

# Regional News



## LEADERSHIP ARRESTED

On 26 August NUM President James Motlatsi and General Secretary Cyril Ramophosa were arrested together with the entire shaft steward council in the Newcastle region. A heavily armed group of SA Police ordered them into police vans, saying they were being arrested for holding an illegal gathering and contravening security laws. Despite attempts to intimidate them, comrades were not deterred. For the first time in NUM's history a Shaft Steward Council meeting took place in prison! Released on bail of R50 each, they had to appear in court on 1 October. All charges were withdrawn when the Attorney General declined to prosecute.

NUM condemns in the strongest terms the arrest of our elected leadership without any good reason. The continued harassment of union leadership and members of the democratic movement cannot pass unchallenged.

## PENGE STRIKE

A one day strike took place at the Penge Amosite Mine when members demanded that management stop victimising union members. The union had already proven that it represented more than 68% of the workers at the mine. The company agreed to withdraw all charges of intimidation against two workers who were going to be dismissed.

## PHOENIX COLLIERY STRIKE

At the Phoenix Colliery, 800 miners went on strike in protest against harassment by mine security and the security police. Management has still not explained the whereabouts of a worker detained more than a month ago. When another worker was detained this month, workers refused to go to work. However security used teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the workers who were meeting to discuss the issue. Several miners were injured, one critically. The tension at the mine remains high. Hippos are being used to patrol the mine and management has still not explained the abduction of union members.

## INTIMIDATION AT ISCOR

5100 miners went on strike at ISCOR mines in protest against ISCOR's campaign of intimidation and harassment. Mineworkers from Thabazimbi, Sishen and Grootgeluk have been subjected to open intimidation and harassment by mine security and the SA Police. Management is monitoring workers' meetings and movements with video cameras. Anti-strike pamphlets are widely distributed.

At Grootgeluk mineworkers discovered a bugging device attached to a stand erected in the mine area where miners generally hold mass meetings. Another bugging device was discovered at Sishen Mine. At Thabazimbi, management starved workers for 2 days in an attempt to get them to break the legal strike. All these intimidatory tactics are a clear indication that ISCOR is one of the most repressive companies when it comes to workers' rights.

## LEBOWA STRIKE

A three day strike took place at the Dilokong Chrome Mine in Lebowa in protest against unfair dismissals and racist practices. As a result of the strike, management was forced to discuss recognition of the union. Workers also decided to boycott Saturday work in protest against long working hours.

## WITBANK REGION

- \* Two day strike at Maggie's Mine over wages.
- \* One day strike at Matla Colliery over racial discrimination.
- \* One Day strike at Blinkpan Mine over racial discrimination.
- \* One day strike at Strachen Colliery over re-instatement of dismissed worker.

**WHAT HAPPENED IN YOUR REGION?  
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