffirs" and "stinking bastards". The NUM be taking up such cases as part of our anti-repression campaign.

The boycott has affected white owned supermarkets, food shops, hardwares, petrol stations and hair dressers. People are able to continue paying their ac-

counts.

On the mines, the COSATU local action committee have decided not to boycott the concession stores but their fate will be decided depending on their reactions to the actions and whether the mineowners continue having connections with the town council.

People buy in the alternative towns of Fochville, Randfontein, Westonaria and Johannesburg.

Police raid union offices and question organisers

THE UNION condemns "police intimidation" and interference in legitimate union activities. Since January union offices have been constantly raided and organisers questioned.

In early January, four of our O.F.S. regional worker leaders were called in by their respective mine management who then handed them over to the local security police.

The police allegedly took them to their offices and questioned them for several hours about the union's 1989 programme of action.

The Secunda regional organiser has been charged by the police for holding an illegal meeting. This comrade was initially charged with five others who have the charges against them dropped by the court. The organiser's bail restrictions have since been lightly lifted. He now has to report to the local police once a week. On 20 January the

regional administrator was taken in by security police for questioning.

The union's various regional offices are constantly raided, searched and documents and machinery removed and only returned after several days.

Klerksdorp, Kimberley, Westonaria and the Orange Free State have all had several visits.

In one case the union's machines were removed by the police for further investigations, who said some fake "subversive" documents found in the nearby townships were printed in the union's offices.

Workers found in the Klerksdorp regional offices were locked up while the offices were searched for several hours by the police.

The Klerksdorp regional office keys were confiscated from a union official early in January by the police and have not been

returned to him.

The Freddie's No. 7 shaft management allegedly broke into one comrades locker, removed five union T-Shirts and handed them to the police.

Mineworkers view this police harassment of their leaders, officials and themselves in a very serious light, and strongly condemn it.

They call upon the police to immediately stop interfering in the legitimate daily activities of the union.

"We regard the recent and ongoing police actions as part and parcel of the whole attack by the government on the democratic trade union movement", said the NUM in a press statement.

Police have said it is not SAP policy to harass or intimidate anyone, and the alleged raids were part of "routine investigations".