

MINING — ACCIDENTS

1993

Anthropometry is not difficult. But it is not as easy as it may at first appear, to keep the quality of the measurements high from the beginning to the end of the survey. Anthropometry is of great importance in an LSMS survey, as the prevalence of malnutrition is a comprehensive indicator of the standards of living in a developing country. The fact that the measurements of weight and height are among the very few hard observational data in a survey full of interview data makes them of special interest.

Measurement errors will decrease the sensitivity and specificity of the nutritional indicators and by consequence lead to a big decrease in the PPV of the indicator. Trends in increase or decrease of malnutrition may not be detected because of this loss in PPV. If sensitivity and specificity do not add up to more than 100 percent, the trends observed will be a reverse to the real trends. The PIHS, 1991 Data Set has been used in this paper as an example. The analysis of the data made it clear that systematic errors in weight measurement and age calculation especially have severe implications for the prevalence estimate of malnutrition in an area. The size of the implications of errors in anthropometry or age estimation will vary for every country depending on the actual prevalence of malnutrition. The PPV of a nutritional indicator decreases when the true prevalence of malnutrition decreases in a country. Errors, which decrease the sensitivity and specificity of an indicator, have a bigger or smaller influence on the PPV depending on the actual prevalence rate of malnutrition in the population.

MANUF. IR - etc

This paper dealt mainly with systematic errors. Random errors are important as well and they will always be there. Random errors derive their importance in anthropometry from several factors. The random error increases the variance, i.e. it makes the tails of the distribution 'fatter'. Malnutrition is a phenomenon of one tail, the lower one, and not from the center of the normal distribution. Furthermore a random error seldom comes alone. Although the single effect of a random error in weight measurement alone might be small, the effect of multiple random errors in weight, height and age can lead to a considerable increase in the prevalence estimate of malnutrition. In a multi-variate analysis, random errors will cause the weakening of possible correlations between malnutrition and other variables.

and one must keep in mind that an increase of the activities of a survey does not promote the quality of the data.

Mine death toll rises ⁽²¹²⁾ to three ^{STAR}

Staff Reporter ^{11/5/93}

The death toll in Friday's mining accident at Western Holdings in Welkom rose to three following the discovery of another body this morning, Anglo American Corporation said.

Another three miners were still missing, and seven were in hospital with injuries suffered during a rockfall caused by a "seismic event", AAC spokeswoman Theresa Erasmus said today. One of the injured men was in a serious condition.

The accident took place at the mine's Number 5 shaft, on 43 level, 1 400 m below the surface. The event measured 3,0 on the Richter Scale.

Search and rescue operations are continuing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

13100007 12/11/93

Mine death toll up (212)

THE bodies of four miners missing after a seismic event on Friday at Anglo American's Western Holdings mine in Welkom had been recovered 1 700m below the surface, raising the death toll to six, an Anglo spokesman said

A further seven workers, one in a serious condition, had been admitted to hospital (DAM)

3 die, 4 injured in rockfall on mine (212)

Sowetan 18/1/93
THREE miners were killed and four injured in a rockfall 2 500 metres underground at Elandsrand gold mine, near Carletonville, on Saturday. The injured were treated in hospital but were not in serious condition - *Sapa*

Miner compensated

Blomby
2/11/93,

RAY HARTLEY (212)

WHITE mine worker Jacobus van der Merwe yesterday thanked the NUM for securing a R22 000 compensation payment from Vaal Reefs for injuries sustained in an underground accident in 1990.

Van der Merwe said the payment was agreed to in December last year following a month of negotiations with management. He joined the NUM in November 1992 after the white Mineworkers' Union told him there was nothing that could be done to help him.

The payment was for an operation to restore sensation to his arms, treat a burn sustained during treatment, and pain and suffering, he said.

NUM president James Motlatsi said up to 2 000 white workers disillusioned with their union had joined the NUM countrywide.

He said mine workers' unity in a declining industry was more important than racial or political differences. "Politics may have been a problem in the past, but now miners' interests are paramount."

Van der Merwe, who was a member of the Mineworkers' Union for 17 years, has subsequently undergone a second operation and plans to claim further costs from the mining company.

He said the mines' Rand Mutual Hospital had told him he would have to live with pain he experienced since the first operation.

LABOUR BRIEFS

W/MCA/22/1-28/193

Dangerous work

■THERE were almost 9 000 accidents on South African mines last year, according to statistics from the Government Mining Engineer (212)

The accidents claimed 553 lives while 8 805 workers were injured.

About 70 percent of the accidents occurred on gold mines where 407 goldminers were killed, making it the most hazardous occupation in the country.

Gold mining is followed by platinum prospecting where 455 accidents claimed 43 lives and resulted in 428 injuries.

There were 393 accidents and 46 fatalities on the coal mines while 143 accidents claimed 29 diamond miners.

Sunday slog

■TO save on further retrenchments, three mines recently applied to government for permission to work on Sundays.

The HJ Joel, Loraine and Harmony mines could soon be drilling and blasting on Sundays. JCI's Joel mine will also soon send certain employees on three months' unpaid leave.

News in Brief

Miner dies in rock fall

212

26/1/93

JOHANNESBURG — A miner has died and four are missing following a rockfall at Western Deep Levels' West Mine near Carletonville yesterday

Body of (212) miner found

RESCUE workers at Western Deep Levels' West Mine near Carletonville yesterday recovered the body of another miner missing since Monday's rockfall *Sowetan*

Altogether five miners died and three were slightly injured in the rockfall which occurred 3 300m below the surface *28/1/93.*

Mineowners Anglo American said the fall of ground was caused by a tremor just after mid-day on Monday

Lawyers (213) choose SA

THE International Bar Association, the world's largest law society organisation, is to hold its first ever regional conference in South Africa next month. The three-day conference, which will be held in Cape Town from February 7, will be officially opened by President FW de Klerk - *Sowetan Reporters and Sapa Sowetan 28/1/93.*

All saved from burning mine

(212) CT 1/2/93

By EUGENE PARAMOER

RESCUE workers battled for hours at the weekend to save more than 100 Namaqualand mineworkers trapped in a burning copper mine

As smoke filled the Carolusberg Copper Mine near O'Kiep just after 3pm on Friday, mineworkers fled and holed up in emergency shelters underground

Rescue workers battled till the early hours of Saturday morning to rescue them

Police spokesman Major Johan van Wyk said the mine cabling caught fire, probably from a lightning strike, causing gases and smoke to spread through the mine tunnels

"Most of the mineworkers were evacuated to safety chambers in the tunnels when the gases started to spread. The chambers are

airtight with oxygen and two-way communication with the control room," he said

Rescue workers had to go down one shaft to get to trapped workers who were in another shaft. The miners were evacuated from the mine in groups

The last people were evacuated about 1am Saturday morning, said Major Van Wyk. No one was injured.

A miner who was in the mine at the time of the incident but who was able to escape with a few of his colleagues said "About 2pm the power went out and then some cables in the shafts ignited and thick columns of smoke and gas started to spread through the shafts"

The miner, who asked not to be named, said the smoke was so thick that at some points he could not even see his colleagues "The smoke was everywhere"

He said they were close to the surface and managed to make their way out of the shafts by pressing wet cloths to their mouths and noses and by holding onto each other's hands

"We also had to shout to each other to guide ourselves out of the smoke-filled shafts," he said

Relatives, who were unaware of how serious the accident was, had to wait anxiously for miners to return home

"I started to get worried when my husband did not return at 5pm on Friday," the wife of one of the miners said "I expected the mine to send someone to tell us what had happened"

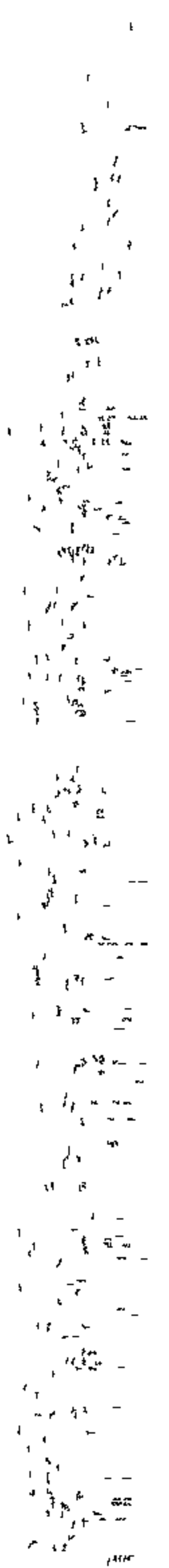
She said her husband only came home about 3am on Saturday

Mr Michael de Kock, a spokesman for Gold Fields, the mine owners, confirmed the incident. He said they were investigating the cause of the fire

Rockfall: Two miners die (212)

JOHANNESBURG — Two mineworkers died and five were injured in a rockfall at Western Deep Levels' West Mine near Carltonville yesterday

CT4/2/93



Two more miners die at Western Deep Levels

BIDAM 4/2/93

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ANOTHER two mine workers died and five were injured in a rockfall more than 3km underground at Anglo American's Western Deep Levels west mine near Carletonville yesterday.

This brings to 10 the number of workers killed on Western Deep's mines this year. Last year 63 miners died at Western Deep mines, compared with 33 in 1991 and 58 in 1990.

Anglo American spokesman James Duncan said yesterday's rockfall occurred at 116 level, 3 300m below the surface, after a tremor measuring 3,0 on the Richter scale.

The NUM condemned the "waste of lives" on the mines and said the sooner the independent commission into safety on the mines was established, the sooner the safety problems leading to the "tragic loss of lives" would begin to be addressed.

Duncan said Western Deep Levels mines suffered the most fatalities of any mine in SA because of the depth at which mining was taking place.

The problems at Western Deep were

DIRK HARTFORD

being addressed by providing 100% backfill on the Carbon Leader reefs on its east and west mines. The 100% target had virtually been reached.

On the shallower Ventersdorp Contact reef on its south mine, 15% backfill had been provided. This would be adjusted according to necessity, said Duncan.

In addition, the integrated seismic system had been expanded and upgraded. The computer and geophone-based intelligence gathering device already enabled mines to be alerted to potential dangers. It covered the whole mine and had increased the accuracy of the information available.

However, Duncan said, it was not yet possible to establish in advance where seismic events might occur.

A new stope support system — with hydraulic props of increased density and new lightweight headboards — was being implemented. And backfill was being moved closer to the working face as an added support system.



W/Mail

5/2-11/2/93

LABOUR

Mine death inquiry

■ THE death of 11 miners at Rand Mines Durban Roodepoort Deep mine last year was investigated by an independent commission of inquiry this week.

(212)

Kathleen Satchwell headed the investigation into violence among workers at the mine on Christmas and Boxing days last year which also resulted in injuries to 20 miners. She will make recommendations on steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence of violence.

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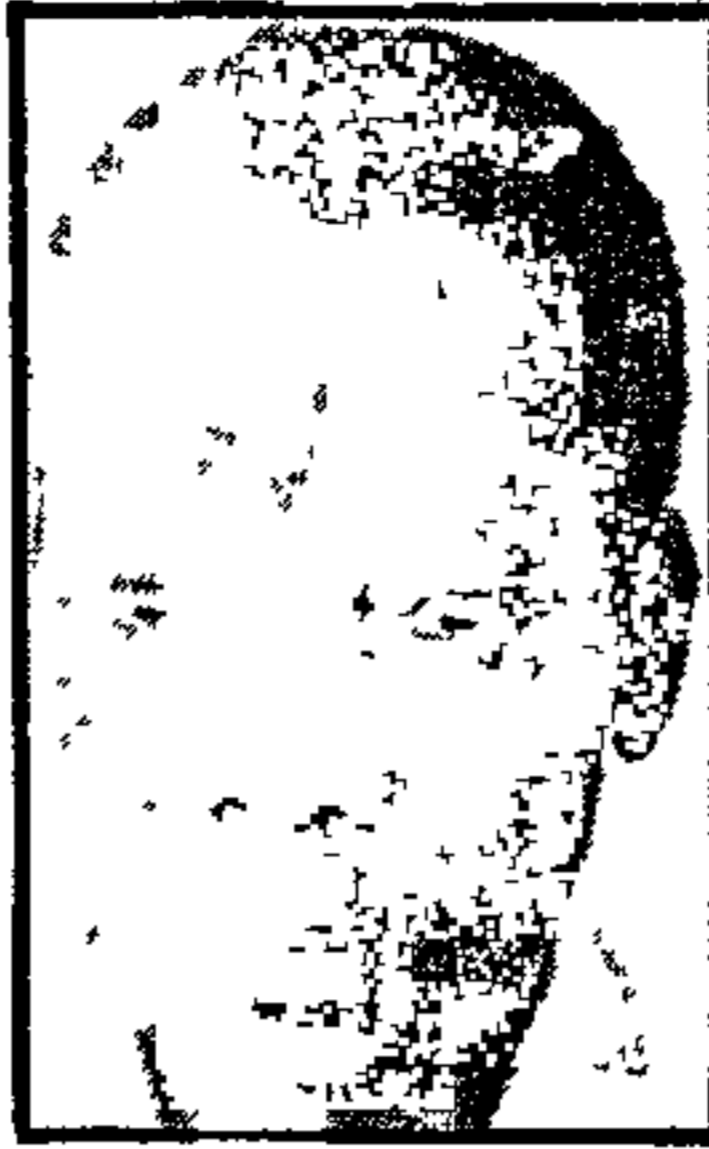
Mines had to be prodded

XAVIER Cossa travelled 1 500 km from his home in northern Mozambique to Johannesburg to collect his long service payment from the Chamber of Mines

He arrived only to find he has another five years to wait - the 1993 collection date he had been given by mine officials when he was retrenched two years ago was wrong.

Stranded and penniless, with no way of getting back to his village near Vilanculos, 800 km north of Maputo, Cossa approached City Press.

Cossa worked on contract to Teba from 1965 to 1990. On his



HARD ROAD ... Xavier Cossa.

retrenchment from Rand Mutual Hospital in 1990, he was given a certificate which stated he would qualify for the award when he turned 50 in 1993.

From his severance pay he saved enough to travel back to Johannesburg for the money

He had nothing left to live on, no prospects of a job, a disabled wife and seven kids to feed

Teba officials said he had been given the wrong information

City Press appealed to the Chamber to pay Cossa's fare back to Mozambique because it was their mistake which had caused him to travel to Johannesburg

The Chamber has now arranged for him to to be transported back to Mozambique.

CITY PRESS
7/2/93

(211)

(2461)

Tough year lies ahead for wage talks on the mines

Sowetan 8/2/93

By Ike Motsapi

■ **BIG SQUEEZE** Weak gold price stands in the way

of improvements on South Africa's gold mines:

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THE National Union of Mine-workers is gearing itself for another tough year of wage negotiations for its members

Like the wage talks in 1992, the NUM expects no great improvement this year

In 1992 only 20 out of 100 wage settlements yielded increases above the 15 percent mid-year inflation rate

The basic wage increases last year were very low for the second year in a row

This is regarded as the only way to save jobs when the gold price is low

However, workers will be in a position to share in the profits of some of the healthy mines as well as the profits of some of the "sick mines if they make money"

It is also predicted that the average wage increases will vary between five and nine percent.

Prices have risen

What the mine bosses failed to take into consideration when granting wage increases is that since 1990 prices have risen by 35 percent while increases in basic salaries have been barely over 10 percent

The continuing recession in South Africa, coupled with very slow recovery in the international markets, have meant another year of poor wage settlements, retrenchments and rationalisation

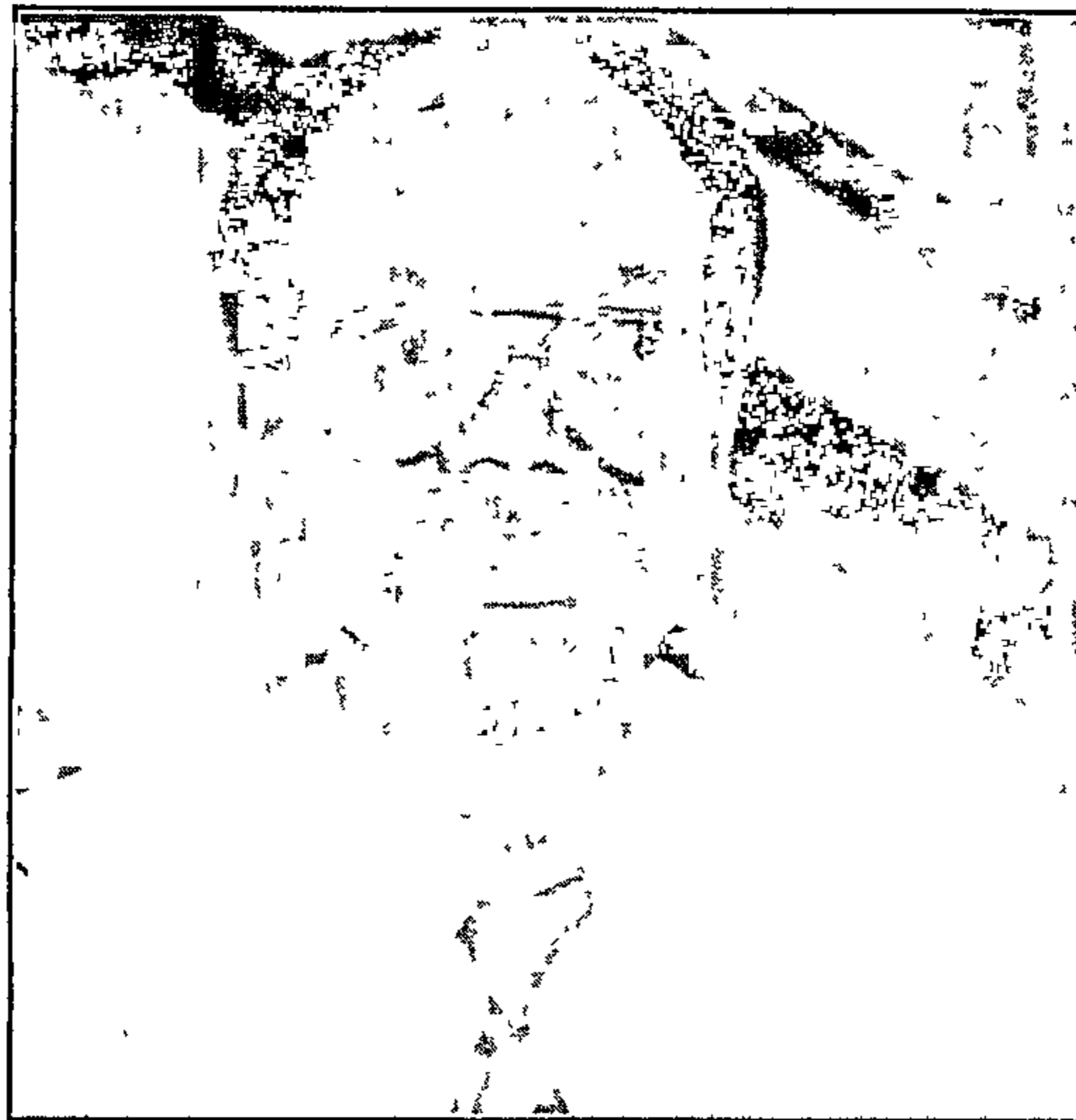
Mr Jerry Majatladi, media officer of the NUM, said "On the bright side the NUM has concluded formal negotiations with Impala Platinum Mines for the first time ever

"This yielded a good increase above inflation for most workers. "At the Bosveld Gold Mine, workers achieved a remarkable increase of 160 percent

"The basic wage is now only R409 a month but this is a vast improvement on the R158 a month paid before the branch was organised," Majatladi said

During 1992 the Chamber of Mines Wage agreements, with their annexures and appendices, extended to over 70 pages for gold and 30 pages for coal

Said Majatladi "This is the longest and most complex wage agreement



Jerry Majatladi ... warns of tough year

ever signed by the NUM "

He said this reflected the extra-ordinary difficult circumstances of the mines at present and the NUM's efforts to preserve jobs and protect standards, particularly on the gold mines

New basic wages were paid by the mining houses in August and September last year following the negotiations with the Chamber of Mines

Agreement was delayed

The signing of the main gold mines agreement was delayed by the NUM's insistence that it include the details of profit sharing schemes at certain mines which had been negotiated in a separate forum

Profit sharing agreements with Anglo American and Blyvooruitzicht were

concluded in October and Gengold in December

This year, as in 1991 and 1992, agreements will be focused to make up for lower wages by significant gains in non-wages areas

"This trend will need to be followed across the industry and trade unions need a proper action plan on the ground to make these paper rights real," Majatladi added

The NUM this year wants talks with the mining bosses on issues affecting sick or injured workers

According to Majatladi the NUM has challenged mine doctors and mine management on their right to dismiss and repatriate workers on medical grounds without consultation with the union

He said at some mines the repatriation

of their members was done to circumvent the normal procedures of retrenchments which required union involvement.

The 1992 agreement gives workers the right of representation by NUM when they are threatened with dismissal or transfer to another job on the grounds of medical incapacity

Majatladi said a joint approach by employers and the NUM to the Government on the new law on occupational diseases has been mooted

He said "The present laws that deal with compensation for occupational diseases on the mines are racist and discriminatory

"A black miner gets less compensation than his fellow white counterpart for the same disease," Majatladi said

The NUM had also convinced bosses of most gold mines to increase their contribution to the provident fund by one percent

This means that employers will contribute six percent of basic pay to the provident fund rather than the present five percent.

The other points agreed to by the Num and mining houses are

- The chamber has agreed to pay the lost shifts of workers who attend negotiations with it

- The chamber has adopted an industry-wide policy to encourage mines to agree to full time shop stewards. This issue will now be taken up at mine-level

- The chamber has also issued a statement that encourages mines to enter into agreements on arbitration on dismissal cases

It was felt that compulsory arbitration would cost mines nothing but would help workers who are dismissed to get back quick responses to their cases and,

- That the subscription administration fee of the NUM will no longer be subject to the deduction of the present five percent

Mine fire kills 3 — 2,5km down

JOHANNESBURG —
Three miners died in a
fire 2,5km underground
in Buffelsfontein gold
mine in the western
Transvaal yesterday,
Gengold said last night

of 9/2/93
Six other miners re-
ceived medical attention
underground before be-
ing evacuated. (212)

Carbon monoxide
emitted by the fire is
thought to have caused
the three deaths

About 200 miners were
evacuated from the
mine. — Sapa

3 miners suffocate in fire at gold mine

Star 9/2/93
212

By Brian Sokutu
and Philip Zoio

Three miners suffocated yesterday when their breathing devices failed during a fire at Gengold's Buffelsfontein gold mine near Stilfontein

Thirteen miners were injured, one critically, in the fire which started at 1.15 pm in the mine's southern shaft, mine management said

It said seven injured workers were taken to the Duff Scott Memorial Mine Hospital near Stilfontein

A doctor at the hospital told The Star six workers had been critically injured

Wearing oxygen masks, some miners lay motionless on their hospital beds while others

walked around slowly

Despite having been given permission by mine officials to interview the injured, a hospital clerk stopped The Star during an interview, saying the management had telephoned to say no press interviews should be granted

Before being interrupted, survivor Elias Mgadeni (27) said the situation underground was "terrible" after the accident

Mgadeni, a Transkei citizen, said he saw one of his colleagues collapse

Three rescue teams battled for almost five hours to clear the shaft of carbon monoxide gas and to bring the survivors to the surface

Addressing a press conference last night, mine general manager Sean O'Connor said he believed the carbon monoxide monitors worn by mineworkers

to detect the gas and help them breathe "had a fault"

By 5 pm, five of the 16 men had been found underground in a "very weak condition" They were being treated underground yesterday afternoon

By 6 pm, the bodies of the three dead men had been recovered, and another man had been found in a "poor condition" He was also receiving treatment underground last night.

Gengold managing director Gary Maude said the names of the dead would be released once their next-of-kin had been informed

It is estimated about 200 miners had to be evacuated, Sapa reports

The cause of the fire is being investigated, and production will be resumed as soon as the area is declared safe

Three miners suffocated

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ARC 9/2/13

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Three miners suffocated when their breathing devices failed during a fire at Gengold's Buffelsfontein gold mine near Stilfontein.

Thirteen other miners were injured, one critically, in the fire which started yesterday afternoon in the mine's southern shaft, mine management said.

It said seven injured workers were taken to the Duff Scott Memorial Mine Hospital near Stilfontein.

A doctor at the hospital said six workers had been critically injured.

Underground fire kills three miners

WILSON ZWANE

(212)

THREE miners were killed and at least 13 injured yesterday when an underground fire broke out at Gengold's Buffelsfontein gold mine in the western Transvaal

Gengold public relations manager Andrew Davidson said last night evacuation from the 28th level of the southern shaft began shortly after 10am after shift boss John Saber detected carbon monoxide.

Thirty minutes later, gas was detected on the 27th level and an evacuation was begun there. Rescue teams were rushed in to remove the gas.

At 1pm a miner phoned fire control to say he was in trouble and 16 of his colleagues were missing.

The miner then collapsed, said Davidson, and was assisted to a refuge chamber where seven of his missing colleagues had found shelter. *BLOM 9/2/93.*

At 5.30pm rescue teams discovered that three of the missing nine workers were dead. The other six were found injured, one seriously.

The injured were taken to Duss Scott Hospital in Stilfontein. Seven other miners were taken to the hospital suffering from gas inhalation. The miners were not in danger, said Davidson.

By late last night, rescue teams were still on the scene, checking gas levels and assisting miners from other levels to the surface where their condition could be assessed. Davidson said the cause of fire had not been established by last night.

A company statement said production had been halted by the blaze.

Two people died on the mine last month in separate accidents.

Three miners suffocate (212)

THREE miners suffocated and died when their breathing devices failed during a fire at Gengold's Buffelsfontein gold mine near Stilfontein yesterday. Thirteen others were injured, one of them critically, when the fire broke out at 1.15pm in the mine's southern shaft.

Sowetan 9/2/93
Three mine rescue teams battled for about five hours to clear the shaft of carbon monoxide gas and to bring the survivors to the surface. A mine spokesman said he believed the carbon monoxide monitors worn by miners to detect the gas and help them breathe "had a fault".

Sowetan 10/2/93
**Miners evacu-
ated** (212)

ALL the miners who had been trapped by a fire 2,4km underground at Buffelsfontein Gold Mine in the Western Transvaal on Monday have been accounted for, Genmin announced yesterday.

Three miners died as a result of the fire at 27 level of the southern shaft. According to Genmin, 14 miners were admitted to hospital following the fire, seven of whom were discharged yesterday and two are still in intensive care.

Gengold ⁽²¹²⁾ criticised

DIRK HARTFORD

THE NUM has slammed mine safety measures following the deaths of three miners at Gengold's Bufelsfontein gold mine

The union said it suspected a cover-up after Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson denied reports that the miners died because of faulty breathing apparatus

Davidson said they had died in a gassing incident in the southern shaft, 2 400m below the surface. Six survivors were still in hospital.

Davidson said the miners had rescue packs and no evidence could be found of faulty equipment. *B10M*

The fire resulted in the loss of 1 000 tons of ore, or 6kg of gold. *10/2/93.*

Meanwhile, NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Golding said his union and the Council of Mining Unions were due to meet Health Minister Rina Venter, at the end of this month to discuss problems with amendments to the Occupational Diseases Act.

Mine defends its safety

JOHANNESBURG — Any suggestion that miners were allowed to continue working after gas fumes had been detected at the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine on Monday was completely untrue, Gengold said yesterday (212)

Gengold spokesman Mr Andrew Davidson said the three people who died in the fire were overcome while the area was being evacuated. CT 7/12/93

Mr Davidson was reacting to the National Union of Mineworkers' allegations that workers were not evacuated swiftly enough after detection de-

vices indicated a fire had broken out in the Western Transvaal gold mine

He said evacuation began immediately the fumes were detected.

Meanwhile, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) general secretary, Mr Marcel Golding, announced yesterday that Goldfields' mines are to be "colonised" this year by the union

By "colonising" mines, the NUM meant it wanted to "take control of the working environment to safeguard workers' interests", Mr Golding said at a press conference — Sapa

Star 11/2/93

(212)

18 die in 80 mine accidents

South Africa's mines claimed 18 lives in 80 accidents in the first 40 days of this year, National Union of Mineworkers assistant secretary-general Marcel Golding said yesterday. ● Page 7

Star 11/21/93

18 deaths in mine accidents this year

By Montshiwa Moroke

South Africa's mines have claimed 18 lives in 80 accidents in the first 40 days of this year, National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) assistant secretary-general Marcel Golding said yesterday.

Golding said mine deaths would be among the issues debated at a crucial three-day NUM central committee meeting starting in Pretoria today.

The committee would also debate the role of the unions in the country's next democratic general elections, he said. Some 300 delegates from 16 regions were expected to attend the meeting. (212)

Golding said that two months ago, the NUM had proposed to the Government that a judicial commission of inquiry into the high rate of mine accidents in South Africa be appointed. "Somebody is sitting on our proposal," he said.

The union was also still waiting for Gencor to provide a report on safety standards in its mines.

Golding said the committee, on the political front, would hold discussions on whether it should put up candidates in support of the ANC alliance.

● Gengold yesterday stressed that no miners were working at the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine after gas fumes, which killed three miners on Monday, were detected.

Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson said the three people who died in the fire were overcome while the area was being evacuated.

The NUM has alleged that workers were not evacuated swiftly enough after detection devices had indicated that a fire had broken out in the western Transvaal gold mine.

Although the NMC will strive for consensus, each member will have a vote, "implying that the points of view of the largest and most impor-

eration of South African Labour Unions each have two representatives

All the major employer associations have appointed members to the commission

LABOUR BRIEFS

w/mail 12/2-18/2/93

NUM Committee in session

THE National Union of Mineworkers began its three day central committee meeting yesterday.

The 300 delegates at the meeting — the highest decision-making body after congress — will decide on wage and working condition demands for 1993.

It will be the first union to debate Cosatu's draft Reconstruction Accord and decide whether the labour movement should field candidates in elections, says assistant general secretary Marcel Golding.

The union is likely to consolidate profit-

sharing agreements and will campaign against Goldfields for improved labour relations. It will draft policy on seven-day working weeks and will make proposals for tax and company law changes.

Demand for judicial inquiry

MINERS' unions are likely to step up demands for a judicial inquiry into mine deaths, focusing on standards and enforcement authorities.

During this year 24 miners have died and 21 have been injured in accidents at the Atok, Western Holdings, Elandsfontein, Western Deep Levels and Buffelsfontein mines.

w/mail 12/2-18/2/93



NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe addresses yesterday's news conference on the union's plans for this year. He is flanked by assistant general secretary Marcel Golding, left, and president James Motlatsi. (Picture: BRIAN HENDLER)

Miners' union accuses government of stalling

DIRK HARTFORD (212)

GOVERNMENT was accused yesterday of stalling on making a decision about setting up an independent health and safety commission into the mining industry after eight months of negotiations on the issue.

NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Golding said in an interview the mining industry and the NUM agreed on the need for an independent judicial commission of inquiry last year, but had waited for months for government to enact it. Golding also slammed Finance Minister Derek Keys for sitting for the past three months on a proposal, supported by employers, for tax breaks on retrenchment packages.

He said government was making a big mistake if it saw the union's reasonableness as weakness. Keys was considering "further attacks on the working class and the poor" with increased VAT, but was apparently not willing to grant tax relief on retrenchment packages.

The NUM wanted government to look to the rich instead of the poor to balance its books. Revenue should be raised through capital gains tax, a wealth tax, increased tax on luxury goods and through the abolition of tax loopholes. *BIDAY 16/2/93*

There were also negotiations with Health Minister Rina Venter to reform the "racist" Occupational Diseases Act. Black miners were paid 13 times less than white miners in compensation for the same diseases.

NUM agrees to back ANC in election deal

DIRK HARTFORD

THE NUM's 300-strong central committee decided at the weekend to "give its fullest support" to the ANC's election campaign on the basis of a signed reconstruction accord between Cosatu and the ANC.

NUM president James Motlatsi said the accord, which would be binding on the ANC as part of a future government, should include:

- Workers' rights embodied in the workers' charter which should be protected and guaranteed by an ANC government;

- An action programme to address poverty, job creation, education and training; and

- Making sure a new government consulted with "democratic forces" and had an accountable leadership.

The NUM also decided to ask Cosatu to establish an election campaign fund.

It wanted the ANC to ensure that workers from neighbouring countries

who had been in SA for more than five years got SA citizenship and the right to vote. *BIDAY 16/2/93*

The NUM would set up its own election campaign committee to assist the ANC in the election campaign. This could include releasing experienced organisers and marshals to build the ANC's campaign.

Motlatsi said the union would also be prepared to allow its leaders to stand on an ANC election ticket if requested to do so. The NUM's organisers include two ANC regional chairmen and one SACP regional chairman.

Noting that "nothing can be won by our leaders at the negotiating table if it cannot be defended through mass struggle", the NUM declared 1993 the year of transfer of power to the people.

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Special
defended (21)

Sowetan 19/2/93

THE police officer presently leading the investigation into the murder of African National Congress Natal Midlands member Mr Reggie Hadebe had to be given an opportunity to solve the case before being replaced, the Government said yesterday.
ANC-aligned MP Mr Rob Haswell had asked Mr Hermus Kriel, Minister of Law and Order, to put the "credible investigator" Major Frank Dutton on to the case Hadebe was killed last October.

NUM comes under fire (21)

Sowetan 19/2/93

THE United Workers Union of South Africa (Uwusa) yesterday lashed out at the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) for saying it would field candidates in a general election on an ANC ticket.
Uwusa said it was "extremely dangerous" for the NUM to assist the ANC during the elections. - *Sowetan Reporters.*

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Star 5/13/93

Mine death (22) questioned

By Mathatha Tsedu

The National Union of Mine-workers has asked pathologist Dr. Jonathan Gluckman to conduct a second post mortem on the body of a miner who died in the Brakspruit shaft, Rustenburg, last month.

Miners allege Rankonyane Ramokone (38) was killed by a white supervisor and his body put on the locomotive rails.

A spokesman for Johannesburg Consolidated Investments, Frans van Rensburg, said a post mortem by Dr Michael Lutalo had shown death was caused by the accident.

But Lutalo said his examination had not extended to establishing whether the injuries were sustained while Ramokone was alive.

CT 31/3/93 (212)

Miners killed

KIMBERLEY — Three diamond miners were killed in a freak accident at a diamond mine at Holpan near Windsorton in the Northern Cape yesterday after the earth collapsed under them. CT

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2 die, 21 hurt in fight at mine

(212)
JOHANNESBURG —

Two mineworkers were killed and 21 others injured in an apparent faction fight at the Beatrix Mine near Theunissen in the Free State on Thursday night, the mine management said yesterday.

One man was killed by a group of men about 9.30pm following a disagreement between two miners.

CT 27/3/93
Soon afterwards, a group of about 400 men, armed with sticks, knives and other weapons, killed another mineworker. The other miners were hurt in the ensuing fight — Sapa

No danger at RBM

W/Mail 8/4 18/6/92
212

Weekly Mail Reporter
WORKERS at Richards Bay
Minerals have not been exposed
to dangerous levels of radioactive
dust at the company's mining
plant — despite fears that the
company has produced minerals
used in the atomic industry for
many years.

A report by Mark Colvin, a
doctor from the Industrial Health
Unit at the University of Natal,
notes that RBM regularly moni-
tors the plant which produces
radioactive monazite and that no
major health hazards have been
found.

However, he said International
Labour Organisation guidelines
state there is no safe limit for
radioactive dust.

Workers have regular medical
monitoring and are informed of
any abnormalities that show up in
their results. "It appears the com-
pany is doing the monitoring of
radiation adequately," says
Colvin's report.

According to company re-
cords, levels of radiation are with-
in acceptable limits. The interna-
tional and local current whole
body standards are 50 millisiev-
erts a year. No worker, in the last
three years, has been exposed to
more than 15 millisieverts.

But Colvin points out that
workers in the plant remain suspi-
cious of management's safety
programme in the radioactive
section of the RBM factory. After
inspecting the plant last week, he
suggested the company improve
its relations with organised labour
on occupational health issues.

Miner killed in clashes
CT1414193
THEUNISSEN — A mineworker was killed and nine others injured in renewed violence at the Beatrix gold mine near here (212)

Star 211198
Mine accidents
(212)

Rockfall and rockburst accidents in mines were continuing with no improvement despite extensive safety campaigns, the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs said in its annual report. Although the number of deaths on all mines had dropped from 604 in 1991 to 552 in 1992 — the year covered by the report — the death rate had climbed from 0,98 to 1,02 per 1 000. Total injuries had dropped from 9 103 to 8 801 over the same period, while the injury rate rose from 14,74 to 16,19 per 1 000 — Sapa.

White workers back generals

THE biggest white workers' union in the country, the Mynwerkers Unie (MWU), has been "flooded by calls to support the (former police and army) generals" who plan to mobilise the white right.

The MWU has 46 800 members on the mines and in key parastatals.

Media reports on a meeting of generals last week have yielded an unprecedented response from members, the union's media representative Stephan

LABOUR BRIEFS

W/ward 715-13/5/93
Maninger said this week.

White workers were growing more militant because of the "reverse discrimination" they were seeing at the workplace. "We believe in equal opportunities, not extra equal," he said.

Big pay demands on mines

THE National Union of Mineworkers has tabled a wage demand for

increases ranging between 20 and 25 percent on gold mines and between 40 and 90 percent on collieries.

The goal is an industry monthly minimum of R900 for surface workers and R1 000 a month for underground miners.

Non-wage demands include calls for a social plan act — which encompasses a number of benefits for retrenched workers — and for an industry-wide adult basic education scheme. Industry negotiations get under way at the end of the month.

AIDS policy deal in reach

ERICA JANKOWITZ

AN AIDS policy for the mines, which the NUM and Chamber of Mines have been negotiating for about 18 months, will probably be signed shortly, according to a union spokesman.

Both parties agreed they were "very close to agreement" on the issue, but had yet to resolve two points of contention.

One involves certain categories of workers the chamber insists should be tested automatically "on medical grounds". The union maintains that automatic and pre-employment testing could be extended to all workers and is not acceptable.

Chamber medical adviser Dr Isaak Fourie saw this as "a procedural aspect" and said it was not a fundamental point. He said the parties had agreed employees had the right to refuse testing and were now thrashing out the extent of the agreement.

The second point is individual responsibility. The union is arguing for a lifestyle change, saying the hostel and migrant labour systems contribute to the spread of AIDS.

The chamber, however, says employees must accept co-responsibility for the spread of the disease as an individual is not going to become infected unless he has unprotected sex with an HIV-positive person.

Fourie said the two parties had gone a long way towards devising "broad guidelines to protect the rights of the HIV-positive worker in the mining industry". The whites-only Mine Workers' Union had been invited to discussions on the policy, but had "shown no enthusiasm".

Shoprite/Checkers warns against strike

SHOPRITE/Checkers on Friday gave notice to the SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu) that the union would be responsible for "whatever consequences may flow from strike action" planned to start this week.

In a hard-hitting letter to the union, group personnel manager Calie Burger said it was clear the union had a fixed intention to embark on strike action and would only abandon this when the company acceded to its demand for the unconditional reinstatement of the cancelled recognition agreement.

On Saturday, thousands of Saccawu members engaged in industrial action over the unilateral termination by management of its recognition agreement with Saccawu, the union said in a statement.

It said this followed a majority vote in favour of industrial action and the company not agreeing to mediation unless certain preconditions were met.

It said 14 workers were injured by police dogs after they had handed a memorandum to the management of Shoprite/Checkers in Hillbrow. A police spokesman said police had dispersed more than 200 workers because the march was illegal. He said one man was arrested.

In his letter, Burger said the company had given "proper and lawful notice" of the termination of the agreement which was "no longer

appropriate to the structure of the new and enlarged company".

Despite attempts, the union had been unwilling to negotiate a new agreement.

Burger said the company had requested a joint bargaining forum with the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers in accordance with "the prevailing national tendency to accommodate and tolerate minority groups" and to promote orderly collective bargaining.

This had been rejected by Saccawu whose "failure to deal with the issue had led to an indefinite delay in granting the annual wage increases".

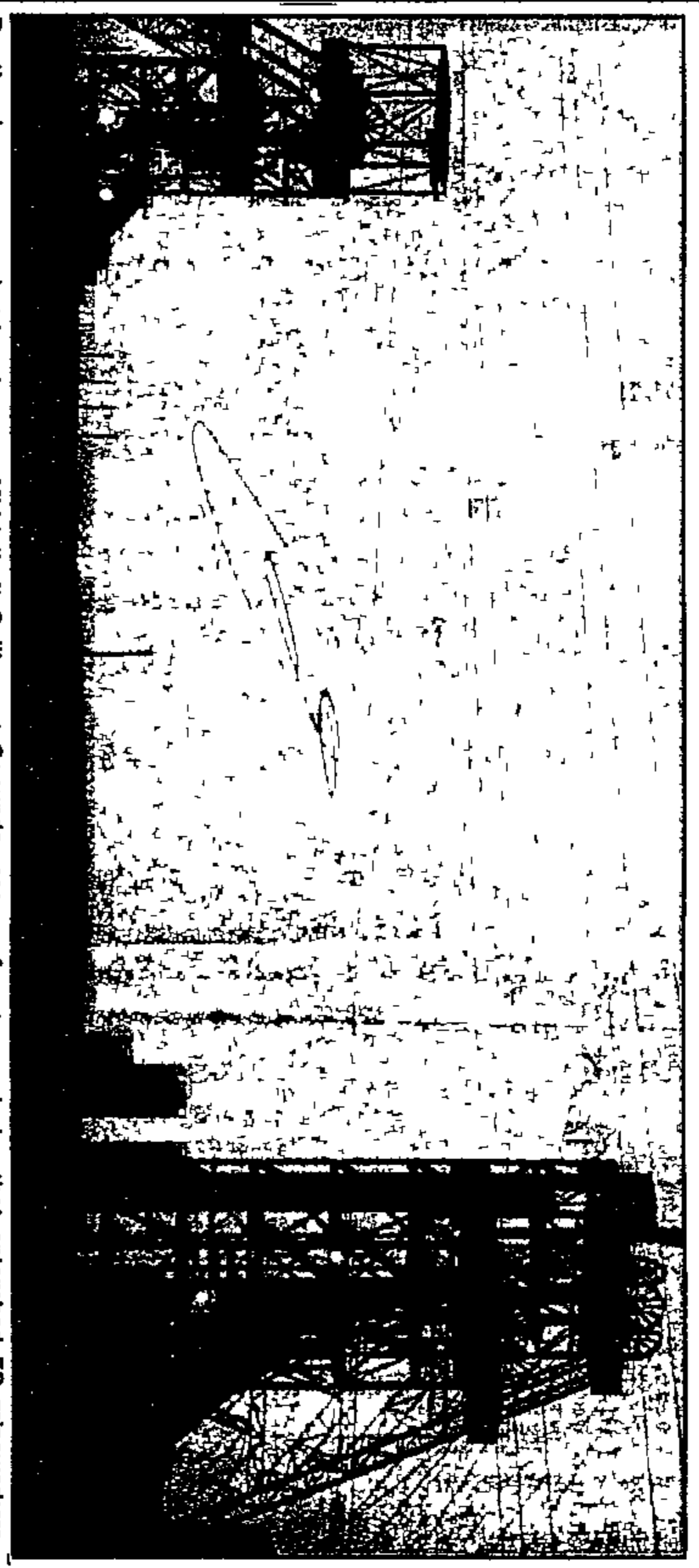
Burger said the two strike ballots conducted by Saccawu had "resulted in numerous incidents of illegal strike action, serious disruption to business and a large number of serious irregularities" and that any strike action embarked on would be deemed unlawful by the company.

Burger said as it was clear the union "is in an advanced stage of planning its industrial action and has devoted considerable time, energy and finance to this" the company would "take whatever practical steps it deems necessary to protect the interests of its employees, shareholders and the wider community".

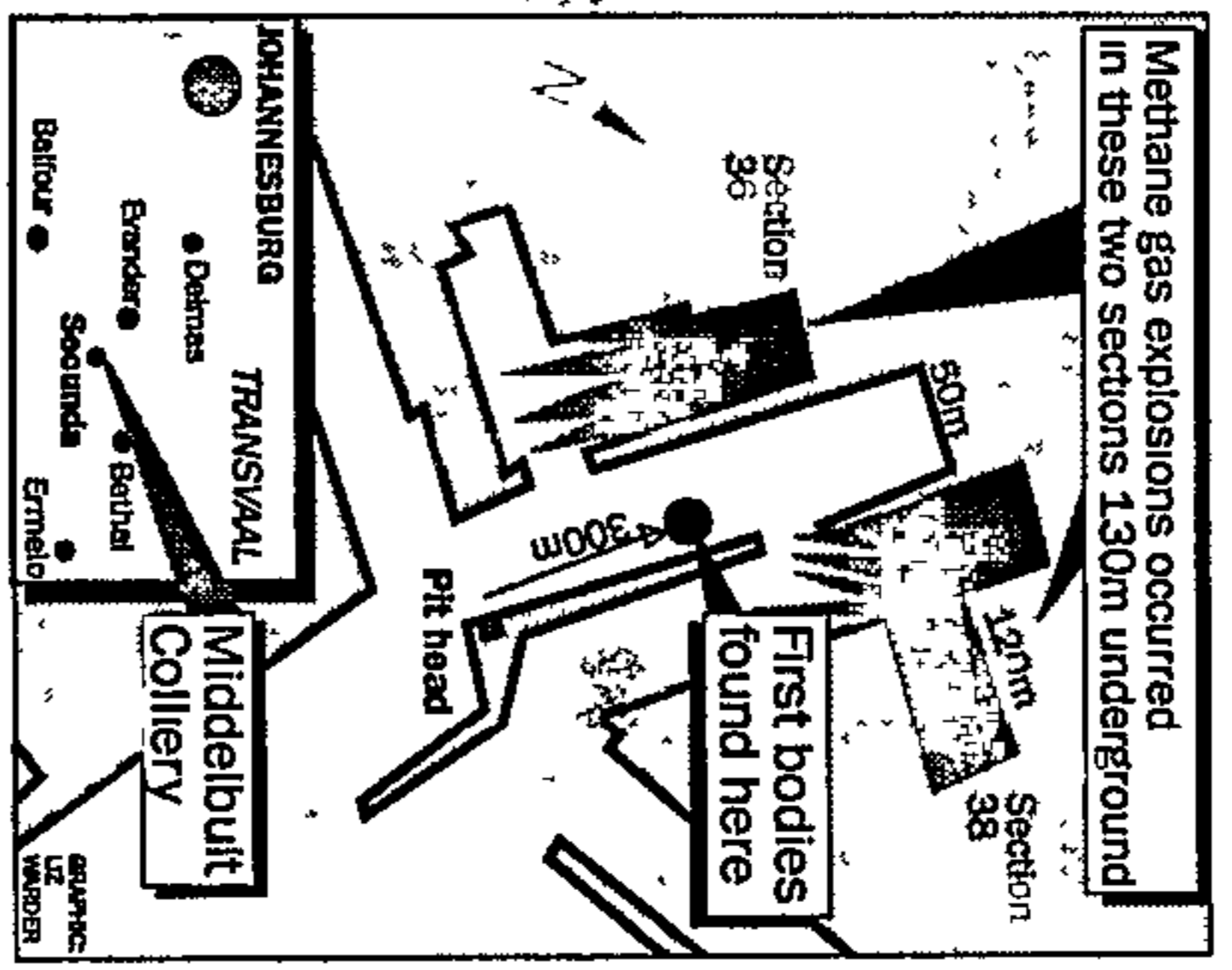
He said strike action would have a detrimental effect on the company's financial recovery.

ERICA JANKOWITZ

Coalface disaster



Death mine morning breaks over Middelbuit Colliery at Secunda, scene of a gas explosion that entombed 53 mineworkers yesterday afternoon. So far 27 bodies have been recovered and there appears to be little hope of finding survivors. Picture Joao Silva



Methane gas explosions occurred in these two sections 130m underground

More bodies found as distraught families wait for news

A heavy toll over the years

Mining disasters in South Africa have claimed the lives of tens of thousands of men.

Between 1911 and 1980, 36 773 miners died, most of them in collieries, which are prone to explosions because of the high gas content of the air.

Even the advent of more sophisticated safety technology has not been able to prevent accidents.

Some of the worst mining disasters in recent times were:

- 1980 — 31 people died in Vaal Reefs gold mine during a lift cage fall.
- 1983 — 68 people died at

Hlabane colliery in a methane gas explosion.

- 1986 — 177 miners died at the Kharos gold mine in the eastern Transvaal when fire ripped through the shafts. More than 250 were injured.
- 1987 — 16 people were seriously injured in a gas explosion at Ermelo's Bosspruit Secunda colliery in the eastern Transvaal.
- 1987 — A few days later 34 people died at Ermelo's mine in a methane gas explosion.
- 1987 — Seven miners died in a rockfall at the Randfontein Estate gold mine.
- 1987 — Nine miners died in a rockburst at Anglo American's Western Deep Levels mine.
- 1987 — 62 miners died in an explosion at St Helena gold mine near Welkom.
- 1988 — 10 miners died at the Harmony gold mine in Virginia.
- 1990 — 12 miners died in two earth tremors in one week at the Western Deep Levels and Buffelsfontein gold mine.

In addition, thousands of miners have died in rock-bursts, shaft accidents, explosions and lift malfunctions.

By Brendan Templeton and Peter Davies

A blood-red sun rose over a tense Secunda today where distraught families waited for news of miners still missing after a methane gas explosion at Sasol's Middelbuit Colliery.

Fifty-three miners were 130 m below the surface when a blast ripped through the south-eastern Transvaal mine at about 2:30 pm yesterday. By 9:15 am today 27 bodies had been recovered by specially trained teams.

Sasol spokesman Nicholas Hughes said the cause of the blast was not yet known.

In a twisted irony, the colliery on Tuesday received an internationally acclaimed Nascar award for safety.

And in an altogether disastrous day for South African mining, another five miners died in a rockfall on a gold mine near Orkney.

At Middelbuit, a desperate race against time was being waged by 10 rescue teams to restore oxygen and vital communication links to the entombed miners. Hopes for their survival dwindled today as ever more corpses were brought to the surface.

So far no survivors have been found.

All miners were supplied with emergency oxygen packs which could have provided 30 minutes of air had they survived the blast. Their only hope of survival rested on the chance that some may have stumbled in

the pitch darkness to a near-by rescue station where oxygen is stored.

Rescue attempts were hampered by thick smoke and gases which filled the maze of tunnels.

The miners had been working at the coalface about 300 m north of the shaft on two parallel tunnels roughly the size of four rugby fields.

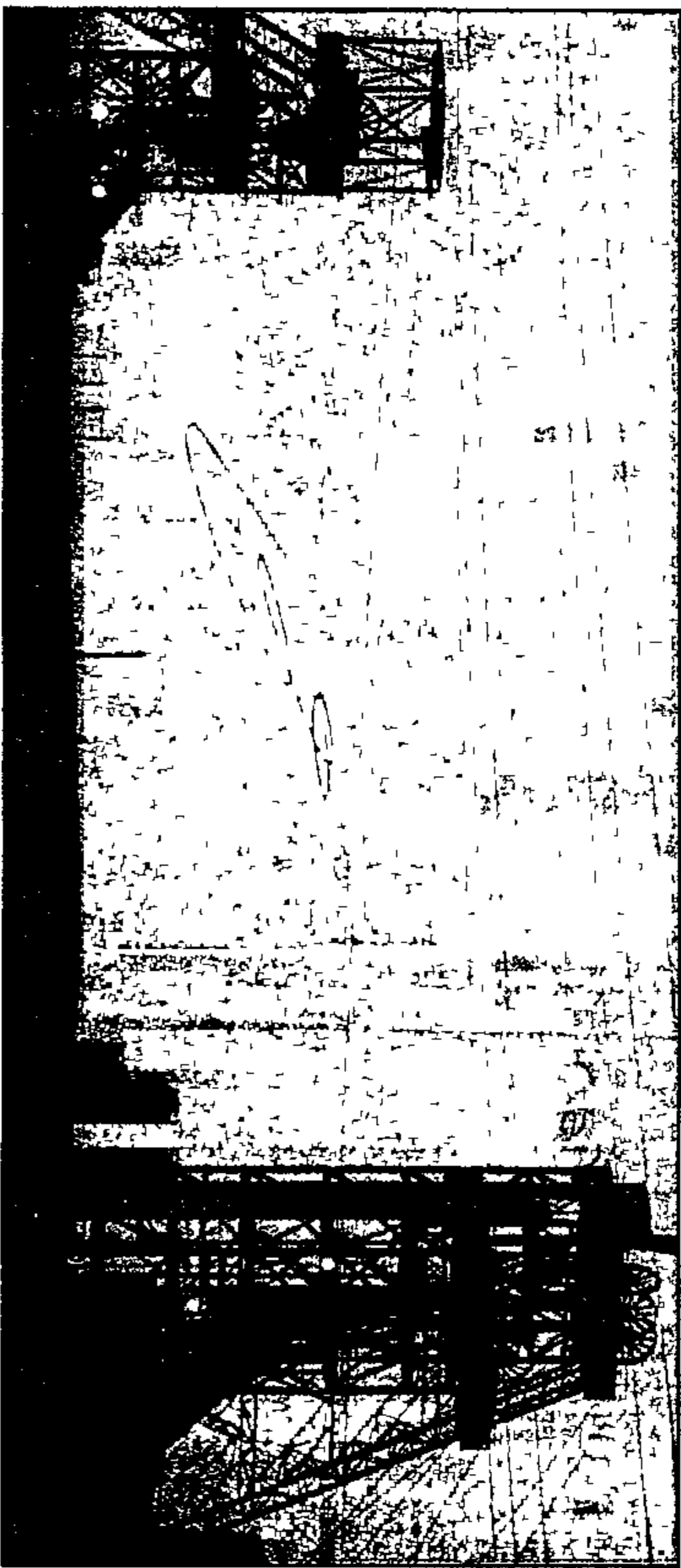
Their shift had started at 6 am yesterday and they were due to surface at 4 pm.

Both black and white workers were victims.

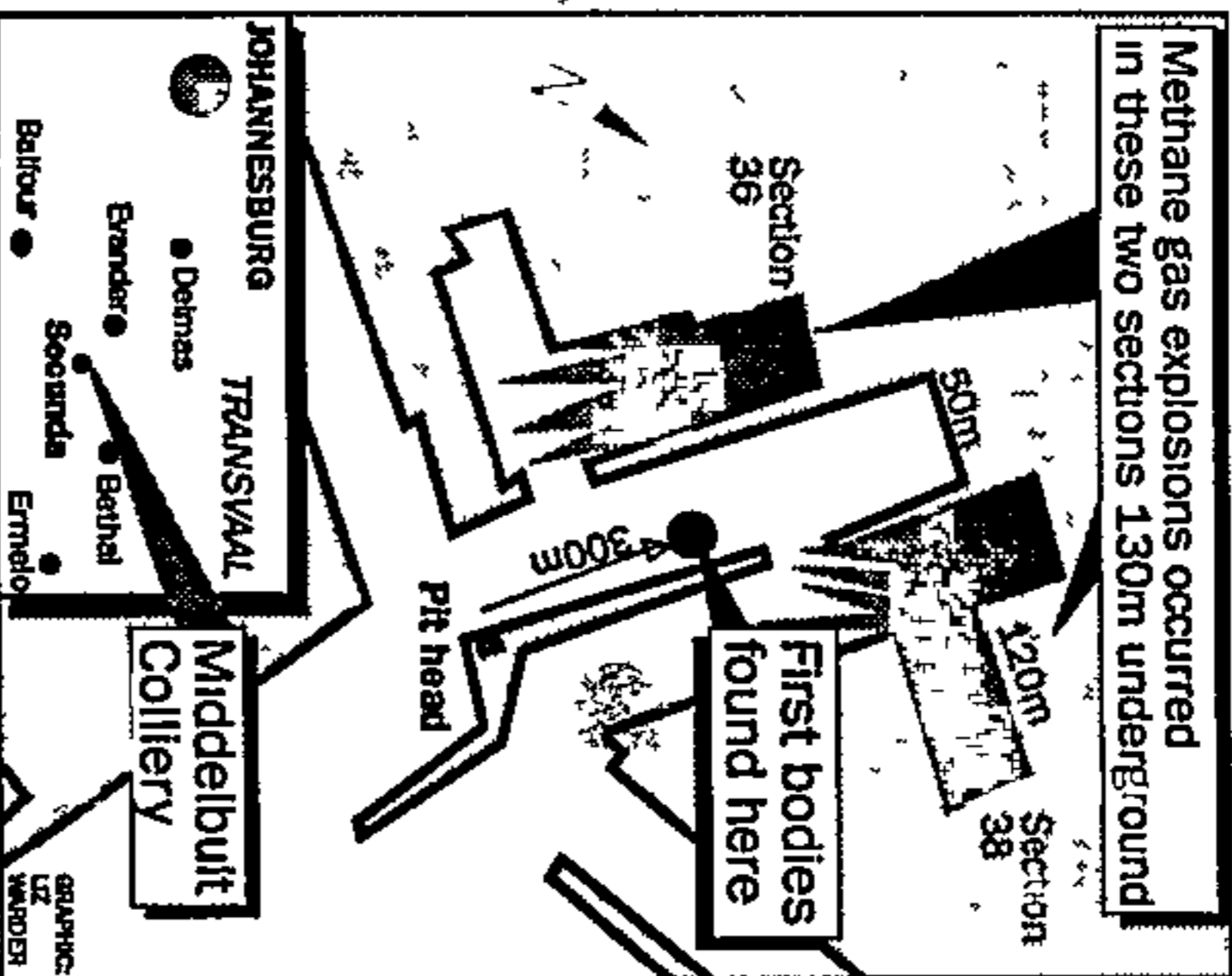
Last night, six jobs' relatives streamed into the mine complex waiting for news.

Security was extremely tight at the scene and journalists were not allowed near the site. Even families of the missing men were de-

Coalface disaster



Death mine - Morning breaks over Middelbuit Colliery at Secunda, scene of a gas explosion that entombed 53 mineworkers yesterday afternoon. So far 27 bodies have been recovered and there appears to be little hope of finding survivors. Picture Joao Silva



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the pitch darkness to a nearby rescue station where oxygen is stored.

Rescue attempts were hampered by thick smoke and gases which filled the maze of tunnels.

The miners had been working at the coalface about 300 m north of the shaft on two parallel tunnels roughly the size of four rugby fields.

Their shift had started at 6 am yesterday and they were due to surface at 4 pm.

Both black and white workers were victims.

Last night, anxious relatives strained to hear the mine complex waiting for news.

Security was extremely tight at the scene and journalists were not allowed near the site. Even families of the missing men were debarred out of bounds to reporters.

Until yesterday, the mine had enjoyed an enviable safety reputation.

Seven bodies were found late last night in one of the approach tunnels leading to the blast's epicentre.

Nine others were found today and the rest later in the morning. The names of the dead will be made available once their next-of-kin have been informed.

A Secunda resident said, "When something like this happens, the whole community here feels devastated."

Other miners were killed and four injured in a rockfall at about 2:00 m below the surface at Anglo American's Vaal Reef. Number Two shaft, where a lift cage yesterday

in brief

Sewetun 14/5/19

miners were injured in the fall

Another miner earlier feared to have been trapped has been accounted for. The injured, two of whom are in a serious condition, are being treated in hospital.

Last night rescue teams continued their search for miners still believed to be missing.

(212)

SCW 1415193
Five miners killed

RESCUE workers yesterday recovered another body of a miner killed in a rockfall at the Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney in the Western Transvaal

This brings the death toll of the miners killed in the rockfall yesterday to five

An Anglo-American Gold Division spokesman last night said at least four

(R)

**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL
HEALTH AND POPULATION
DEVELOPMENT**

No. R. 795

(212)

14 May 1993

**DECLARATION OF A CONTROLLED MINE AND
RISK WORK**

I, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Chief Director Forensic and Research Services, Department of National Health and Population Development, acting on behalf and by direction of the Minister of National Health, in terms of section 10 of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act No 78 of 1973), hereby declare the following mine to be a controlled mine with effect from 1 July 1993

The mine known as **Potgietersrust Platinums Limited**, on the farms Sandsloot 236 KR, Vaalkop 819 LR, Zwartfontein 818 LR and Overysel 815 LR, situated in the Magisterial District of Potgietersrus, Province of the Transvaal, which at present is worked by Potgietersrust Platinums Limited, Private Bag X2463, Potgietersrus, 0600

I hereby, in terms of section 13 of the said Act, declare the following work at the said mine to be risk work with effect from the same date.

Excavations. Any work in underground or open workings

On the surface. Any work—

- (i) where the moving, transfer or handling of stone, rock, ore or other minerals takes place,
- (ii) where the crushing, screening or classification of stone, rock, ore or other minerals takes place, except where this is carried out under water,
- (iii) where pelletising is done,
- (iv) at smelt-houses,
- (v) on or at waste dumps, ore dumps or slimes dams, except where the materials are being deposited in the form of slime,
- (vi) in drill-sharpening shops or at any other place where drills are sharpened,
- (vii) in change-houses where persons performing risk work change their clothing,
- (viii) in assay laboratories, except in separately ventilated parts thereof where only wet assays are done and no treatment of dry stone, rock, ore or other minerals takes place,
- (ix) where samples of crushed ore or other minerals are graded in a dry state, and
- (x) where rock-drilling is done

Government Notice No 317 of 5 March 1993 is hereby withdrawn

**DEPARTEMENT VAN NASIONALE
GESONDHEID EN BEVOLKINGS-
ONTWIKKELING**

No. R. 795

14 Mei 1993

**VERKLARING TOT 'N BEHEERDE MYN EN
RISIKOWERK**

Ek, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Hoofdirekteur Forensiese en Navorsingsdienste, Departement van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling, handelende namens en in opdrag van die Minister van Nasionale Gesondheid, verklaar hierby kragtens artikel 10 van die Wet op Bedryfsiektes in Myne en Bedrywe, 1973 (Wet No 78 van 1973), die volgende myn met ingang van 1 Julie 1993 tot 'n beheerde myn

Die myn bekend as **Potgietersrust Platinums Limited**, op die plase Sandsloot 236 KR, Vaalkop 819 LR, Zwartfontein 818 LR en Overysel 815 LR, gelee in die landdrostdistrik Potgietersrus, provinsie Transvaal, wat tans deur Potgietersrust Platinums Limited, Privaatsak X2463, Potgietersrus, 0600, ontgin word

Kragtens artikel 13 van genoemde Wet verklaar ek hierby die volgende werk by genoemde myn met ingang van dieselfde datum tot risikowerk

Uitgrawings. Enige werk in ondergrondse of oop delfplekke.

Bogronde. Enige werk—

- (i) waar die verskuiving, oorplasing of hantering van klip, rots, erts of ander minerale plaasvind,
- (ii) waar die vergruising, sif of klassifisering van klip, rots, erts of ander minerale plaasvind, uitgesonderd waar dit onder water geskied,
- (iii) waar pelletisering plaasvind;
- (iv) by smelterye,
- (v) op of by afvalhope, ertshope of slikdamme, uitgesonderd waar die materiaal in die vorm van slik gestort word,
- (vi) in boorslypwinkels of by enige ander plek waar bore skerpgemaak word,
- (vii) in kleedhuise waar persone wat risikowerk verrig, hulle verklee,
- (viii) in essasieringslaboratoriums, uitgesonderd in afsonderlik geventileerde dele daarvan waar slegs nat essasierings uitgevoer word en geen behandeling van droe klip, rots, erts of ander minerale plaasvind nie,
- (ix) waar monsters van vergruisde erts of ander minerale in 'n droe toestand gegradeer word, en
- (x) waar rotsboorwerk gedoen word

Goewermentskennisgewing No 317 van 5 Maart 1993 word hierby herroep

No. R. 796

212

14 May 1993

DECLARATION OF A CONTROLLED MINE AND RISK WORK

I, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Chief Director Forensic and Research Services, Department of National Health and Population Development, acting on behalf and by direction of the Minister of National Health, in terms of section 10 of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act No 78 of 1973), hereby declare the following mine to be a controlled mine with effect from 1 July 1993:

The mine known as **Rietvly Silica Myn**, on the farm Rietvly Portion 98 and Rietvly Portion 90, situated in the Magisterial District of Rustenburg, Province of the Transvaal, which at present is worked by Rietvly Silica Myn, P O Box 1211, Rustenburg, 0300

I hereby, in terms of section 13 of the said Act, declare the following work at the said mine to be risk work with effect from the same date

Excavations Any work in underground or open workings.

On the surface Any work—

- (i) where the moving, transfer or handling of stone, rock, ore or other minerals takes place;
- (ii) where the crushing, screening or classification of stone, rock, ore or other minerals takes place, except where this is carried out under water,
- (iii) on or at waste dumps, ore dumps or slimes dams, except where the materials are being deposited in the form of slime;
- (iv) in drill-sharpening shops or at any other place where drills are sharpened,
- (v) in change-houses where persons performing risk work change their clothing,
- (vi) where samples of crushed ore or other minerals are graded in a dry state, and
- (vii) where rock-drilling is done

Government Notice No 318 of 5 March 1993 is hereby withdrawn

No. R. 797

212

14 May 1993

DECLARATION OF A CONTROLLED MINE AND RISK WORK

I, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Chief Director Forensic and Research Services, Department of National Health and Population Development, acting on behalf and by direction of the Minister of National Health, in terms of section 10 of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act No 78 of 1973), hereby declare the following mine to be a controlled mine with effect from 1 July 1993.

The mine known as **Venetia Mine**, on the farm Venetia 103 MS, situated in the Magisterial District of Soutpansberg, Province of the Transvaal, which at present is worked by De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd, P O Box 668, Messina, 0900

No. R. 796

14 Mei 1993

VERKLARING TOT 'N BEHEERDE MYN EN RISIKOWERK

Ek, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Hoofdirekteur Forensiese en Navorsingsdienste, Departement van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling, handelende namens en in opdrag van die Minister van Nasionale Gesondheid, verklaar hierby kragtens artikel 10 van die Wet op Bedryfsiektes in Myne en Bedrywe, 1973 (Wet No 78 van 1973), die volgende myn met ingang van 1 Julie 1993 tot 'n beheerde myn

Die myn bekend as **Rietvly Silica Myn**, op die plaas Rietvly Gedeelte 98 en Rietvly Gedeelte 90, gelee in die landdrostdistrik Rustenburg, provinsie Transvaal, wat tans deur Rietvly Silica Myn, Posbus 1211, Rustenburg, 0300, ontgin word

Kragtens artikel 13 van genoemde Wet verklaar ek hierby die volgende werk by genoemde myn met ingang van dieselfde datum tot risikowerk

Uitgrawings: Enige werk in ondergrondse of oop delfplekke

Bogronde: Enige werk—

- (i) waar die verskuiving, oorpasing of hantering van klip, rots, erts of ander minerale plaasvind,
- (ii) waar die vergruising, sif of klassifisering van klip, rots, erts of ander minerale plaasvind, uitgesonderd waar dit onder water geskied,
- (iii) op of by afvalhope, ertshope of slikdamme, uitgesonderd waar die materiaal in die vorm van slik gestort word,
- (iv) in boorslypwinkels of by enige ander plek waar bore skerpgemaak word,
- (v) in kleedhuise waar persone wat risikowerk verrig, hulle verkleed,
- (vi) waar monsters van vergruisde erts of ander minerale in 'n droe toestand gegradeer word, en
- (vii) waar rotsboorwerk gedoen word

Goewermentskennisgewing No 318 van 5 Maart 1993 word hierby herroep

No. R. 797

14 Mei 1993

VERKLARING TOT 'N BEHEERDE MYN EN RISIKOWERK

Ek, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Hoofdirekteur Forensiese en Navorsingsdienste, Departement van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling, handelende namens en in opdrag van die Minister van Nasionale Gesondheid, verklaar hierby kragtens artikel 10 van die Wet op Bedryfsiektes in Myne en Bedrywe, 1973 (Wet No 78 van 1973), die volgende myn met ingang van 1 Julie 1993 tot 'n beheerde myn

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I hereby, in terms of section 13 of the said Act, declare the following work at the said mine to be risk work with effect from the same date.

Excavations Any work in underground or open workings.

On the surface: Any work—

- (212) (i) where the moving, transfer or handling of stone, rock, ore or other minerals takes place,
- (ii) where the crushing, screening or classification of stone, rock, ore or other minerals takes place, except where this is carried out under water,
- (iii) on or at waste dumps, ore dumps of slimes dams, except where the materials are being deposited in the form of slime;
- (iv) in drill-sharpening shops or at any other place where drills are sharpened,
- (v) in change-houses where persons performing risk work change their clothing;
- (vi) where samples of crushed ore or other minerals are graded in a dry state, and
- (vii) where rock-drilling is done

Government Notice No 316 of 5 March 1993 is hereby withdrawn.

No. R. 798

(212)

14 May 1993

DECLARATION OF A CONTROLLED MINE AND RISK WORK

I, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Chief Director, Forensic and Research Services, Department of National Health and Population Development, acting on behalf and by direction of the Minister of National Health, in terms of section 10 of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act No 78 of 1973), hereby declare the following mine to be a controlled mine with effect from 1 July 1993

The mine known as **Macalman Colliery**, on the farm Macalman 15567, situated in the Magisterial District of Klip River, Province of Natal, which at present is worked by CBR Mining (Pty) Ltd, P O Box 1007, Dundee, 3000.

I hereby, in terms of section 13 of the said Act, declare the following work at the said mine to be risk work with effect from the same date

Excavations Any work in underground or open workings

On the surface Any work—

- (i) where the moving, transfer or handling of stone, rock, coal or other minerals takes place, including loading operations at subsidiary sidings situated on the mining area,
- (ii) where the crushing, screening or classification of stone, rock, coal or other minerals takes place, except where this is carried out under water,

Kragtens artikel 13 van genoemde Wet verklaar ek hierby die volgende werk by genoemde myn met ingang van dieselfde datum tot risikowerk

Uitgrawings Enige werk in ondergrondse of oop delfplekke

Bogronde Enige werk—

- (i) waar die verskuiwing, oorplasing of hantering van klip, rots, erts of ander minerale plaasvind,
- (ii) waar die vergruising, sif of klassifisering van klip, rots, erts of ander minerale plaasvind, uitgesonderd waar dit onder water geskied,
- (iii) op of by afvalhope, ertshope of slikdamme, uitgesonderd waar die materiaal in die vorm van slik gestort word,
- (iv) in boorslyp winkels of by enige ander plek waar bore skerpgemaak word,
- (v) in kleedhuise waar persone wat risikowerk verrig, hulle verkleed;
- (vi) waar monsters van vergruisde erts of ander minerale in 'n droe toestand gegradeer word, en
- (vii) waar rotsboorwerk gedoen word

Goewermentskennisgewing No 316 van 5 Maart 1993 word hierby herroep.

No. R. 798

14 Mei 1993

VERKLARING TOT 'N BEHEERDE MYN EN RISIKOWERK

Ek, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Hoofdirekteur Forensiese en Navorsingsdienste, Departement van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling, handelende namens en in opdrag van die Minister van Nasionale Gesondheid, verklaar hierby kragtens artikel 10 van die Wet op Bedryfsiektes in Myne en Bedrywe, 1973 (Wet No 78 van 1973), die volgende myn met ingang van 1 Julie 1993 tot 'n beheerde myn.

Die myn bekend as **Macalman Colliery**, op die plaas Macalman 15567, geleë in die landdrosdistrik Kliprivier, provinsie Natal, wat tans deur CBR Mining (Pty) Ltd, Posbus 1007, Dundee, 3000, ontgin word

Kragtens artikel 13 van genoemde Wet verklaar ek hierby die volgende werk by genoemde myn met ingang van dieselfde datum tot risikowerk

Uitgrawings: Enige werk in ondergrondse of oop delfplekke

Bogronde: Enige werk—

- (i) waar die verskuiwing, oorplasing of hantering van klip, rots, steenkool of ander minerale plaasvind, sowel as laaiwerk by ondergeskikte sylyne wat op die myngebied geleë is,
- (ii) waar die vergruising, sif of klassifisering van klip, rots, steenkool of ander minerale plaasvind, uitgesonderd waar dit onder water geskied;

- (iii) on or at waste dumps, coal dumps or slimes dams, except where the materials are being deposited in the form of slime,
- (iv) in drill-sharpening shops or at any other place where drills are sharpened,
- (v) in change-houses where persons performing risk work change their clothing,
- (vi) in coal laboratories, except in separately ventilated parts thereof where only wet analyses are done and no treatment of dry stone, rock, coal or other minerals takes place,
- (vii) where samples of crushed coal or other minerals are graded in a dry state, and
- (viii) where rock-drilling is done.

Government Notice No 319 of 5 March 1993 is hereby withdrawn

No. R. 799

14 May 1993

DECLARATION OF A CONTROLLED MINE AND RISK WORK

I, Peter Jozua Aucamp, Chief Director Forensic and Research Services, Department of National Health and Population Development, acting on behalf and by direction of the Minister of National Health, in terms of section 10 of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act No 78 of 1973), hereby declare the following mine to be a controlled mine with effect from 1 July 1993

The mine known as **Klipfontein Colliery**, on the farm Klipfontein 566 JR, Portion 6, situated in the Magisterial District of Witbank, Province of the Transvaal, which at present is worked by Klipfontein Colliery, P O Box 83, Kendal, 2225

I hereby, in terms of section 13 of the said Act, declare the following work at the said mine to be risk work with effect from the same date.

Excavations Any work in underground or open workings

On the surface Any work—

- (i) where the moving, transfer or handling of stone, rock, coal or other minerals takes place, including loading operations at subsidiary sidings situated on the mining area,
- (ii) where the crushing, screening or classification of stone, rock, coal or other minerals takes place, except where this is carried out under water,
- (iii) on or at waste dumps, coal dumps or slimes dams, except where the materials are being deposited in the form of slime,
- (iv) in drill-sharpening shops or at any other place where drills are sharpened,
- (v) in change-houses where persons performing risk work change their clothing,

- (iii) op of by afvalhope, steenkoolhope of slikdamme, uitgesonderd waar die materiaal in die vorm van slik gestort word,
- (iv) in boorslypwinkels of by enige ander plek waar bore skerp gemaak word,
- (v) in kleedhuise waar persone wat risikowerk verrig, hulle verklee,
- (vi) in steenkoollaboratoriums, uitgesonderd in afsonderlik geventileerde dele daarvan waar slegs nat ontledings uitgevoer word en geen behandeling van droe klip, rots, steenkool of ander minerale plaasvind nie,
- (vii) waar monsters van vergruisde steenkool of ander minerale in 'n droe toestand gegradeer word, en
- (viii) waar rotsboorwerk gedoen word

Goewermentskennisgewing No 319 van 5 Maart 1993 word hierby herroep.

No. R. 799

14 Mei 1993

VERKLARING TOT 'N BEHEERDE MYN EN RISIKOWERK

Ek, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Hoofdirekteur Forensiese en Navorsingsdienste, Departement van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling, handelende namens en in opdrag van die Minister van Nasionale Gesondheid, verklaar hierby kragtens artikel 10 van die Wet op Bedryfsiektes in Myne en Bedrywe, 1973 (Wet No 78 van 1973), die volgende myn met ingang van 1 Julie 1993 tot 'n beheerde myn

Die myn bekend as **Klipfontein Colliery**, op die plaas Klipfontein 566 JR, Gedeelte 6, geleë in die landdrostdistrik Witbank, provinsie Transvaal, wat tans deur Klipfontein Colliery, Posbus 83, Kendal, 2225, ontgin word

Kragtens artikel 13 van genoemde Wet verklaar ek hierby die volgende werk by genoemde myn met ingang van dieselfde datum tot risikowerk

Uitgrawings: Enige werk in ondergrondse of oop delfplekke

Bogronde: Enige werk—

- (i) waar die verskuiving, oorplasing of hantering van klip, rots, steenkool of ander minerale plaasvind, sowel as laaiwerk by ondergeskikte slyne wat op die myngebied geleë is,
- (ii) waar die vergruising, sif of klassifisering van klip, rots, steenkool of ander minerale plaasvind, uitgesonderd waar dit onder water geskied,
- (iii) op of by afvalhope, steenkoolhope of slikdamme, uitgesonderd waar die materiaal in die vorm van slik gestort word,
- (iv) in boorslypwinkels of by enige ander plek waar bore skerp gemaak word,
- (v) in kleedhuise waar persone wat risikowerk verrig, hulle verklee,
- (vi) in steenkoollaboratoriums, uitgesonderd in afsonderlik geventileerde dele daarvan waar slegs nat ontledings uitgevoer word en geen behandeling van droe klip, rots, steenkool of ander minerale plaasvind nie,

- (vi) in coal laboratories, except in separately ventilated parts thereof where only wet analyses are done and no treatment of dry stone, rock coal or other minerals takes place;
- (vii) where samples of crushed coal or other minerals are graded in a dry state; and
- (viii) where rock-drilling is done.

Government Notice No. 321 of 5 March 1993 is hereby withdrawn.

212
No. R. 800

14 May 1993

DECLARATION OF A CONTROLLED MINE AND RISK WORK

I, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Chief Director: Forensic and Research Services, Department of National Health and Population Development, acting on behalf and by direction of the Minister of National Health, in terms of section 10 of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act No. 78 of 1973), hereby declare the following mine to be a controlled mine with effect from 1 July 1993

The mine known as **Strip Mining CC**, on the farm Chelmsford 87642, situated in the Magisterial District of Newcastle, Province of Natal, which at present is worked by Strip Mining CC, P O Box 3670, Durban, 4000

I hereby, in terms of section 13 of the said Act, declare the following work at the said mine to be risk work with effect from the same date:

Excavations: Any work in underground or open workings.

On the surface Any work—

- (i) where the moving, transfer or handling of stone, rock, coal or other minerals takes place, including loading operations at subsidiary sidings situated on the mining area,
- (ii) where the crushing, screening or classification of stone, rock, coal or other minerals takes place, except where this is carried out under water;
- (iii) on or at waste dumps, coal dumps or slimes dams, except where the materials are being deposited in the form of slime,
- (iv) in drill-sharpening shops or at any other place where drills are sharpened;
- (v) in change-houses where persons performing risk work change their clothing,
- (vi) in coal laboratories, except in separately ventilated parts thereof where only wet analyses are done and no treatment of dry stone, rock, coal or other minerals takes place;
- (vii) where samples of crushed coal or other minerals are graded in a dry state, and
- (viii) where rock-drilling is done

Government Notice No. 320 of 5 March 1993 is hereby withdrawn

(vii) waar monsters van vergruisde steenkool of ander minerale in 'n droe toestand gegradeer word, en

(viii) waar rotsboorwerk gedoen word.

Goewermentskennisgewing No. 321 van 5 Maart 1993 word hierby herroep

No. R. 800

14 Mei 1993

VERKLARING TOT 'N BEHEERDE MYN EN RISIKOWERK

Ek, Pieter Jozua Aucamp, Hoofdirekteur: Forensiese en navorsingsdienste, Departement van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling, handelende namens en in opdrag van die Minister van Nasionale Gesondheid, verklaar hierby kragtens artikel 10 van die Wet op Bedryfsiektes in Myne en Bedrywe, 1973 (Wet No. 78 van 1973), die volgende myn met ingang van 1 Julie 1993 tot 'n beheerde myn.

Die myn bekend as **Strip Mining CC**, op die plaas Chelmsford 87642, geleë in die landdrosdistrik Newcastle, provinsie Natal, wat tans deur Strip Mining CC, Posbus 3670, Durban, 4000, ontgin word

Kragtens artikel 13 van genoemde Wet verklaar ek hierby die volgende werk by genoemde myn met ingang van dieselfde datum tot risikowerk:

Uitgrawings: Enige werk in ondergrondse of oop delfplekke.

Bogronde: Enige werk—

- (i) waar die verskuiwing, oorplasing of hantering van klip, rots, steenkool of ander minerale plaasvind, sowel as laaiwerk by ondergeskikte slyne wat op die myngebied geleë is,
- (ii) waar die vergruising, sif of klassifisering van klip, rots, steenkool of ander minerale plaasvind, uitgesonderd waar dit onder water geskied;
- (iii) op of by afvalhope, steenkoolhope of slikdamme, uitgesonderd waar die materiaal in die vorm van slik gestort word;
- (iv) in boorslyp-winkels of by enige ander plek waar bore skerpgemaak word;
- (v) in kleedhuise waar persone wat risikowerk verrig, hulle verkleed,
- (vi) in steenkoollaboratoriums, uitgesonderd in afsonderlik geventileerde dele daarvan waar slegs nat ontledings uitgevoer word en geen behandeling van droe klip, rots, steenkool of ander minerale plaasvind nie;
- (vii) waar monsters van vergruisde steenkool of ander minerale in 'n droe toestand gegradeer word, en
- (viii) waar rotsboorwerk gedoen word

Goewermentskennisgewing No. 320 van 5 Maart 1993 word hierby herroep.

49 bodies found as mine toll increases

CI 15/5/93 (212)

SECUNDA — The bodies of 49 miners have been lifted to the surface following the worst mining disaster to hit the country in six years and the second major disaster to hit Middelbult Colliery, where 33 miners lost their lives in 1985.

Specially-trained teams are working against the clock in a search for four miners still missing following the methane gas blast which rocked the Middelbult Colliery near Secunda on Thursday afternoon, but hopes of any survivors are fast diminishing.

Rescue attempts were hampered by thick smoke and gases which filled the maze of underground tunnels as anxious family members awaited news of miners still missing.

President F W de Klerk yesterday expressed his deep condolences and sympathy to the families of the miners.

He said a full investigation into the disaster would be undertaken.

Fifty-three miners were 130 metres underground at 2.30pm on Thursday when the blast rocked the Eastern Transvaal "death mine".

Outrage

The accident is the second to hit the mining industry the past 24 hours. Five people were killed in a rockfall at an Anglo Vaal mine near Orkney in the Western Transvaal on Thursday. Condemnation and outrage has been expressed by the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) as well as the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) who lashed out at inadequate safety and working conditions on South African mines.

Urgent steps need to be taken to ensure the safety of miners, Cosatu said following the two accidents.

Middelbult Colliery manager Mr Peter Cox said ventilation structures in the area of the blast had been destroyed and the first body recovered had shown symptoms of suffocation.

The first team went underground within half an hour of the explosion, he said.

Mr Cox also said experts would be brought in to establish the cause of the explosion.

The disaster has raised the question of why safety devices failed to detect the methane. — Sapa

Families mourn victims of gas blast tragedy

SHIRLEY WOODGATE
and CYRIL MADLALA

THE methane gas blast at Sasol's Middelbult Colliery on Thursday had claimed 49 lives by late last night and mine officials said there was little hope of recovering the remaining four believed lost in the underground disaster.

The explosion, which hit sections 36 and 38 at the north shaft of the coal mine at Secunda was the second of its type at the 16-year Middelbult coal mine since 1985, when at least 33 miners lost their lives, a Sasol spokesman said yesterday.

Inspection

Thursday's death toll was the highest in South Africa since 1987, when 62 miners died at St Helena gold mine near Welkom. Mine officials were yesterday unable to determine the cause of the explosion, but Sasol spokesman Richard Hughes said an inspection in loco would be held today.

By late last night mine officials had not been able to release the names of many of the dead or missing — especially those of the black miners

at the Saturday Star found earlier, yesterday that many of the miners who perished left, not only tears in the tight-knit Secunda community, but unfinished business at home. Young tradesman Casper Minnie will never see his first child, due to be delivered by caesarean section next week. His sorrowing widow will be admitted this weekend to a clinic to give birth alone.

Electro mechanic Paul Nel, who would have been 40 on Wednesday, failed to pick up his wife Mari at the usual spot in the town at 4.30 pm on Thursday, and she had to walk home.

Vigil

His friend Chris Froneman (32), with whom he died 130 m below the surface of the coalfield when the gas ripped into the northern shaft, missed obtaining his Government ticket by one month after passing his N6 with distinctions.

Froneman, a father of four children, had worked for 10 years at Middelbult, said family friend Debbie Jordaan, who was fielding non-stop phone calls at the house while the family slept, exhausted after their all-night vigil.

"He was an ambitious man who lived for his family," she said.

Mari Nel, supported by family and friends in her modest home, said her husband had briefly left the mine to work in Kempton Park, returning four years ago because the money was good and he loved his job but he always said he was scared.

● TO PAGE 2.

Star 15/5/93 Gas blast

● FROM PAGE 1.

the methane or electricity would kill him.

Still numb from shock, she related how she started phoning after arriving home, only to be told that sections 36 and 38 were out of order.

Then news started filtering through and at 7 pm she and the other women headed for the main shaft to wait.

● The Chemical Workers Industrial Union has called on the Government to provide finance to improve the health and safety of miners in South

Africa, in line with its decision to make funds available to finance security for white farmers.

In a statement, union spokesman Muzi Buthelezi said the National Occupational Safety Association's safety rating system was inadequate, as was demonstrated by awarding Sasol a top five-star rating two days before the disaster.

He confirmed that the union had as yet been unable to identify union members killed or missing in the explosion.

According to the National Union of Mine-workers 553 workers have been killed and 8 803 injured at South African mines this year.

Sasol blast: little hope left for missing four

Weekend Argus Correspondent

ground disaster

(212)

ARG 15/5/93

man said yesterday

would be held today

JOHANNESBURG — The methane gas blast at Sasol's Middelbult Colliery on Thursday had claimed 49 lives by late last night and mine officials said there was little hope of recovering the remaining four believed lost in the under-

The explosion which hit sections 36 and 38 at the north shaft of the coal mine in south-eastern Transvaal was the second of its type at the 16-year Middelbult coal mine since 1985 when at least 33 miners lost their lives, a Sasol spokes-

Thursday's death toll was the highest in South Africa since 1987 when 62 miners died at St Helena gold mine near Welkom. Mine officials were yesterday unable to determine the cause of the explosion, but Sasol spokesman Richard Hughes said an inspection-in-loco

The Chemical Workers' Industrial Union has called on the government to provide finance to improve the health and safety of miners in the same way as it has made funds available to finance security for white farmers — Sapa

Blast at colliery - union urges grassroots services

Staff Reporter

(212)
The Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) of South Africa has called on its 45 000 members to hold nationwide commemorative services tomorrow to honour the 53 miners killed in a methane gas explosion at Middelbult Colliery, Secunda, last week.

The union's national executive committee has tabled a list of demands including

- Trade unions and their members have a legitimate interest

in negotiating health and safety issues.

- Workers must have the right to refuse to do unsafe work
- An international commission of inquiry launched into South Africa's workplace health and safety legislation.
- Government funding must be made available to raise health and safety standards

A Middelbult disaster fund has been set up. Deposits can be made at Nedbank's Gale Street, Durban, branch - account number 1381-353738.

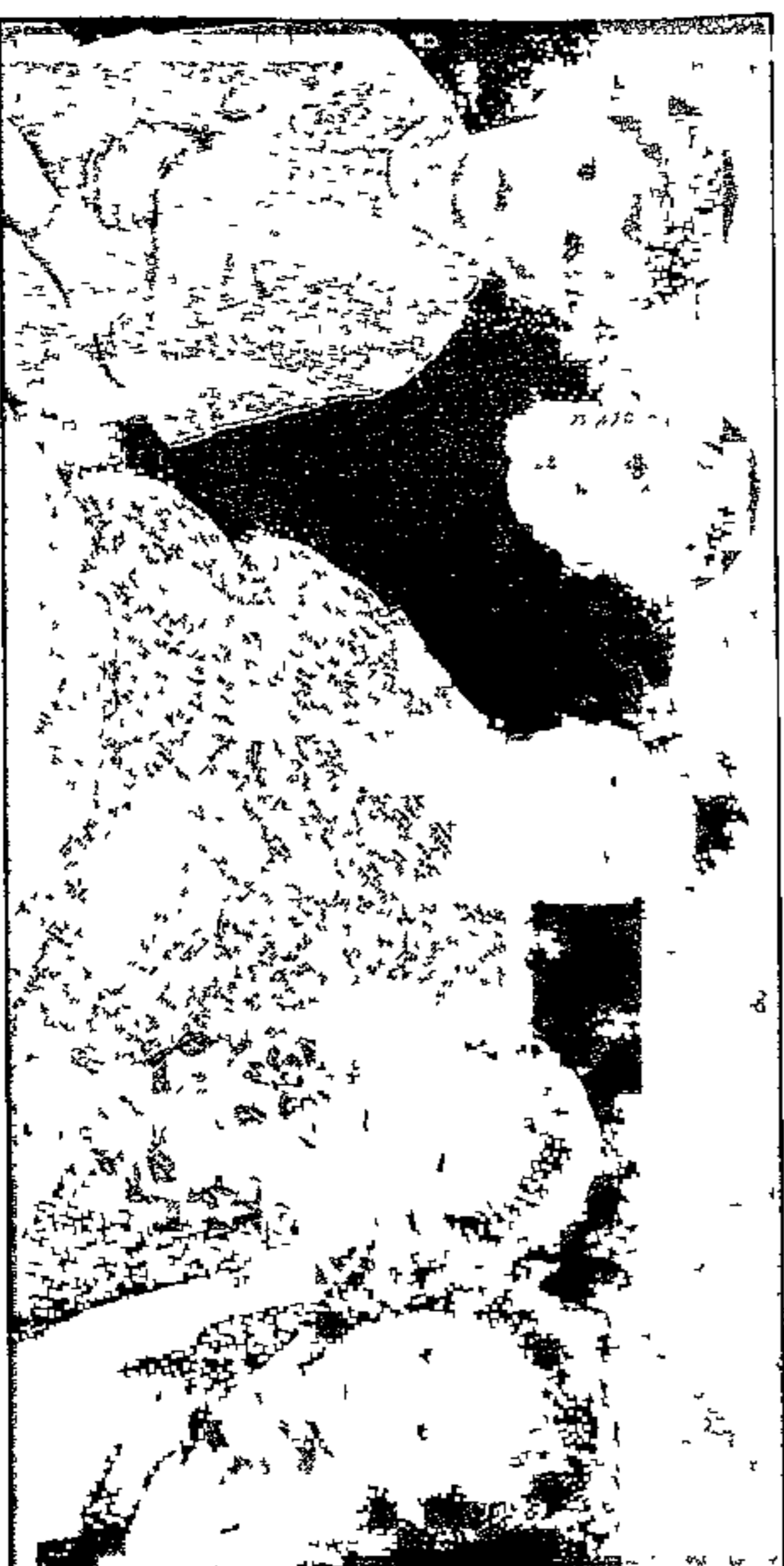
Star 25/5/93
'Little chance' miners alive

Rescue teams yesterday were hopeful of finding during the night, or today, one or more of three miners missing since an earth tremor shook the Buffelsfontein gold mine on Wednesday, according to a mine spokesman. Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson said there was little chance of finding the men alive — Staff Reporter. (212)

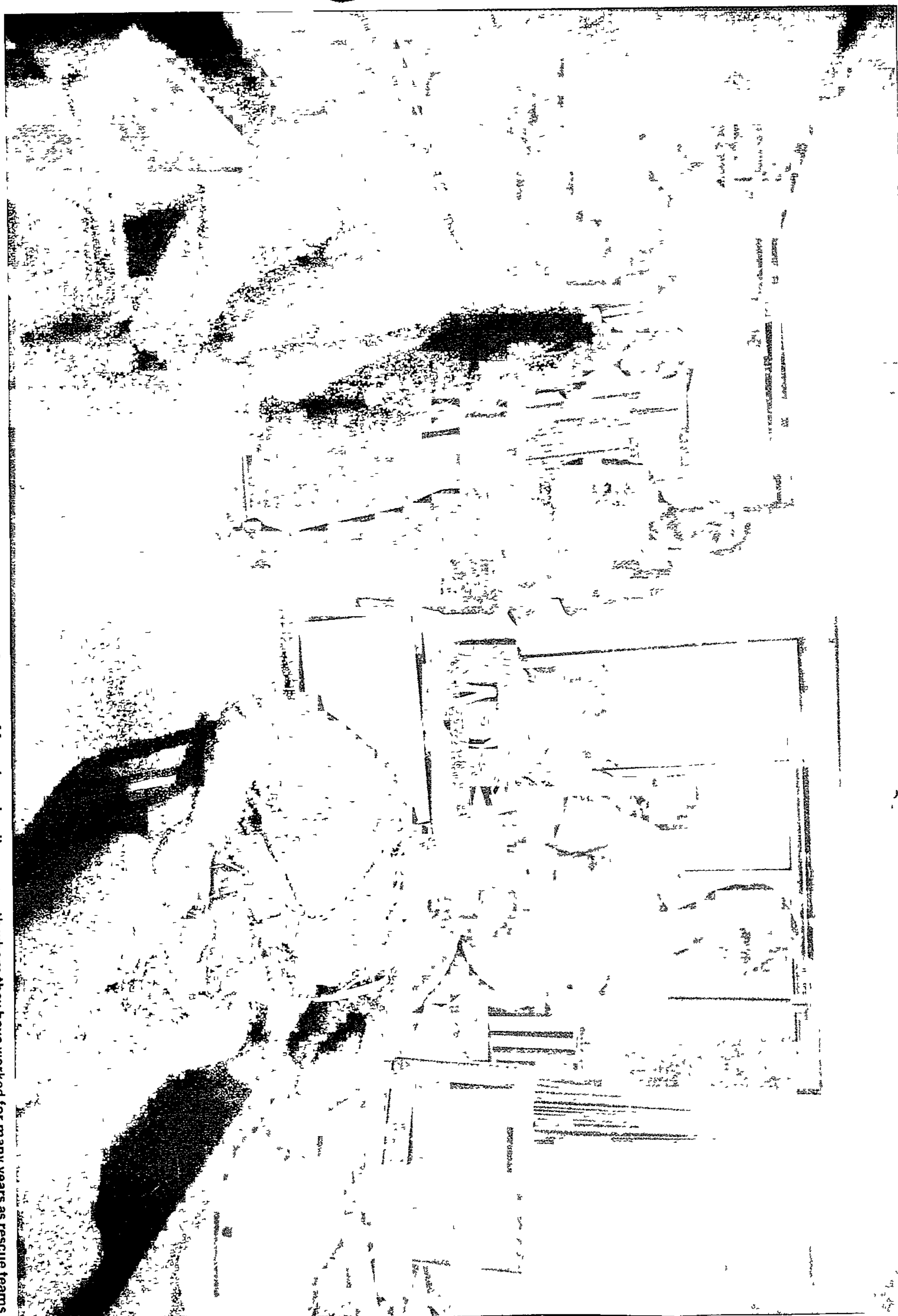
Grief and dismay overcome Secunda coal-mining community as methane gas explosion claims lives

WE'VE LOST THEM

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UNITED IN GRIEF Bertha Froneman and her children — Johan, 5, Willie, 11, and Vickie, 10 — hold on to one another for comfort



THE LONG WAIT Town's most worried faces say it all as Middelbult Colliery workers wait for news of friends and colleagues with whom they have worked for many years as rescue teams battle to bring bodies to the surface. In the end, all 53 workers caught up in the blast were found to have been killed

THE NEWS 11/5/92

FOR the priest, the agony of a community which lost 53 members on Thursday in the Middelbult Colliery disaster was very real.

"I saw several youngsters crying on the stoep of Oosterland High School," said Dutch Reformed Church dominee Rev Johan de la Guerre after the methane blast 130 metres

Report: KURT SWART and JOHANNES NGCOCO Pictures: JOHN RUSA

below ground

"There is so much pain and grief," he said after visiting bereaved families in Secunda, the south-eastern Transvaal town built around petroleum giant Sasol

This was one of the worst accidents in South Africa's coal-mining history

The Froneman family in

Wagner Street are members of Mr de la Guerre's congregation and were in desperate need of comfort. Mr Chris Froneman, a fitter, failed to return home on Thursday night

His widow, Bertha, was distraught, breaking down often and having to be comforted by friends and relatives who had gathered at her home

"We were told to go to the mine and that there had been an accident. We had to wait while they looked for the missing men. We heard it had been a methane explosion," she said

(212)

Bewildered

"At 5am on Friday, my husband's body was brought up," she said, her body heaving with sobs

Her four children looked on, saddened and bewildered.

Mr Froneman's foreman, Mr Willie Koeke-moer, tried to comfort the widow

A bystander said "Wilhe lost four great pals in the explosion. My husband was so lucky. He changed his shift at the last moment

- If he had been there

en to drive the community apart once more

Grieving relatives of dead miner Mayenzeke Tshemi, a father of two and an underground truck driver, accused mine management of giving details of the tragedy to the media before they themselves had been informed

They felt they should first have had the chance to identify the body in the morgue

Chemical Workers Industrial Union spokesman Mizi Buthelezi said "It is symptomatic of the general disregard for black miners in apartheid South Africa."

Mr Tshemi began working for Middelbult 12 years ago and at the time of his death earned R936 a month before deductions

Senior mining official Jan Welz said it was not company policy to give families priority in identifying corpses at a time of disaster.

"We are going to investigate the allegations of the Tshemi family that they were refused entry to the mortuary to identify the body," Mr Welz said

Middelbult colliery had

SI Times
16/5/93

Winds of death blow over killer Secunda coalmine

By BERENG MTIMKULU

City Press 16/5/93

THE cold wind chilled me to the bone

It stank too – the overpowering stench of sulphur blowing across the killer mine

For this reporter it seemed to aptly symbolise the reek of death which hung about in the wrecked, smoking shafts below

This was Secunda yesterday, scene of this week's mining disaster at the Sasol-owned Middelbult colliery

In Embalenthle township – the mine's source of cheap black labour – the wind and the stink added to a pervasive sense of dread among the people

It was night and Nkosiyabo Thwane, 24, stood framed in candlelight while her two children played their games – oblivious to the tragedy which had befallen them

Explosions

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Their father, Nototoze, 30, was one of 53 miners killed in the Middelbult mine explosions on Thursday afternoon

Nkosiyabo last saw her husband in the early hours of Thursday morning when she bade him farewell as he went to work

On Friday morning mine officials arrived to inform her of the dreadful news. They assured her his body would be found

When City Press knocked on her door, she asked "Was his body found?" Her eyes had become shiny with tears

No

"If only they could find him – at least", she said, breaking down

In another emotion-choked scene Jerry Sindane was whisked away from City Press reporters by white mine officials

They tried to console him

Jerry had just heard the news that his brother Titus was dead. He leaves his unemployed wife Thembisile and their three-year-old son.

Titus worked at the mine for 10 years as an artisan

'Miners warned officials about gas and heat'

CIPRESS 16/5/93

By BERENG MTIMKULU

212

SENIOR officials at the Secunda coal mine had been warned of possible danger days before the Middlebult shaft exploded, killing 53 mineworkers, City Press was told this week.

An "operator" known as "Panyaza" reportedly fled the 130-m-below-surface Section 36 and 38 ahead of Thursday's 2 30 pm blast, fearing for his life. Mine security thwarted all attempts to speak to "Panyaza".

Distraught friends and relatives told City Press how, as early as Monday, their loved ones were reluctant to report for their usual 6 am to 4 pm shift after complaints of "increasing heat" down below were ignored.

A middle-aged mineworker, whose younger brother Thabang Moeketsi is among the dead, said Thabang had told him they had noticed "gases and intense heat" by Monday afternoon.

These conditions, dubbed "imbhawula or iSkelm", impeded visibility, made breathing difficult and could have led to the explosion. The mineworker said that on Wednesday Thabang had told him they had embarked on an unnoticed go-slow and had informed white officials about their fears, but to no effect.

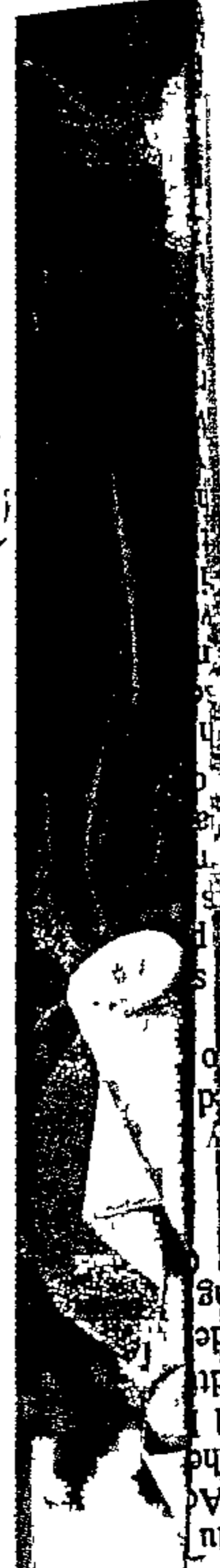
However, Sasol general manager Pieter Cox told journalists there had been no signs of methane gas accumulation where the blast occurred.

Asked about workers' allegation about intense heat and gases which they feared could explode, Sasol communications manager Jan Krynauw answered: "Sasol is unaware of complaints of intense heat made during the course of last week."

Two other mineworkers said that during the Thursday shift concerns were again raised to officials as a few mineworkers threatened not to report for duty.

■ See Page 4

afte



Probe opens into mine blast

212
ERICA JANKOWITZ

AN investigation into the methane gas explosion which killed 53 miners at Sasol's Middelbult colliery, near Secunda, began on Saturday.

The investigating team is made up of mine management, the government mining engineer and officials of the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU).

Sasol spokesman Richard Hughes said yesterday investigations were expected to "take a while to complete".

Thursday's accident — the first involving methane gas since 1987, when 62 miners died at St Helena Gold Mine — has again raised the question of safety on the mines.

Statements from Cosatu and its affiliates said "drastic action was needed to end the carnage in our mining industry".

NUM health and safety chief Sazi Jonas said 166 miners had died and 2 072 had been injured in accidents this year.

The NUM attributed this to safety issues remaining "management's prerogative" and workers' inability to refuse to do work they considered dangerous.

Changes to "archaic" legislation which regulated the mining industry were urgently needed to redress this problem, Jonas said.

He said these changes should be discussed at the commission of inquiry into health and safety conditions in the industry, as proposed by the union and agreed to by the Chamber of Mines.

However, government "continues to drag its feet" on the establishment of the commission, the union said.

A statement from Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett disputed Jonas's claim.

Bartlett said a commission had been appointed and would commence its investigations "soon".

A Chamber of Mines spokesman said stringent regulations concerning the monitoring of methane gas in coal mines were strictly enforced because of the "omnipresent danger" of a build-up of this highly flammable and odourless gas.

Sasol itself was a front-runner in keeping up with local and international safety developments, Hughes said.

He said Sasol was the first company in SA "to install a surface barometric pressure monitoring system with a continuous telemetry system throughout the mine".

In addition, "all underground operators are equipped with methalarms and other continuous methane detection devices," he said.

Hughes said only two of Sasol's 40 sections at Secunda had been affected by the blast and disruption to production had been minimal.

17/5/93
BLOOM

the nation

15/11/93

Names of victims released

SASOL which owns Middelbult Colliery where 53 miners lost their lives last Thursday has released the names of 16 of the victims who died underground in a methane blast *Sawetan 15/11/93*

They were T Chabedi of Teya-Teyanege, Lesotho, W Mosala of Bultfontein, Z Stuurman of Sterkspruit, S Mkhonza of Piet Retief, J Ndlovu of Badplaas, Malamule of Acornhoek, TS Sindane of eMbalenhle, T Mtshali of Siyabuswa, K Reddymarcher, M Minnaar, CC Mienie, DF de Klerk, CC Froneman, PP Nel, AW van der Sandt and WH Erasmus — all of Secunda (22)

The names of the remaining victims will be released once their next of kin have been informed

21/11/93
**New call
for probe
on deaths
at mines** (212)

JOHANNESBURG —
The National Union of Mineworkers has reiterated its proposal for a commission of investigation into health and safety in the mining industry following the death of 53 mineworkers at the Middelbult Colliery, Secunda, and five at the Vaal Reefs gold mine.

The union's acting general secretary Ms Kate Philip also challenged Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr George Barlett for having rejected the proposal "when both labour and the Chamber of Mines agree the need is there".

Diseases

Mineworkers were not only exposed to death and injury but also to extremes of noise, vibration, heat, repetitive task strain, chemicals and dust, she said in a statement.

The industry had a high level of occupational diseases like tuberculosis, pneumoconiosis, silicosis and obstructive airways disease (a kind of chronic bronchitis).

● The Azanian People's Organisation on Saturday said it "deeply mourned" the death of all the mineworkers. — Sapa

Star 18/5/93

Miners slam rejection of probe into safety

Staff Reporter

The National Union of Mineworkers has condemned a decision by the Government to overrule a request by the mining industry to appoint a commission of inquiry into mine safety

NUM acting general-secretary Kate Philip said yesterday that Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett "either does not know what is going on or does not care".

This followed a joint request in December by the union and the Chamber of Mines that the inquiry be held.

"South Africa has the worst track record of safety in the world, and the last decade has seen the highest number of mining disasters in even our own history," Philip said

Other factors such as vibration, heat, chemicals and dust meant the industry had a high level of occupational diseases like tuberculosis, silicosis and pneumoconiosis

Legislation governing compensation for these diseases still discriminated against black workers who were paid a lower levy than white workers. Black workers hit by these diseases

also lost out on their pensions because they would be given a lump payment instead, she said

The Minerals Act laid down no safety or health standards for the mining industry, and they were thus difficult to enforce. Workers needed to be allowed to have a say in the safety standards which directly affected them, Philip said

"NUM challenges Bartlett to justify his response that there is 'insufficient evidence' of the need for an inquiry into health and safety in the mining industry when both labour and the Chamber of Mines agree the need is there"

Union and Sasol clash over mine safety levels

ERICA JANKOWITZ

A ROW over safety standards has erupted between the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) and Sasol in the wake of the Middelbult colliery accident, which claimed the lives of 53 miners on Thursday

The union, which lost 30 members in the accident, said yesterday a similar incident, which resulted in 35 deaths at the same mine in 1985, had not been the subject of an inquiry. Had an inquiry been held in 1985 "maybe the 53 dead miners would still be alive today".

The CWIU contended that Sasol had been prosecuted for this and "found guilty on various charges".

Sasol secretary Robin Hugo said these allegations were "blatantly untrue". In 1985 the attorney-general had decided in favour of a "full-blown inquest" into the accident. Mine officials, including the mine manager, were prosecuted on charges of culpable homicide and contravening certain statutory safety regulations.

They were found not guilty of the first charge, but were found to have contravened certain safety regulations "not related to the accident", Hugo said.

Sasol spokesman Jan Krynauw said safety standards had been improved since the 1985 accident. All miners were issued with "methalarms" in the form of cap lamps which flicker if methane is detected. Methanometers were also issued to "various mining personnel" for "testing particular areas several times during a shift".

CWIU's Rod Crompton said the union had repeatedly requested mine management to issue all employees with methanometers, but to date only "miners", who were generally white, carried them.

The local office of the Government Mining Engineer said the investigation would continue this week. It said the investigation would be followed by an inquest and "a court case".

Crompton said the union had requested the simultaneous holding of the inquest and inquiry to speed up the process. The mining engineer said the Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister would make the final decision.

● See Page 10

Another body found in gold mine hit by severe earth tremor

212

May 1993

□ Remaining victims behind 50m of rock

**The Argus Correspondent
and Sapa**

JOHANNESBURG — Rescue teams today recovered the body of one of five mineworkers trapped about 3km below ground after a severe earth tremor at the Buffelsfontein gold mine

Gengold spokesman Mr Andrew Davidson said the dead team leader's body was found at 4am in an area just below 33 Level of the mine's Strathmore shaft

The search for the other four men was continuing

Mine general manager Mr Sean O'Connor said the rescue teams had opened up ground from 34 Level before finding their dead colleague. The other four trapped men were believed to be in two separate galleys

Mr O'Connor said the teams were making good progress towards one of the areas, but were still separated by 50 m of rock.

"But they have to break through about 60 m of rock to reach the other galley

"The rescuers have been working on continuous shifts since Wednesday morning. The chances of finding the other four men — two winch drivers, a machine operator and a team worker — alive appear bleak, but the Buffels underground team has not given up hope," said Mr O'Connor

Rescuers found 11 miners on Wednesday. One of them died on the way to hospital, two were seriously injured and the other eight were unhurt

The tremor, which measured 3.5 on the Richter scale, shook the shaft on Wednesday, causing a huge area of the working stope to collapse 2 922 m underground

Mr Davidson said the men went underground on the morning shift on Wednesday and set off for their allocated positions on the stope

Working from shift records and mine blueprints, rescuers had pinpointed where the miners should have been at the time the rock caved in

Mr Davidson said the rescuers were mine captains, shift bosses and miners — all expe-

rienced and trained to deal with underground accidents

He said the rescuers' progress varied with the strata of collapsed rock they had to tunnel through

One metre could take as long to tunnel through as 20 metres, depending on the hardness of the rock, he said. And then they could pass one of the missing men by centimetres.

Gengold spokesman Mr Albert de Beer said in Johannesburg yesterday the western Transvaal was notorious for its seismic events because of its geology. Rockfalls sometimes followed the tremors

"In most deep level mines like gold mines, a seismic event like this one is usually a horror story," he said

This is the third fatal mining accident in a week

Fifty-three miners died when a methane gas explosion ripped through Sasol's Middelbult Colliery at Secunda last Thursday

Five other miners were buried in a rockfall at an Anglo American mine near Orkney the same day.

(212)
APR 19 1993

Day of mourning for 53 miners

JOHANNESBURG — Secunda Collieries has declared today a day of mourning for the 53 victims of last week's mining disaster at Middelbult colliery.

Management said in a statement all underground operations at the colliery would be halted today to allow employees to attend

memorial services

Five additional services will be held at Sasol plants for employees unable to attend other services.

The 53 mineworkers died in an underground methane gas explosion in one of South Africa's worst mining accidents — Sapa

Rightwing farmers seal off Natal town

A GROUP OF MEN said to be radical rightwing farmers yesterday took over the Natal town of Harding, police and the ANC in the area said. ANC member Dr Deva Moodley was chosen as spokesman for the Indian business community yesterday after 40 armed white farmers began visiting Indian-owned shops demanding that they close.

Moodley said the farmers had brought in extra help and at 10am began setting up barricades to prevent anyone from getting into the town or leaving until their demands were met.

He said the farmers decided to blockade the town because of a selective boycott called by the ANC against white-owned businesses.

The other reasons are alleged ANC intimidation of customers, that businesses were being used as political pawns and the "undemocratic" behaviour of the ANC.

The farmers, calling themselves the Harding Action Committee, are demanding that the ANC put a representative on the Consultative Peace Forum.

The other two demands are that the ANC and its alliance compensate white businesses for losses incurred during the boycott and that the chairman of the ANC Harding branch, Mr Yunus Khan, be fired immediately.

SELECTIVE BOYCOTT

Demand for ANC compensation for white businesses:

Moodley said the ANC was prepared to talk about having a representative on the Consultative Peace Forum but that the other two demands were rejected.

"Last night there was a meeting in the town which involved United Nations peacekeepers, the ANC, the Harding Action Committee, members of the white community and representatives of businesses. They decided that no action be taken today.

"However, the farmers decided on their wave of intimidation when they visited Indian-owned shops and demanded that they shut down.

"While they made their demands, they video-taped the responses of the Indian businessmen," said Moodley.

He said some of the shops closed but others refused, which eventually led to the blockades being set up.

News in brief

Mourning dead miners

SECUNDA Collieries declared today a day of mourning for the 53 victims of last week's mining disaster at Sasol's Middelbult colliery.

Management said yesterday all underground operations at the colliery would be halted for the day to allow employees to attend memorial services in Secunda and eMbalenhle in the Eastern Transvaal. Five additional services would be held at various Sasol plants for employees unable to attend other services. The 53 mine workers died in an underground methane gas explosion, one of the worst mining disasters in recent years.

R200 000 reward

POLICE have offered a reward of R200 000 for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the attack in which three policemen and a policewoman were killed in Dobsonville, Soweto, early this month.

Soweto police spokesman Major Joseph Ngobeni yesterday called on anyone with information to contact Major Fielies Dempsey at (011) 980-7997 or the toll free number 0800 11 12 13. "Any information

received will be treated confidentially," he said.

Correct words

IN a report on the Sowetan-Radio Metro Talkback Show last Friday, president of the Azanian Students Convention Mr Mark Mfikoe was quoted in Sowetan as having said "the political playing fields in Bophuthatswana have been levelled by Mangope's refusal to meet students' demands". Mfikoe has told Sowetan that his correct words were "to strive for free political activity in Bophuthatswana should be equated with the political tolerance of the repressive system that Bophuthatswana regime is because in essence, as the parameters of political activism widens so diminishes the room for political repression because political repression and liberation cannot exist in one room".

Robber kills pal

AN armed robber was accidentally shot dead by an accomplice in the Natal Midlands on Monday.

Police said yesterday two men entered the home of Mrs Norah Ngrdi in Mid-Illovo and fired a shot which hit a third man keeping watch outside the house. The man was hit in the head and died instantly.

Unemployment 'getting worse each month'

B/DAM
19/5/93
PRETORIA — Central Statistical Service (CSS) figures released yesterday showed unemployment in SA was worsening by the month and the sectors hardest hit were building, mining and quarrying

In the four months to end-November last year, the number employed in the mining and quarrying industries dropped by nearly 10 000 to 588 966, and in the construction industry by a huge 7 700 to 360 700

The manufacturing industry, however, increased its workforce by 32 400 to 1 400 516

A separate set of CSS statistics, covering the whole of 1992, showed that employment levels had also fallen in the wholesale, retail, hotel and motor trades

Nearly 11 000 jobs were lost in re-

(SS)
GERALD REILLY

tailoring during the year and more than 3 000 in wholesale businesses. The figures for the motor trade were down 1 500 to 115 100, and in the hotel trade by 2 400 to 40 700

Pick 'n' Pay chairman Raymond Ackerman commented yesterday that conditions had never been tougher in the retail sector. The job loss trend was likely to continue, he said

A glimmer of hope was that business confidence seemed to have strengthened, but consumer confidence had never been lower.

Only one development could restore consumer confidence and give the strapped economy the first real boost for three or more years. This was politicians agreeing to an elec-

tion date and the formation of a transitional executive council. Until current negotiations achieved concrete results, the slide in the retail trade was likely to continue, he said

Stellenbosch University's economic research bureau head Oekie Stuart said the increase in the number of workers in the manufacturing industry in the four months August to November could have been a seasonal hiccup which could be followed by a decline in the first quarter of this year.

However, the loss of 7 700 jobs in construction highlighted the severe depression in the building industry

This was unlikely to be relieved until well into 1994 and only then if violence subsided and real political progress was made, Stuart said

Mine blast payouts explained

B/DAM
19/5/93
SASOL has said compensation for the families of the 53 miners killed in the methane gas blast at the Middelbult colliery on Thursday will be based on each worker's income level

Sasol spokesman Jan Krynauw said this week the company provided insurance for accidents, as well as group life assurance, pension and provident funds with special provisions in cases of accidental death, an employees' assistance fund and the government-administered Workmen's Compensation allowance

"In some cases up to seven times the individual's annual salary could be paid to a miner's dependants," Krynauw said

In the interim, Sasol would adopt a sympathetic approach to the families of victims as it would take some time for the question of compensation to be sorted out and paid, Krynauw said

No family would be asked to leave company-assisted housing and each case would be handled individually

(212)
ERICA JANKOWITZ

Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) general secretary Rod Crompton said that as compensation was based on income, those in lower job categories would be paid significantly less than their more highly paid colleagues

Sasol said that in cases where negligence was proved at the inquest, workers would be entitled to additional compensation

The company said that if negligence was a contributing factor to the Middelbult mine accident, workers would have to approach the commissioner and furnish evidence to that effect. The commissioner would consider the evidence and decide whether additional compensation was appropriate

In another development, Sasol said yesterday it had declared today a day of mourning. It said it would cease all underground operations at Secunda "to allow employees to attend memorial services"

Iscor sees windfall in Alusaf project

(212)
JONO WATERS
ISCOR could earn R100m from the new R7,2bn Alusaf smelter project which would require about 100 000 tons of steel *B/DAM 19/5/93*

The corporation has undertaken to offer steel at competitive prices to local contractors and construction companies for the project

An industry source said Iscor sold hot rolled steel locally for R1 300/ton compared with prices in Europe of R1 000/ton. Iscor had an annual capacity of 7-million tons

Alusaf MD Rob Barbour said Alusaf could not favour local companies. "We do, however, vigorously promote SA industry to all overseas companies with whom we deal"

Alusaf wanted to maximise the SA content, but local bids had to be competitive. If a local bid was comparable to that of an international company, "then the local company will be selected", he said

IN BRIEF

(212)

Rescuers battle on

JOHANNESBURG. — Rescue teams battling throughout the night failed to reach the five missing mineworkers trapped after a seismic event at Gengold's Buffelsfontein gold mine in the Western Transvaal yesterday. Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson said today the teams had a considerable amount of rock between them and the miners.

Sapa

APR 20 1993

5 miners sought after rockfall

Star 20/5/93

Staff Reporter

(212)

A rescue operation was continuing late last night at Gengold's Buffelsfontein gold mine in the western Transvaal after a rockfall left one miner dead, 10 injured and five missing 3 km underground.

Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson said the rockfall followed an earth tremor measuring 3,5 on the Richter scale which shook the area at 6 40 am.

The rockfall came just minutes after the morning shift had reached their work posts.

Davidson said 11 men were rescued after the rockfall at the mine's Strathmore shaft almost 3 km underground, but one died on the

way to hospital. Two of the survivors were seriously injured.

Rescue teams were working in shifts around the clock to search for the five men still missing, he said.

They are believed to be in an area of the mine which has totally collapsed.

Davidson said the earth tremor had caused a "huge burst of pressure" and the floor where the miners had been working had caved in.

This latest mining tragedy comes only six days after the methane gas explosion at Sasol's Middelbult Colliery at Secunda, in which 53 miners died.

Five others died on the same day, in an accident at an Anglo American mine near Orkney.

id jact



EUTHANASIA PACT
Montague Russel Clarke

"I didn't expect any-thing like this," she said.

Residents in the block of flats last saw Mrs Clarke alive when she was playing with her cat — which she had put down before she died — in the garden on Monday evening.

Doctor Clarke was last seen from a distance on Tuesday afternoon.

The couple were described as "private" and "very devoted to each other".

Mr Clarke said his father worked at Groote Schuur Hospital before going into private practice.

Police have opened two inquest dockets.

car, raped

His right wrist and smoked cigarettes from a yellow packet.

The rapist was an Indian, about 20 years old and about 1.7m tall.

He had stubble on his face and wore an earring with a crucifix dangling from it. He blue jeans and a white T-shirt.

Anyone able to identify the student's attackers is asked to contact Warrant Officer Otto Rix (02231) 70341 or 10111 (e/h).

Apla gang held for farm killing

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE police last night claimed "a major breakthrough" against the armed wing of the PAC following the arrest of eight members of an "Apla force" in the Northern Transvaal.

The men have been arrested in connection with the murder of a farmer's wife, Mrs Sandra Swane-pool, near Letsetate on April 28.

Law and Order spokesman Captain Craig Kotze, said the eight — and Mr Pannet Mhenguani Modau who was shot dead by police — were members of an Apla task force. He said Mr Modau and a 17-year-old youth had been trained outside South Africa, while four others had been trained in the country.

He said the others were members of the PAC, one of whom — Mr Jameson Baloyi — was the branch chairman in Tzaneen.

Attacks

The possibility that the eight may be connected to other Apla attacks, including those in the Eastern Cape and Border, is being investigated.

The men are to appear in court tomorrow.

Capt Kotze said the government would continue fighting all forms of extremism and terrorism "with all the resources at its disposal".

He said the PAC's claim that Mr Modau had been killed in a "military-style skirmish" had to be dismissed as "invidious hypocrisy, and an attempt to glorify what can only be described as a cold-blooded murder of an innocent woman".

Earlier Law and Order Minister Mr Herms Kriel told Parliament that the fact that Apla and MK had been unbanned did not mean that the police were turning a blind eye to any illegal actions committed by these organisations.

Miner dies in tremor

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — Res-

cue workers were searching for five miners who were missing last night following a tremor that claimed one life and trapped 16 men at GenGold's Buffelstonein gold mine in the Western Transvaal.

The miners were trapped after the tremor, measuring 3.5 on the Richter Scale, rocked the Strathmore Shaft about 6.40am.

Eleven of the miners were found but one of them died on the way to hospital.

Rescue teams were called in, but by sunset had still not found the missing men.

"The remaining five workers are in areas that have collapsed and their exact positions are unknown," GenGold said in a statement last night.

"Attempts to rescue the men are continuing."

On Thursday last week, 53 miners were killed in a methane gas explosion at the Middelbult colliery in Secunda. In another accident, at a mine near Orkney, several miners died.

South Africa's mines are among the most dangerous in the world — Sapa

own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — Res-

By FERRAL HAFFAJEE

COAL miners can't win a conclusive battle against methane — but the South African mining industry should do more to counteract the killer gas, says a local mining consultant in the wake of the methane explosion which killed 53 miners at Sasol's Middelbult colliery in Secunda last week.

He stressed that methane was "a natural by-product of the coal-mining process. It cannot be detected by ordinary senses of sight, smell or taste."

"But the problem has not been tackled as vigorously here as it has been in the United States, where mining conditions are similar."

The disaster was not the first at the mine: one in 1985 claimed 30 lives.

The miners in section 36 who perished at the colliery last week should have had the means to ensure their survival in their belts.

Each carried a self-rescuer, comprising a mouthpiece, a nose clip and 30 minutes of oxygen in a canister — enough to get them to the nearest refuge chamber, which would have had compressed air and enough water to keep them alive for days.

Secunda: Could mines do more?

But they did not reach the refuge chamber, and some did not attempt to use their oxygen canisters. They probably died from poisoning by carbon monoxide, a by-product of a methane blast.

Their colleagues working in section 38 stood even less of a chance: they apparently died at the site of the explosion, from burns and the physical trauma caused by being thrown against the walls or mining machinery.

Why the explosion occurred is a mystery: an accumulation of methane sufficient to trigger an explosion the size of the one that rocked Middelbult ought to have been detected by the supervisor's methanometer.

Resembling a walkie-talkie, this measures the percentage of methane in the air. If the concentration is higher than 1.4 percent, a red light goes on and workers must clear the area until the methane has been dissipated. The gas is dangerous when there is a five

to 15 percent concentration in the atmosphere.

Continuous miners, machinery which does most of the excavating, and which Middelbult miners in section 36 were using last Thursday, are also equipped with methane sensors and sprays. Each machine driver should also have been wearing a "gasmog" in his hat which indicates the presence of methane.

Methane is a colourless and tasteless gas and, contrary to popular belief, is not poisonous. But it is highly explosive when mixed with air.

Coal miners are not able permanently to rid their work places of the gas, which is emitted by the coal excavated from the seam and especially from dykes (cracks), fissures and faults in the coal seam.

All the miners can do is to tread the fine methane line: check for the gas, get out when there is just over one percent in the air, and make sure that enough air is pumped into the mine to

render the gas harmless. The mine leader has to check for methane at the start of a shift, at regular intervals and when doing a major operation.

The consultant believes that more should be done to ventilate South African coal mines. "Ventilation must be controlled in such a way as to render the gas harmless and to limit the size of the explosive envelope."

But he added that it is difficult to control ventilation, especially with the "stooping" method of mining used at Middelbult, which involves the removal of pillars. In such conditions, gas emissions are more erratic.

There is also inadequate research into the emission patterns of the gas in the local industry, he said. Such research would answer "how and where methane gets into the air". If mines knew more about emission patterns, they could plan better ventilation.

The responsibility for testing for the gas has to spread further down the line

and should not rest just with the supervisors: "Workers should be trained in the use of more sophisticated equipment. The nature and hazard of the gas should be explained more fully."

Chris Cloete, general manager of Sasol's mines, said Middelbult pumped 1 000 cubic metres of fresh air into the mine every second to dilute the gas at its source. He insisted that all equipment at Middelbult was flame-proof.

Gang leaders inspected for methane at the start of every shift and made a fireman's report, he said. There were continuous monitors at strategic points and every operator was supplied with a metho alarm. "All levelling, cutting and drilling equipment is supplied with a methanometer."

The government mining engineer will soon announce a joint commission of inquiry and inquest into the explosion and the deaths of the miners.

But this is not enough for the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union, which this week called for an international commission of inquiry into the incident.

Rescuers find *Star 21/5/93* body at 33-level

By Shirley Woodgate
and Bronwyn Wilkinson

(212)

The body of one of the five miners missing after an earth tremor at Buffelsfontein gold mine on Wednesday, was recovered by rescue workers early this morning.

This brings the death toll in the rockfall at the western Transvaal mine to two, and Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson said although the chances of finding the other four missing miners alive were bleak, probe teams were searching round the clock for the men trapped about three kilometres below ground.

The dead team leader's body was located at 4 am in an area just below 33-level of the mine's Strathmore Shaft, close to where two men were rescued shortly after the cave-in two days ago.

General manager Sean O'Connor said the rescue teams had opened up ground from 34-level before finding their dead colleague. The other four trapped men were believed to be in two pairs in two separate galleys about 40 m apart.

Although the teams were making good progress towards one of the areas, they still had to break through 50 m of rock, then work through another 60 m of rock to reach the other galley.

One of the 11 miners brought out of the mine on Wednesday died on the way to hospital, two were seriously injured and the other eight were unhurt.

A seismic event measuring 3,5 on the Richter scale shook the vertical shaft at about 6.40 am on Wednesday, causing a huge area of the working stope to collapse 2 922 m underground, Gen-

● To Page 3 ■

Team finds *Star 21/5/93* miner's body at 33-level

● From Page 1

gold said. (212)

Rescue teams, working from shift records and mine blueprints, had pinpointed where the men should have been at the time the rock caved in, said Davidson.

The rescuers were mine captains, shift bosses and miners — all experienced and trained for underground accidents.

Gengold spokesman Albert de Beer said yesterday the western Transvaal was notorious for its seismic events because of its geology. Rockfalls sometimes followed the tremors.

"In most deep-level mines, like gold mines, a seismic event like this one is usually a horror story," he said.

This is the third fatal mining accident in a week. Fifty-three miners died when a methane gas explosion ripped through Sasol's Middelbult Colliery at Secunda last Thursday. Five other miners were buried in a rockfall at an Anglo American mine near Orkney the same day.

Frantic efforts to rescue trapped miners

A MINER was killed, five were injured and five others were still missing last night after a seismic event at the Buffelsfontein mine in the western Transvaal on Wednesday morning, Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson said

The mine's rescue team, assisted by 30 volunteers (including shift bosses and mine workers), were working around the clock to locate the trapped men, but the longer the operation took, "the more hope of finding them alive diminishes", he said

Although the tremor measured only 3,5 on the Richter scale, it had resulted in

ERICA JANKOWITZ

extensive rockfalls underground and damage to the footwall. As the missing miners were trapped 2 840m underground, it could take rescue teams a long time to reach them as the area "had totally collapsed"

About 60m of rock separated the rescue team from the trapped miners

The area was notorious for such events because of its geological formation, Davidson said. Other mines in the area, such as Vaal Reefs and Western Deeps, have had their share of such occurrences

Davidson said the NUM was notified of the incident within hours of its occurrence and local union representatives had been down the shaft to see the area. They had also visited the injured miners in hospital

At present the affected area was out of operation, but the stopes in which the 11 rescued miners were found had been made safe, Davidson said

In the course of the past week 53 miners died in a methane gas explosion at Sasol's Middelbult colliery in Secunda, and five miners in a rockfall at Anglo's Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney

21/5/93
15/0/93

(212)

Hope diminishes for missing miners

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Five miners are still missing after extensive rockfalls at the Buffelsfontein mine in the Western Transvaal on Wednesday morning killed one miner and injured five, Gengold spokesman Mr Andrew Davidson said yesterday

The mine's rescue team was

working around the clock to locate the trapped men, but the longer the operation took "the more hope of finding them alive diminishes" **21/5/93**

A tremor measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale caused the rockfalls **(212)**

As the missing miners were trapped 2 840m underground, it

could take rescue teams a long time to reach them as the area "had totally collapsed" About 60m of rock separated the rescue team from the miners

● In the course of the past week 53 miners died in a methane gas explosion at Sasol's Middelbult colliery in Secunda, and five miners in a rockfall at Anglo's Vaal Reefs gold mine

5 Miners missing after rockfall

■ Workers trapped underground:

A MAJOR rescue operation was still under way yesterday at Gengold's Buffelsfontein gold mine in the Western Transvaal for five missing miners following a rockfall earlier in the day. *Sawetun 21/5/93*

Sixteen miners were trapped after the tremor at the Strathmore Shaft at about 6 40am but 11 were later found. One miner died on the way to hospital.

Rescue teams were unable to locate the other five men by sunset. — Sapa *(212)*

Miner's body found

(212) AEG
JOHANNESBURG. — Rescue teams yesterday morning recovered the body of one of the five mineworkers who were trapped about 3km below ground following a severe earth tremor at the Buffelsfontein gold mine on Wednesday

Gengold spokesman Mr Andrew Davidson said yesterday morning the dead team leader's body was located at 4am in an area just below 33 Level of the mine's Strathmore Shaft.

He added that the search and rescue

CT22/5/93
operation was continuing for the other four men.

General manager Mr Sean O'Connor said the rescue teams had opened up ground from 34 Level before finding their dead colleague. The other four trapped men were believed to be in two separate galleys.

"The rescue workers have been working on continuous shifts since Wednesday morning and the new shift will go underground at 6am," he said

— Sapa

The shivering mine gives up another body

ARG 22/5/93

(212)

SHIRLEY WOODGATE
and BRONWYN WILKINSON

Weekend Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — Another body of one of the five miners missing after an earth tremor at Buffelsfontein gold mine on Wednesday has been recovered.

This brings the death toll in the rockfall at the Western Transvaal mine to two and Gengold spokesman Mr Andrew Davidson said although the chances of finding the other four missing miners alive was bleak, probe teams were searching round the clock for the men trapped about three kilometres below ground.

The dead team leader's body was located at 4am yesterday in an area just below 33 Level of the mine's Strathmore shaft, close to where two men were rescued shortly after the cave-in two days ago.

General manager Mr Sean O'Connor said the rescue teams had opened up ground from 34 Level before finding their dead colleague. The other four trapped men were believed to be in two pairs about 40m apart.

Although the teams were making good progress towards one of the areas, they still had to break through 50m of rock, then work through another 60m of rock.

One of the 11 miners brought out of the

mine on Wednesday died on the way to hospital, two were seriously injured and the other eight were unhurt.

A seismic event measuring 3,5 on the Richter scale shook the vertical shaft at about 6 40am on Wednesday, causing a huge area of the working stope to collapse 2 922m underground, Gengold said.

Rescue teams, working from shift records and mine blueprints, had pinpointed where the men should have been at the time the rock caved in, said Mr Davidson.

The rescuers were mine captains, shift bosses and miners — all experienced and trained for underground accidents.

Gengold spokesman Mr Albert de Beer said yesterday the western Transvaal was notorious for seismic events because of its geology. Rockfalls sometimes followed the tremors.

"In most deep-level mines, like gold mines, a seismic event like this one is usually a horror story," he said.

It was the third fatal mining accident in a week. Fifty-three miners died when a methane gas explosion ripped through Sasol's Middelbult colliery at Secunda last Thursday. Five miners were buried in a rockfall at an Anglo American mine near Orkney the same day.

'Hi-tech will stop mine disasters'

City Press 23/5/93

By DAN DHLAMINI

NUM blames mine bosses for the tragedy at Buffelsfontein, Vaal Reefs and Middelbult Colliery where more than 60 lives were lost in six days

In an interview this week NUM media officer Jerry Majatladi told City Press it was discouraging that "preventable mine accidents" still claimed lives of workers in SA

Technology

Majatladi, who this week returned from abroad where he attended seminars on mining safety, said the local mine bosses could introduce computerised technology which could detect potential dangers such as seismic pressure or high methane gas build-up

He said the equipment

NUM attacks management for deaths underground

was costly, but could effectively prevent loss of life and would increase production

"The mining industry owners seem to be interested only in profit and neglect the safety and welfare of mine workers, who are mostly black

"We have called upon the mining bosses and the government to establish an internationally recog-

nised mining health and safety commission which would monitor mine safety, but we have not received any positive response," said Majatladi

Majatladi was responding to the most recent accident at Buffelsfontein where a seismic event (severe earth tremor) has so far claimed two lives with four men still missing, after 16 workers were

trapped about 2 000 m underground at the Strathmore shaft near Stilfontein

By Friday, four workers were still missing after rescue workers retrieved the body of a worker

'Notorious'

Responding to NUM's allegations, Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson said an earth tremor was a natural phenomenon and the Western Transvaal was notorious for its seismic seizures

Last Thursday 53 mine workers died at Sasol's Middelbult Colliery when methane gas exploded underground — amid rumours that mine officials had been warned of the impending danger

On the same day, five mine workers died following a rockfall at Vaal Reefs mine after being buried in a rockfall

Another body found at mine

JOHANNESBURG —
The body of one of the
four remaining
mineworkers trapped at
the Buffelsfontein gold-
mine in the western
Transvaal was found
yesterday afternoon —
bringing the death toll to
three (212)

The body was found
more than 2 800m below
the surface

24/5/93
Rescue teams were
continuing the search
for the remaining three
missing miners, but
hopes of finding them
alive were not good.

The miners were
among a group of 16
trapped following a se-
vere earth tremor at the
Strethmore Shaft last
Wednesday — Sapa

Second miner found

JOHANNESBURG — Rescue teams yesterday recovered the body of the second of five miners missing after an earthquake shook the Buffelsfontein gold mine early last Wednesday (212)

They recovered a body on Friday. With the find, the death toll rose to three. Rescuers believe there is little chance of finding any of the remaining three missing miners alive. — The Argus Correspondent

ARG 24/5/93

Second body
Star 24/5/93
found in mine

Rescue teams yesterday recovered the body of the second of five miners buried underground after an earthquake shook the Buffelsfontein gold mine on Wednesday, bringing the death toll in the rockfall to three. (22)

One man died shortly after the tremor, and the body of another miner was recovered on Friday. Ten others were injured.

Rescuers said yesterday they believed there was little chance of finding the remaining three miners alive but the search, 3 km underground, would continue without pause.
— Staff Reporter

CT 26/5/93
**Miner dies in
earth tremor**

JOHANNESBURG — Management said a mineworker died and six were injured in an earth tremor at the St Helena gold mine in the Free State yesterday.

The mine is operated by Gencor Ltd's Gengold division (212).

A spokesman said the group of miners were investigating damage following a tremor on Sunday measuring 3,5 on the Richter scale when another tremor struck measuring 1,8. The accident occurred 1 900 metres below surface at 2 010 stope, the spokesman said.

With the recovery of the body of a miner killed in an earth tremor at the Buffelsfontein mine last week, the death toll at the Klerksdorp mine has risen to six. Sapa-Reuter

One killed, five hurt at Gengold's St Helena

ONE miner was killed and five injured after an earth tremor and rockfall at St Helena gold mine in the Free State on Monday, Gengold spokesman Albert de Beer said.

B10M 2615793
The body has been found and the five escaped with minor injuries.

Reuters reports that a Gengold spokesman said the group of miners was investigating damage after a tremor measuring 3,5 on the Richter scale on Sunday when a second tremor, measuring 1,8, struck. The accident occurred 1 900m below surface.

ERICA JANKOWITZ

Meanwhile, the bodies of two of the missing three miners at Gengold's Buffelsfontein mine were found yesterday, bringing the death toll from the seismic event last week to five with one miner still missing, a mine spokesman said. (2/2)

No estimate could be given as to when the last miner would be found as conditions underground were "very bad".

Neither incident was safety-related, De Beer said.

Last body brought up from rockfall mine

JOHANNESBURG. — The body of the last miner missing in the Buffelsfontein gold mine disaster has been found, bringing the final toll to six.

Rescuers, who had been working round the clock since a rockfall trapped 16 men nearly 3 km underground in the Strathmore shaft near Klerksdorp last week, found the machine operator in No 1 East gulley, a spokesman for mine-owner Gengold said. ARG 26/5/93 (2/2)

Bodies were recovered on Friday and Sunday, and on Tuesday morning and afternoon before the last missing man was found.

Of the 16 men trapped in the rockfall, 11 were rescued, but one died on his way to hospital, the mine spokesman said.

Survey predicts cut in Bank rate

BIDM 27/5/93

TIM MARSLAND

THE odds favour a one percentage point cut in Bank rate by October, according to economists polled by SPL Treasury Services.

SPL said this should see the home loan rate dropping the same amount to 15% between July and October. Its worse case scenario was for the rate to remain unchanged, while its best case showed the rate coming down in June and continuing to fall to 14% by April next year.

However, while the sharp drop in home loan rates over the past 15 months seemed to be over, two more cuts in rates in the next 12 months were possible.

SPL said the overall downward trend in interest rates remained intact, although further movements in rates would be relatively small.

The uncertainty in the country was reflected by the big difference between the expected, high and low forecasts.

Longer-dated capital market rates were unlikely to decline much in the next 12 months. Any closing of the gap between long- and short-dated



Graphic: RUBY-GAY MARTIN Source

interest rates would be due to short-dated rates rising to meet the longer rates, which would remain flat.

Forecasts are gathered from a panel of economists and the figures are fed into SPL's interest rate forecasting system.

Economists who took part in the survey were Louis Fourie (Boland Bank), Nick Barnardt (AHI), Ulrich Joubert (Transnet), Adam Jacobs (Absa), Dennis Dykes (UAL), Wikus Marais (Johan Marais Brokers), Eddie Lindeque (Eskom) and Rudolf Gouws (Rand Merchant Bank).

St Helena mine 'cautious' about gold price rise

(21P) BIDM 27/5/93

WELKOM — Marginal St Helena Gold Mines said it needed sustained gold earnings of about R40 000/kg for at least six months to feel benefits.

"We're very cautious about the gold price and its current volatility," Gencor consulting mine engineer Peter Robinson told mine analysts.

The mine received R33 100/kg for April which includes undisclosed revenue from long-term forward sales positions. Current spot earnings would be about R39 000/kg.

St Helena is currently mining only its richest ore areas after massive down-scaling since 1989.

"We're at a point now where we can't rationalise more unless we close shafts," acting mine manager Jaap Storm said.

The workforce was reduced to 3 000 from 12 000 three years ago.

Robinson said sustained higher gold earnings of about R40 000/kg would allow the mine to re-enter the bulk of its ore reserves. This would not entail much capital expenditure.

Last October the mine turned its full focus on A-grade sections, such as the pillars in the worked-out areas of No 10 shaft which still have spectacular grades of 50 to 100g/ton.

St Helena also began using transvac suction units to recover gold dust that was washed into cracks in the carbonaceous rock of the No 10 shaft area — the first SA gold mine to use them in full production.

Officials said the contribution by the giant vacuum cleaners had significantly reduced losses.

Robinson said the mine aimed to cut current costs of R29 000/kg to R22 000 by using transvac units, and by cross-training workers for a variety of jobs to improve productivity.

St Helena was still operating well below capacity, with 68 000 tons a month being mined from its peak of 240 000 tons 10 years ago.

However, current gold production of 380kg a month was expected to rise to 520kg even if B-grade areas were not re-opened, he said.

The mine has applied for government permission to work seven days a week — Reuter

Mine safety 'compromised'

SUPPLIERS of raw materials for specialised cement for the mining industry claim that imported cement from China is compromising mine safety.

Since the beginning of the year mining houses have been using calcium sulphate alumina cement imported from China by Fosrock, which had established a joint venture with the Chinese for the export of the cement, said Fosrock chairman Anthony James.

This specialised cement maintains its strength in the humid conditions underground.

Fondarge MD Cecil Seymor, one of the suppliers of the specialised cement, said no long-term tests were

EDWARD WEST

conducted on the properties of the cement because of its recent introduction. But he claimed initial tests had indicated the cement induced corrosion in structures.

Another competitor who did not wish to be named claimed the sulphur content in the cement reacted with water and rusted steel. This had dire consequences for underground mining which used the cement for rock-bolt grouting to prevent rocks from collapsing.

James denied the cement compromised mine safety and said he was considering legal action against companies making such claims.

BIDM 27/5/93

Mine safety
Star 28/5/93
inquiry gets nod

CAPE TOWN — The Cabinet has approved of a commission of inquiry to look into improving mine safety.

This was announced in Parliament today by George Bartlett, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, in his budget debate.

Bartlett said the number of fatalities in the industry had fallen from 604 in 1991 to 552 in 1992 while injuries dropped from 9 103 to 8 801.

The commission would study existing regulations on safety and health in the mining industry, including compensation paid for injury and illness
— Political Staff.

Dug his mate out with his hands

Press 30/6/93

By DAN DHLAMINI

"PRAYER is powerful and God is great!"

These were the words of a survivor of the Buffelsfontein rockfall this week.

The fall at Gengold's goldmine killed six miners and hospitalised five.

Sixteen miners were trapped 2 km underground when part of the Strathmore shaft caved in.

Speaking from hospital where he is being treated for injuries to his legs and arms, Fezile Tshaka said he had given up hope. While trapped, heavy rocks had continued to fall all around him.

The 39-year-old Lusikisiki man said: "I prayed to God to accept me as I became weaker and weaker."

He had crept into a crevice "where rocks

were not falling"

Then he heard a man coughing and he recalled that Mahamba Malima had been walking behind him.

He had started digging with his hands until he found Malima and dragged him into the crevice.

Malima, who sustained head injuries, said he too had given up hope. Rocks had dropped "like bombs" around him.

"I was bleeding and had lost my lamp and oxygen mask and the heat was tremendous. I thought it was all over."

The pair had sat "debating" whether to scream to alert the rescue workers.

Malima had feared the rescue workers' efforts would "endanger" them.

"But I lost the debate and we screamed and were taken to safety."

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Russ. Day 1/6/93
212 901 15104
Commission to probe mining safety

CAPE TOWN — Government has appointed a commission of inquiry into safety, health and compensation in the mining industry because of concerns raised by the Mining Industry Summit representing the Chamber of Mines and mineworkers' unions

The commission will make recommendations to President F W de Klerk on improvements to, and implementation of legislation already in existence.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett announced on Friday that the commis-

LINDA ENSOR

sion would investigate all aspects of the legal regulation of safety and health in the mining industry, including compensation for injury, illness and death.

The inquiry's frame of reference excluded the principles contained in the Workmen's Compensation Act and proposed in a draft Bill on the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases. The commission would consist of a chairman and two assessors.

17 Vaal miners ⁽²¹²⁾ missing

ARC 2/6/93

Staff Reporter

RESCUE teams are searching for 17 miners, missing in rockfalls following four seismic events at Vaal Reefs' No 4 Shaft near Orkney early today

According to Anglo American Corporation's Gold and Uranium Division, the missing men are believed to be trapped in three separate locations about 2 000 metres below the surface

One worker was injured in the rockfalls and is in a satisfactory condition in hospital

The incident is the fourth in a spate of accidents on South African mines, following close on the disaster last week at Gengold's Buffelsfontein gold mine when a rockfall trapped 16 miners nearly 3km underground, killing six of them.

Five miners were buried in a rockfall at a Vaal Reefs mine near Orkney on the same day. Two weeks ago 53 miners died when a methane gas explosion ripped through Sasol's Middlebult colliery at Secunda

In a statement, Anglo said it believed that 11 miners were in one location on 68 level and one in another. The other five were thought to be in a conveyor belt incline running between 64 and 68 levels

The first seismic event, measured 4 on the Richter Scale

Rescue teams bring 16 miners to safety

FIVE rescue teams who worked around the clock from midnight on Tuesday had, by late yesterday, brought to the surface 16 of the 18 miners trapped underground at Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney

One fatality was reported in the incident which occurred after four strong seismic events shook the area in quick succession

Two miners were injured in the rockfall and one was still underground, but contact had been made with him and he was not injured, Anglo-American spokesman James Duncan said yesterday (212)

He said the missing miner was about 2 000m underground, but the rescue teams had a good idea of where to find him

Bus. day 31/1/93
ERICA JANKOWITZ

Duncan said a great deal of time and money had been spent upgrading support at the stope faces at Vaal Reefs and this had paid off as there was only one fatality despite the severity of the four tremors and the extent of underground damage

NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Golding said even with the additional support at the mine, management still was not taking sufficient precautions to prevent this type of accident. He said recent studies on backfilling had shown this did not provide adequate support in areas where earth tremors were common

Mine safety inquiry (212)

18101A7 3/16/93

THE NUM yesterday welcomed the appointment of a commission of inquiry into the legal regulation of mining health and safety. It said it was unfortunate that the inquiry was commissioned only after a major mining disaster and that the chairman would be appointed by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett without consulting employers and unions.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a scan artifact or bleed-through from the reverse side.

15 trapped miners safe, one missing

② CT 3/6/93

ORKNEY — Fifteen of the 17 miners trapped 2 000 metres below surface at Vaal Reefs gold mine have been found alive and unharmed.

One miner was killed and a second is still missing at the Vaal Reefs No 4 shaft near Orkney, Western Transvaal. The mine reported four tremors on Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

Anglo American Corporation spokesman Mr James Duncan said one of the 15 was slightly injured. The search for the missing miner is continuing.

The first and heaviest tremor, measuring four on the Richter Scale, occurred at 11 05pm on Tuesday, and the fourth, measuring 3,1, at 5 52am yesterday.

● The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has claimed the appointment of a commission of inquiry into the legal regulation of occupational health and safety in the mining industry as a major victory. It said yesterday it had been calling for such a commission since the Hlobane colliery disaster in 1983.

"It is tragic that it should take another major mining accident like the Middelbult disaster, which claimed more than 50 lives, for the government to take this step," NUM said.

The union also said it welcomed the statement by Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett that assessors would be appointed in consultation with key members of the mining industry, but it objected to the fact that Mr Bartlett did not propose consultation over the appointment of the chairman of the commission — Sapa

MINISTER George Bartlett's announcement last week that a commission of inquiry would be appointed into the legal regulation of occupational health and safety in SA's mining industry at last added a new note to the familiar refrain that followed the tragic accident at Middelbult Colliery. Fifty-three miners were killed in the Middelbult methane explosion three weeks ago.

The SABC's news bulletins, without a trace of irony, spent as much time describing Middelbult's status as a five-star "Noscar" mine as they did describing the accident. The bulletins also conveyed government's condolences to families and the assurance that it took mine safety seriously. The unions, as they have done after each major mining accident of the '80s and '90s, called for full inquiry into mine health and safety. Middelbult is the sixth major mining tragedy in less than 10 years in which 30 or more workers have died.

Most of these mines have been holders of high safety ratings from the National Occupational Safety Association of SA (Nosa) or the Chamber of Mines' own "international" safety rating system.

A mine where two major tragedies occur within eight years (30 miners died at Middelbult in a 1985 accident) must provide comprehensive evidence that these safety rating systems have little to do with safety — an issue discussed by Jean Leger (Business Day, May 18). What it also indicates is that the SA mining industry spends a considerable amount on public relations exercises designed to reassure the world that it is doing all it can. Unfortunately, the all too frequent mining disasters give the lie to this.

The commission of inquiry has been a long time in coming. It is the first since the Marais commission of the early '60s, appointed after the Coalbrook disaster in which more than 400 miners died. The full report

A long wait for inquiry into mine health and safety

Business Day 3/6/93
PAUL BENJAMIN

of that inquiry was never published. The urgent need for an inquiry and the delays in its appointment indicate that powerful voices in the industry have opposed public and independent scrutiny. Middelbult was one disaster too many for them to have their way and the Minister announced he would be establishing, with some modifications, the commission of inquiry requested by the mining summit last November.

In the past expressions of state concern over mining safety have not been borne out by subsequent events. After the Kinross accident in September 1986 in which 77 workers were killed, then Minister Danie Steyn promised a judicial inquiry. But this did not materialise.

The mine was prosecuted and acquitted but the mine inspectorate refused to hold a public inquiry. It did so only after the threat of legal action. Even then the inquiry into the largest mining accident in 100 years of SA gold mining lasted three hours and representatives of the NUM — about 60 of whose members died in the accident — were not allowed to question witnesses. This led to further litigation.

No public inquiry has been held

into the Middelbult accident of 1985. Middelbult was a methane explosion. All the major disasters of the past 10 years, except Kinross, have involved methane gas. In only two of these — Hlobane in 1983 and Ermelo in 1987 — have there been full public inquiries at which those representing workers killed in the accident were able to participate.

Evidence of massive neglect and disregard of safety procedures was established in both these cases.

In 1987 the country's senior mine safety officer, the government mining engineer, gave an address entitled "Methane explosions completely unnecessary". Yet Middelbult is the second mine to have a major methane accident in both the '80s and the '90s. At Ermelo Colliery 33 workers were killed in a 1987 methane explosion; in 1992 another seven died in a similar accident.

The SA mining industry does not welcome public scrutiny and is slow to learn its lessons. In 1983 evidence of the dangers of polyurethane emerged at an inquest into an acci-

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dent at the Vaal Reets gold mine. Nothing was done to regulate its use in the mines although its dangers had been known internationally since the late '60s. Even the Kinross disaster did not lead to its banning; it took the deaths of seven miners in a further accident at Western Deep Levels mine at the end of 1988 for the government mining engineer to ban the use of polyurethane underground.

Despite the importance of mining to the SA economy, mining safety legislation remains well below the standard of other industries and international standards.

To give a few examples the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act which regulates safety in other industries requires employers to pay for the costs of necessary safety equipment. There is no equivalent provision in the Minerals Act and deductions for the cost of safety equipment are a common complaint among miners.

International standards require that workers elect their safety representatives. Elected worker inspectors have been a feature of the British mining industry for 150 years. Our legislation allows management to appoint safety representatives,

depriving the system of any chance of credibility or effectiveness. Rockbursts and rockfalls kill and maim more miners than any other cause, but there are no detailed regulations on safeguarding workplaces against these hazards.

Finally, the law lacks effective sanctions. The fines imposed for breaches of regulations which lead to major accidents are usually on a par with traffic fines.

The commission's ambit of inquiry includes compensation for victims of occupational disease, an area providing the strongest evidence of the special dispensation allowed to mining. Payment of compensation on the mines is still discriminatory, with benefits and contributions being racially based.

Benefits are up to 13 times higher for white miners than their black colleagues. At some mines the contribution made to the compensation fund on behalf of a black worker is less than 3% of that for a white miner. Not surprisingly, the fund is massively underfunded.

Late last year a draft Bill to de-racialise the Act was published. This Bill, which enjoyed the support of the Chamber of Mines, also sought to pass the cost of this legacy of apartheid on to black workers by depriving many, particularly lower-paid groups, of benefits they could receive at present. But massive union opposition sent the legislation back to the drawing board.

The compensation system is not an aberration, it is indicative of the malaise that surrounds the regulation of health and safety on the mines. While the job of the commissioner and his two expert assessors has not been made easier by the years of neglect, they have the opportunity to make recommendations that will lead to a system of regulation that mine workers deserve.

Benjamin is an associate professor at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Wits University, and an adviser to mining unions on health and safety matters.

Speed up talks, urges Cosatu

Sowetan 3/6/93

■ Federation calls for setting of an election date:

ALL South Africans should take action to ensure speedy progress at multiparty talks, Congress of South African Trade Unions spokesman Mr Neil Coleman urged yesterday.

In a statement issued yesterday, Coleman said all civil society organisations should decide on the action that should be taken if the negotiation council did not decide on an election date by today.

"The planning committee should recognise the urgency of the situation by bringing the meeting date of the broader negotiations forum forward from June 25.

"The negotiations forum needs to, as

a matter of urgency, agree on a package which will include the question of the transitional executive councils, constitutional principles and the functioning of the constituent assembly," he said.

Formal or informal

Asked to elaborate on the action that would be taken, Coleman said it could be formal or informal.

This, he said, would depend on a consultation between civil society and other interested organisations.

He further urged non-political groups to participate or follow their own programmes of action. - Sapa.

News in brief

Johnny in court

MR JOHNNY Mokaleng, the man who alleged that police murdered and buried political detainees in graves in the Western Transvaal, has appeared in court.

His claims in January sent police on a grave-digging expedition through the Western Transvaal and Bophuthatswana but the widely publicised excavations revealed no bodies. Mokaleng (29) appeared before Rustenburg Regional Court magistrate Mr AF Snyman yesterday. No charges were put to him and the case was postponed to June 15. Bail was set at R1 000.

Croc shocker

A ZIMBABWEAN policeman travelling in the back of a police truck with an apparently dead crocodile got the shock of his life when the reptile suddenly lunged at him.

The crocodile had been stoned and knocked unconscious by villagers after it rushed at a group of

children on a riverbank in central Zimbabwe. The police were called, pronounced the 2.5-metre beast dead and loaded it into their truck. One of the officers hopped in the back with it. He was next heard screaming for help as the crocodile chased him around the moving truck. Colleagues stopped the vehicle and shot the reptile.

Search for miners

FIVE teams of rescue workers were by last night still trying to locate a miner who was trapped underground following four earth tremors at the Vaal Reefs Mine in the Western Transvaal.

And six miners, who were admitted to the Duff Scott Mine Hospital in Klerksdorp after being injured during a faction fight between Shangaan and Xhosa workers at Hartebeesfontein Gold Mine, also in the Western Transvaal, have died.

This brings the death toll at the mine to 17.

Star 4/16/93
Miner's body recovered

The body of the remaining mineworker trapped underground at Vaal Reefs No 4 Shaft after four earth tremors on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning was recovered by rescuers yesterday. A mine spokesman said all missing employees had now been accounted for. — Sapa. (212)

News in

Sawetani 4/6/93

Trapped miner dead

THE remaining miner trapped underground after a rockfall at Vaal Reefs gold mine, near Orkney, is dead, Anglo American announced yesterday (212)

Rescue workers are still trying to recover his body. This brings to two the number of workers who died in the rockfall, caused by four seismic occurrences on Tuesday night and early on Wednesday. Sixteen miners were brought to safety on Wednesday during a rescue operation.

Wheels back on at Saambou

S/Times (Russ) 6/6/93

THE first thing Johan Myburgh noticed when he joined Saambou two years ago was that it was losing money

The chief executive says "I thought I should do something about it."

After 1992's attributable loss of R68,8-million it was with pleasure that Mr Myburgh could report a profit of R12,5-million for the year to March this year — and restoration of a five-times covered dividend of 2c.

The share price rise since last year's low of 65c illustrates the reviving fortunes. It is now 94c and if Saambou can justify a forward rating of about 10 times earnings, the price could go to 150c

Focus

Mr Myburgh told members of the Investment Analysts Society in Johannesburg this week that 1994's earnings would be between 15c and 17,5c a share.

Two years ago Saambou was burdened with poor properties. It lacked focus, competence, computer sys-

tems, even customers

Mr Myburgh says "Lots of savers have been put off the smaller banks because of the collapse of Cape Investment Bank and Masterbond."

Saambou's advertising since he took over has been aimed at depositors — he believes borrowers will keep coming anyway

The percentage of the bank's funding from individuals has climbed from 28% to 38%. The early target was 42%, but Mr Myburgh now aims for 60%

The bank's intention is to provide low-cost financial services to salaried individuals and pensioners

Mr Myburgh says higher margin business, such as personal loans, will be sought.

Saambou needs to achieve a return on equity of 35,4% to provide its own capital. The key will be to reduce operating expenses — R159-million in 1992 and R153-million in the past year. But Mr Myburgh is aiming for R129-million on the same asset base

He says benefits will flow from the two-stage rational-



By Julie Walker

ties which caused R43,3-million of grief in 1992. Interest will no longer be capitalised now that the cost of the properties can be carried by Saambou.

Mr Myburgh says the alliance with largest shareholder Fedsure provides shareholder comfort and a means of securing capital through loans or debentures until the Saambou share price is adequate to stand a rights issue

Scrip

In the 1993 year, Saambou was obliged to write off R36-million and provide R45-million, taking total provisions to R94-million, or 2,6% of assets

Mr Myburgh says that when the tax loss has been used, earnings will drop. The effect is being smoothed by setting up a general provision. Last year it was R6-million, about a third of the total otherwise attributable. The dividend will be covered five times and scrip will not be an alternative until the share rating is stronger.

isation now complete and from new systems. Computerisation has been outsourced to SPL. It — not Saambou — must control those costs.

The capital position is not critical. Primary capital of R140-million chips in 5,3% and secondary capital of R27-million another 1,1%, giving a sub-total of 6,4% against the 8% international target by the end of 1995. Surplus capital in the group, such as R40-million of tax losses, takes the ratio to 9%.

Saambou also aims to do something about the proper-

Miners seeking treasure under a turkey

S/Times (Russ) 6/6/93

I HEAR that Gold Fields of SA is considering development of a mine at Kalkoenkranz (turkey kranz) in the Free State.

What would be different about it is the likelihood of a mineral-rights swop between GFSA and Anglo American Corporation. Neither will comment, but I am told that GFSA is keen to trade its

mineral rights at Welgelegen — where Anglo has a large holding — for Anglo's holdings at Kalkoenkranz.

The reserves at Kalkoenkranz are believed to be 37-million ounces of gold — about the same as at Beatrix and of much better grade than Oryx's

Lydex, a listed mining exploration

company, could benefit from a green light at Kalkoenkranz. It has participation rights in the area.

But I must stress that it is early days. GFSA is not known for hedging gold production, and would likely want a higher and less volatile gold price before any development.



Star 7/16/93

Cutback at Delmas colliery

By Derek Tommey

Working losses have forced Trans-Natal's Delmas colliery to switch to single-shift operations, a move that is expected to affect more than 450 workers, the company has announced.

(215)
As alternative employment opportunities are being investigated, the mine is not yet in a

position to say exactly how many employees will have to be retrenched.

Production is being cut by 23 percent in a bid to restore the mine to profitability.

Trans-Natal's managing director, Dave Murray, says that constructive suggestions by the workforce, the unions and associations have enabled the mine to limit to 23 percent the cutback in production.

- (3) whether these airlines have been formally notified of the alteration of flight routes, if not, why not, if so, in what manner,
- (4) whether the Government intends taking any steps to prevent a recurrence of attacks of this kind at Jan Smuts Airport and other South African airports situated near Black residential areas and/or squatter camps, if not, why not, if so, what steps,
- (5) whether the Government intends issuing a statement to inform prospective passengers and tourists from abroad of such steps, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details? B930E

†THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

- (1) Yes
- (2) Yes Some flying times may be extended or shortened insignificantly
- (3) Yes Directly by means of instructions from air traffic control to captains of aircraft and through the Chairman of the Airports Operators Committee
- (4) Yes Various contingency plans which have existed for several years were reactivated immediately after the presumed incident was reported. It is not regarded as being in the public interest to disclose information of the steps taken
- (5) No It is not considered to be in the public interest to disclose the contents of contingency plans and strategies

†Mr J CHIOLE Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply in respect of Question 4 (3), I should like to know which airlines have been formally notified

†The MINISTER Mr Chairman, all airlines that have to land or take off at that moment are informed in accordance with the contingency plans

†Mr J CHIOLE Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to know whether only the airlines that have to land at that specific moment are informed or whether all airlines whose flight routes have had to be changed formally have been informed

†The MINISTER Mr Chairman, it depends on HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

which aircraft are in the air. It also depends on what the threat is. I am not prepared to disclose any further information here, because it is information which may possibly endanger their safety. We act in consultation with the Department of Law and Order, and the police tell us what steps to take and when. I am therefore not prepared to disclose them here.

†Mr J CHIOLE Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him, seeing that he does not want to make any further information available here, whether he has also contacted the airlines of the other countries so that they will not make information available there [Interjections]

†The MINISTER Mr Chairman, the information is disclosed to each airline in accordance with the security situation at the moment when it has to take off or land. I can tell the hon member again that the entire security system has also been discussed with the Chairman of the Airports Operators Committee.

†Adv C H PIENNAAR Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's replies, I should like to ask him, with reference to the potential threat to aircraft, why the security measures have been suspended in respect of the points of access to the basement and parking bays of Jan Smuts Airport.

†The MINISTER Mr Chairman, I would suggest that the hon member put that question to the Department of Law and Order, which enforces the law there. That is not a function of the Department of Transport.

†Adv C H PIENNAAR Mr Chairman, may I ask the hon the Minister, pursuant to that supercilious reply, whether the protection of the airport does not at this stage still fall within his sphere of responsibility? Has he now handed over his responsibility to the hon the Minister of Law and Order?

†The MINISTER Mr Chairman, I am going to give a further supercilious reply to the supercilious question of the hon member. The enforcement of law and order at airports has never been the function of the Department of Transport. It remains the function of the Department of Law and Order. Nor do we intend ever making it the function of the Department of Transport [Interjections]

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order!

The maximum number of follow-up questions has been asked

White mineworkers: risk work/pulmonary TB

*5 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for National Health and Welfare

Whether, during the latest specified period of three years for which statistics are available, any White mineworkers holding a red ticket were allowed by the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases to return to underground and/or risk work whilst still on treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, how many? B933E

THE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

No, holders of current certificates of fitness (red tickets) who are found by the Certification Committee to be suffering from tuberculosis are prohibited from performing risk work until treatment has been completed. Thereafter a medical examination is required before a certificate of fitness can be issued.

Black mineworkers: occupational lung diseases

*6 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for National Health and Welfare

Whether any provision is made for the ongoing treatment of Black mineworkers suffering from occupational lung diseases who were (a) retrenched or (b) retired from employment at their respective mines, if not, why not, if so, (i) what provision and (ii) in terms of what statutory or other provisions? B934E

THE MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

(a) and (b) No, no legal provision exists in terms of which ongoing treatment of occupational lung diseases is enforced.

Most mines claim via their mine medical officers, however, that when miners with occupational chest diseases return to their district of origin, the authorities in the area are informed when the disease in question is tuberculosis.

No attempt is made to inform local public health authorities in cases of pneumoconiosis uncomplicated by tuberculosis. In cases of miners suffering from tuberculosis and re-

turning to neighbouring countries of origin, the relevant authorities are informed by The Employment Bureau of Africa (TEBA)

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs

Abolition of music posts

*1 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture

- (1) Whether the Cape Education Department will have to abolish a total of approximately 170 music posts in 1993, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, how is the abolition of these posts justified,
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B949E INT

*The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE Mr Chairman, the answer is yes. As early as 5 May I provided the hon member for Brits with an answer in this regard.

It is important to bear in mind that the hon member's question only concerns the situation in the Cape Province. The reason for this is that exceptionally extensive provision was made for music posts in the Cape Province. This had its origins in the era of the provincial councils, a bygone era, a long-gone era.

The system in the Cape Province was not cost-effective and could no longer be justified. It was therefore necessary to adjust the formula applicable to music in the province. The purpose of this was to have a better distribution of music teachers and to focus on music in the classroom, which would include all the pupils of a school, reserving music as a subject for pupils with a real talent for music.

Too many pupils who do not necessarily have any talent for music often receive, against their will, individual piano tuition at public expense. The new formula has been arrived at in co-operation with the organised music profes-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Focus on **mining**

THE recent disaster arising from methane explosions and rockbursts have once again raised the question as to whether adequate safety practices are present. Of the two, methane explosions usually cause a larger number of deaths and are the more dramatic.

Rockbursts, although usually resulting in a smaller number of deaths an incident, are the major cause of fatalities.

On gold mines they account for two thirds of all fatalities, resulting in 250 to 300 annually.

Why is this so, and what is being done about it?

To appreciate the nature of a rockburst it must be understood that an underground mine is a structure, obeying the same laws as are applicable to a structure above ground.

Like aboveground structures it has walls, known as "side-walls" or "stope faces", roofs or ceilings called "hanging-walls", floors called "footwalls", passage-ways called "tunnels" and lift-shafts, called "shafts", used, as in aboveground buildings, for transporting personnel and materials.

Simple analogy

To understand the causes of rockbursts a simple analogy may be made with most children's first venture into building construction — building "sand castles".

Some of the lessons that a child will quickly learn are

- That if you stand on a delicately built castle it will collapse. That is, the walls will not support a mass greater than their "ultimate compressive strength" (UCS) — "the castle walls will burst".

- That a tunnel dug into a loosely compacted castle — having low compressive strength — will not remain open, and the wider the tunnel is, the greater the roof expanse and the greater the probability of its collapse.

These two lessons, fundamental to castle-building, are fundamental to mining.

Children rapidly accept the relationship of "cause" and "effect", some mining engineers apparently do not.

From as early as 1915 it was established that the cause of "earth tremors", which had begun to rock the Witwatersrand, was the failure under stress of the walls of the mining excavations.

Loss of life

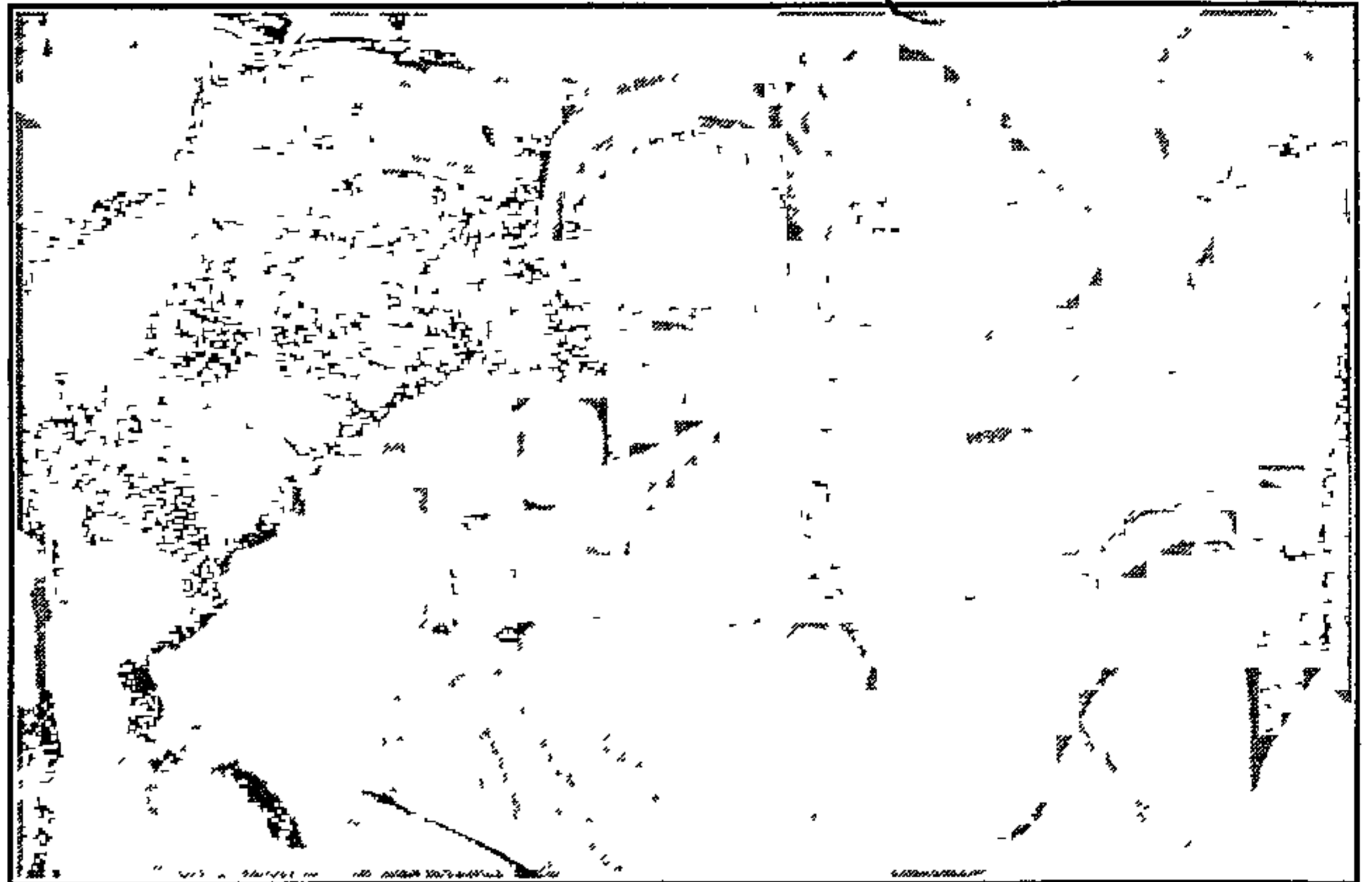
From that time on, experienced mining engineers acknowledged this truth and sought ways to reduce, or eliminate, the loss of life and the occurrence of injuries from this cause.

Equipment for support of large open areas (stopes) and the reinforcement of the walls of tunnels was inferior to that now available.

Nevertheless, by 1939 fatalities from

Jack Curtis, a mining engineer since 1935 who is now retired, takes a concerned look at rockbursts and their effect on the safety of miners in light of the recent mining disaster which was caused by this phenomenon:

Sowetan 18/6/93
(212)



Miners ... face great risks

"rockbursts and falls of ground", which had stood at 1,2 per 1 000 per annum of "person in service" in 1906, had been reduced to 0,7 per 1 000. Although during the same period fatalities from "all causes" which had been 4,9 per 1 000 in 1906 had dropped to 1,75 per 1 000 in 1939 and have now settled at around 1,0 per 1 000 since 1960 to date, there has been no sustained improvement in the rate of fatalities from "rockbursts and falls of rock" (RAFOR), which have remained at about 0,7 per 1000.

Whereas aboveground accidents from traffic, the handling of materials and machinery and bodily falls are controllable by the persons involved, this is not the case in RAFOR, which arise from the design of the mining structure (excavation) and the specification of the system of support or reinforcement, both of which are the responsibility of management.

During the last 30 years the responsibility for this function has been more and more shifted away from "line" management, to staff (rock-mechanics) departments concerned with research into "seismic" phenomena and theorising on the possibility of predicting rockbursts in advance of their occurrence, rather than improving methods for alleviating their effect.

The result is that the supervisory and manage-

rial staff are not, and in the nature of their responsibilities, cannot be held accountable for what they do not have control over.

For their part, both on the research and advisory of the "rock-mechanics" divisions, efforts are concentrated on shifting the blame for their lack of success on to the nature of the medium — the virgin rock — and depicting the earth tremors (seismic events) as causes of and not the effects of the mining operations.

It is like a child blaming the collapse of his castle on the nature of the sand, rather than adapting his building operations to it.

It is symptomatic of this tendency to "dis-information" that a contribution made by the writer — to a paper read before the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, *Seismicity associated with deep level mining at Western Deep Levels Limited* by WA Lenhardt — and forwarded on July 28 1992 has, unlike other contributions, neither been acknowledged nor published. In the contribution the writer concluded to "attribute the inability to reduce the disruption to operations (by rockbursts) to seismic events outside the control of mining engineers does not augur well for present, let alone deeper mining operations".

It is a conclusion of deep relevance to operations in deep level gold mines.

Call for more specialisation

By MZIWAKHE HLANGANI

SA's productivity and competitive growth should be achieved by concentrating on specific industries rather than general manufacturing, says the National Productivity Institute in its latest Productivity Focus report.

Average productivity levels could be raised if the country specialised in relatively productive industries, and imported those products and services which local firms could not supply.

The poor productivity performance of the SA manufacturing sector was reflected by manufacturing employment increasing only 1.5% a year between 1970 and 1991, compared with the real fixed capital resources increase of 5% over the same period.

This demonstrated how capital-intensive this sector had become in two decades.

Productivity strategist Karin Liebenberg said subsidies and protecting unproductive industries slowed down the upgrading of the economy and limited long-term standards of living.

Hourly wages in manufacturing showed high average increases in the same period, but the report showed these increases were not "harmful" to manufacturers in themselves, as long as they were matched by higher productivity.

Liebenberg said the aim should be to support high wages through higher productivity and exporting products at competitive prices

By 5/7/93

Zimbabwe govt growth forecast too high — bank

HARARE — Zimbabwe's agriculture-powered economy, which shrank more than 10% in 1992 under a severe drought, was set to grow at the most 2% this year and not 7% as forecast by the government, a leading commercial bank said on Friday.

In its latest economic bulletin, Barclays Bank of Zimbabwe said although agriculture had recovered significantly, its boost to the rest of the economy would be limited by high retention of food crops by farmers, depressed domestic demand and a tight monetary policy.

The economy was also hit by low prices for the country's huge tobacco crop and world recession, it said.

"While crop forecasts indicate a good agricultural season... the boost to the rest of the economy will be relatively muted," the bank said.

"Growth in GDP will at least be positive for 1993, but despite official assertions of 7%, growth in GDP is

not expected to be more than 2%.

"Expectations of lacklustre performance are based on assessment of the seriousness of the macro-economic situation, as reflected in persistently high inflation and tight conditions in the monetary market."

The bank called on the government to cut its bloated 180 000-member public service drastically, cut subsidies to loss-making state companies and reduce public expenditure, which is devouring more than 50% of GDP.

Last month trading on the money market nearly ground to a halt as interest rates soared to about 45% because of continued heavy government borrowing from the market, where it has been accused of crowding out private industry.

"The government's unwillingness to reduce the deficit (expected to rise to more than 15% in 1993 from 9% last year) remains the most pressing threat to macroeconomic stability," the bank said — Sapa-Reuter

New supports improve mining safety

By 5/7/93

PRETORIA — Mine safety standards would be improved significantly by the use of newly designed supports, the CSIR announced at the weekend.

Developed by the CSIR's mining technology division, the yielding tendon support, or Cone Bolt, would assist greatly in reducing damage as a result of rockbursts and large quasi-static rock deformations, the CSIR publication Technobrief said.

The bolt was designed specifically for gold mines prone to seismic

events or high stress changes

The tendon incorporated a number of novel features enabling it to withstand pressures more than 25kJ. Conventional tendons could achieve only between 2 and 6kJ before failure, the report said.

Installation of the cone bolt was as easy as that of conventional tendons, allowing simple integration with other support system elements

Union Carbide in mining project

By 5/7/93

HARARE — Union Carbide was talking with potential partners to help finance a US\$280m platinum and base metals mine in Zimbabwe, a company spokesman said on Friday.

The deal to start operations at the Mmossa Mine in southwest Zimbabwe would hopefully be in place by year-end, he said.

Union Carbide Zimbabwe's US-based parent company began discussions with potential partners a month ago following the completion of a three-year feasibility study.

The study estimated annual platinum output at 132 000oz, and palladium production at 102 000oz. Small quantities of rutile, and other platinum group metals, as well as 4 700 tons of nickel and 3 600 tons of copper could be produced.

A plant processing 3-million tons of ore a year from reserves of about 75-million tons was suggested in the feasibility report, and annual earnings of US\$130m were projected. The platinum grades would not warrant mining but the combination of other metals would make the project viable.

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Union Carbide was hoping to finance 60% of the project through a joint venture and the rest by loan, taking advantage of the relaxation of dividend remittances by foreign companies announced by the Zimbabwe government in April.

The company hoped to start mining early next year. This would be followed by the establishment of a concentrator plant and refining by toll treatment until a smelter was in place. Full production was expected in three years, when the plant would employ about 1 400 people — Sapa.

Draft legislation sparks TB debate

Star 5/7/93

(212)

Draft legislation now before Parliament could change the way that mining diseases in South Africa are compensated, dramatically affecting the lives of thousands of miners each year. Health Writer DAVID ROBBINS reports

IN ATTEMPTING to de-racialise the law governing compensation for mining diseases without unduly increasing the overall cost of compensation, the State has started a debate about tuberculosis which will have far-reaching consequences.

The central question is: Is tuberculosis an occupational disease in mines or isn't it?

It always has been. Tens of thousands of miners with TB have been compensated over the decades in terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act (ODMWA). But the Act ensures that white miners have been entitled to 10 times more compensation than their black counterparts.

This blatantly discriminatory law is at last being overhauled. According to the ODMWA Amendment Bill before Parliament, parity of compensation is set at two-thirds the old white rate.

At the same time, tuberculosis is broken down into curable and incurable categories, with only the latter qualifying for compensation.

But there are dissenting voices.

"There is no medical evidence to support the contention that TB is curable," says the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). "On the contrary, TB is a progressive disease, the progress of which can be arrested by medication, and appropriate changes in working and living conditions."

Rationale for this alteration in the status of TB appears to many to be economic. The mining houses (via penalties for excessive dust levels at individual mines) and the State jointly finance the compensation system, which, at the moment, costs between R40 million and R50 million a year.

NUM researchers have calculated that racial parity of lump sum compensation payouts would cost at least R250 million more, and that if pensions were given to disabled black miners as they are to whites, the annual bill would leap to R847 million.

The researchers conclude "The Compensation Fund for Occupational Diseases is extremely short of money. This underfunding is a legacy of apartheid which cannot be rectified easily."

In view of all this, the status



Change ahead White miners have been entitled to 10 times the compensation paid to black miners. Now there is hope of a new dispensation.

of TB on the mines becomes pivotal. Can it be compensated or not? What are the medical arguments?

There's no doubt that silica dust, particularly in the gold mines, leads directly to the development of silicosis, and that advanced silicosis can lead to TB. But what of TB in gold miners who haven't got silicosis?

There were more than 4 500 of them diagnosed during 1992 and they received more than 50 percent of the compensation payouts.

The case against TB as a mining-related disease goes something like this: The mines alone cannot be held responsible for the high incidence of the disease among miners. Although TB is a complication of severe silicosis, silica dust does not directly cause TB and should therefore not be considered an occupational disease.

This argument is three-pronged. First, South Africa is the only country in the world to compensate for TB in miners. Second, experiments conducted by Dr Robert Cowie on the Free State goldfields in the '80s indicated that it was not necessary to keep miners suffering from TB on the surface. Returning infected miners underground within a week after starting treatment made no difference to their relapse rate.

The third prong of the argu-

ment concerns the incidence of the disease beyond the mines. Although the rate of TB on the mines (1 105/100 000 in 1990) is nearly five times higher than in South Africa generally, the mining houses have several explanations for this. One cogent cause, they argue, is that a superior surveillance and reporting system exists on the mines.

Other causes are persuasively expressed by Cowie.

"The major stumbling block in the control of TB in gold miners is the inability to influence the large infective pool (of TB carriers) that is known to exist in the remote home areas of this working population," he says. Rural poverty and the migrant labour system ensure that TB flourishes on the mines.

But the NUM says that according to figures from the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases, the average time it takes a black miner to contract TB is around 10 years of risk work (invariably underground), while the average number for serious silicosis, of which TB is often a complication, is 16 to 17 years.

The relationship between silicosis and TB is medically established, it is the relationship between silica dust to pulmonary TB which is still moot.

While some argue that rural conditions and migrant labour

account for the high incidences of TB among miners who have not yet developed silicosis, the union says that dust is at least partially the cause. There's also the high stress levels associated with mining, and the overcrowding in the hostels, but dust is the main culprit.

Compare, for example, the TB rates of white miners without silicosis to white rates in general, and in particular to adult males. Under-reporting in the white population is far less likely and less prevalent than among the subcontinent's millions of rural blacks. Nevertheless, white miners are also showing an incidence up to five times higher than their counterparts in the general population.

Now take the rates for various mining jobs. Drillers would be among those most subject to silica dust, whereas surface workers would be least subject.

In recent tests drillers weighed in with a TB rate of 1 552/100 000, while no category of surface worker exceeded 600/100 000.

All this ties in with evidence from Europe. A long-term study on foundry workers in Denmark established once again the increased TB risk associated with silicosis, but also suggests "that silica (dust) exposure may cause an increased pulmonary TB risk among foundry workers" not

suffering from silicosis.

How much silica dust are South African gold miners subjected to? In terms of the old Mines and Works Act the legal maximum was more than three times higher than the international standard.

The new Minerals Act advises the international standard but leaves it up to companies to negotiate codes of practice with mining inspectors, with unions consulted.

In spite of considerable secrecy surrounding dust level data, it is known that levels are still high in spite of overall improvements. In 1965, as many as 18 000 miners were working in dust levels six times the international limit. By the end of the '80s, this number had dropped to just below 7 000.

Mining — especially gold mining — has been the mainstay of the South African economy since gold was discovered during the last quarter of the 19th century. The human cost has been enormous. Around 66 000 miners died in accidents, a million injured. To these figures must be added the hundreds of thousands of miners who have died or been permanently disabled by disease.

While the compensation arguments rage, the mines will continue to produce both wealth for the country and risk for the men who work them. □

New TB

legislation

Star 5/7/93

will hit

miners

By David Robbins
Health Writer

~~TT~~
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As South Africa braces for a tuberculosis explosion, the Government has introduced legislation which, if passed by Parliament, will affect the lives of thousands of gold miners suffering from the disease.

Amendments to the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act could change the status of tuberculosis, and end the payment of compensation to miners who develop TB.

Santa's director of community TB education, Dr Theo Collins, said there was no doubt that releasing tubercular miners into mostly rural homes had done a great deal to perpetuate the disease in southern Africa.

Under current legislation, black miners are compensated at a rate of one-tenth of that paid to whites. The new legislation attempts to correct this imbalance, but at the expense of compensating for what the new Bill calls "curable" TB. Also, there is generally no provision for treatment after men have left the employment of the mines.

This means that thousands of ill miners could return to their homes each year with neither the meagre compensation currently paid nor any continuing treatment. "This won't help the situation," Collins said. "The reality is that the disease is on the increase, especially multiple drug-resistant TB."

● Draft legislation sparks TB debate — Page 7

LABOUR NEWS IN BRIEF

Compiled by **SHARON SOROUR**

Short-term action for economy

THE National Economic Forum (NEF) this week approved recommendations for short-term economic action — including protecting collective bargaining and job creation through public works programmes.

At its first plenary session since its establishment last October, the NEF, comprising organised business, government and labour, also voiced its intention to secure a partnership role with the government of the day in setting economic policy.

Finance Minister Mr Derek Keys emphasised the need to create an economy that answered more closely to the needs of the community.

Centralised bargaining was acknowledged as "one of the tiers" of the collective bargaining system.

Miners reject CoM pay offer

THE National Union of Mineworkers (Num) has rejected a final pay offer by the Chamber of Mines, and unions affiliated to the Council of Mining Trade Unions have declared a dispute and applied for a conciliation board hearing.

Num said gold mines had offered pay increases ranging from six to eight percent.

The offer was rejected because the higher gold price provided the mining industry with additional profit of R200 million a month, and workers had made big sacrifices in recent years by accepting increases far below the inflation rate, resulting in low living standards.

Footwear workers down tools

THOUSANDS of footwear workers in the Western Cape have downed tools following the breakdown of wage negotiations, according to the SA Clothing and Textile Workers' Union.

Union organiser Mr Ronald Bernickow said about 3 000 workers went on strike yesterday because they were unhappy about the wage offer from manufacturers.

Footwear Manufacturers Federation director Mr Dennis Linde confirmed the deadlock.

Toy firm locks out workforce

EDUCATIONAL toy manufacturers, Playthings, has locked out members of its workforce in Ep-ping after they refused to accept a final wage offer and negotiations ended in deadlock.

Company director Mr Steve Knight said Playthings offered a final wage offer of R18 a week increase, but when the talks deadlocked the union was demanding R47 across-the-board.

Public servants slam 'decrease'

THE Public Service League this week slammed the five percent salary increase for public servants as a salary decrease in relation to the consumer price index.

League general manager Mr Bernard Wentzel said 70 percent of members fell into the lower income group and a five percent increase meant "a disgusting R35,70 a month".

Wildcat strike at Sun City

ABOUT 3 500 Sun City workers — 70 percent of the staff complement — staged a wildcat strike this week but returned to work after management agreed to address grievances tabled by a workers' committee at a meeting this week.

Safety record for mine (212)

CT 24/7/93
JOHANNESBURG — Impala Platinum's Bafokeng North mine has passed the world record for fatality-free shifts in hard rock mining, the company said yesterday.

Sowetan
2 mine workers die
6/8/93 *(212)*
TWO mine workers were killed and eight injured in rockfalls 2km underground at Vaal Reef's no 5 shaft near Orkney in the Western Transvaal yes-

Sowetan 6/8/93
terday Anglo American Corporation's gold and uranium division said the rockfalls occurred on 66 level after an earth tremor measuring 2,4 on the Richter scale. One of the injured is serious. *(212)*

Faint, illegible text or markings along the right edge of the page, possibly bleed-through or scanning artifacts.

Two miners die in rockfall

JOHANNESBURG — Two mine workers were killed and eight injured in underground rockfalls at Vaal Reef's No 5 Shaft near Orkney in the Western Transvaal yesterday morning (212)

A statement by Anglo American Corporation's gold and uranium division said the rockfalls occurred on 66 level after an earth tremor measuring 2,4 on the Richter Scale — Sapa CT6/8/93

News in Brief

Black judge chancellor

DURBAN — Prominent Natal advocate and South Africa's first black acting judge, Mr Justice Hassan Mall, has been appointed as the new chancellor of the University of Durban-Westville

Rhodes wage talks stall

GRAHAMSTOWN — Wage negotiations between the administration of Rhodes University here and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) have broken down. Both parties have agreed to mediation, probably next week.

Parachute accident death

PHALABORWA — Sergeant Matthew Dube, 31, of 451 Battalion at Phalaborwa in the Northern Transvaal, was killed yesterday when his parachute failed to open during a training exercise

3 miners die in rockfall

JOHANNESBURG — Three mineworkers were killed and one has been reported missing in a rockfall nearly two kilometres underground at the Leudoorn gold mine on the Far West Rand

ERICA JANKOWITZ

THE NUM and Chamber of Mines yesterday signed the first industry AIDS agreement which ensured employee rights and international testing standards, and launched comprehensive awareness and education programmes. 26/8/93

Chamber chief negotiator Adrian du Plessis described the educational component as the "heart of the agreement" (212)

He said the parties had committed themselves to raising worker awareness by education, training and counselling "to create a workplace ethic based on informed and responsible behaviour" (212)

He believed that their combined resources could make a "real difference to limiting the spread of the disease".

AIDS deal signed by mining industry

NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Golding said the chamber acknowledged workers' "socioeconomic conditions and the fact they live in hostels as a major factor which needs to be addressed when trying to stem the spread" of AIDS

Du Plessis said, in terms of the agreement, infected workers would not be victimised, harassed or discriminated against by being denied appropriate employment opportunities purely on this basis.

Testing would be conducted only if justified on medical grounds and with the union's consent. Counselling would be given and results would be confidential.

Miners voice grievances

WELKOM — About 5 000 National Union of Mineworkers members marched on the Welkom offices of the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department on Saturday to underscore health and safety-related grievances

A memorandum of 27 demands was handed to the department's regional director by the NUM's Free State health and safety committee.

It gave the departments of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Manpower and National Health until September 28 to respond to the demands.

These included the appointment of more mining inspectors, the provision of free boots with toe caps, the reduction of underground noise levels and legislation to stipulate adequate training for new miners (212)

The NUM said while it accepted the occasional non-preventable fatality, the Free State goldfields' current underground fatality rate of 1,04 per 1 000 a year was unacceptable

There was also no statutory requirement regarding the training of semi-skilled mineworkers, who were often sent underground after 14 days

It also demanded full pensions for workers who were totally disabled.

Other demands included non-racial pre-employment and annual medical examinations, compensation for pulmonary tuberculosis and research on the link between different dust exposures and various diseases. — Sapa.

Rural areas bear brunt of disablement - research

Millions needed to compensate ill miners

Star 3/18/93

By DAVID ROBBINS
HEALTH WRITER

Research by the National Centre for Occupational Health is uncovering huge numbers of ex-miners who are suffering from lung disease for which they should be compensated.

And the financial implications of compensating these sick miners could threaten the whole future of the mining industry in South Africa.

Through one project at a Lebowa hospital, the centre has estimated that about R2,5 million will have to be paid out to diseased miners in a single year. This figure could rise to tens

RESEARCH shows the amount required to compensate diseased ex-miners could threaten the future of the mining industry



or even hundreds of millions of rands if other rural centres begin to offer the necessary medical and claim facilities, and when the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act is amended to eradicate the current practice of paying blacks only 10 percent of the compensa-

tion paid to whites

The results of recent community-based research into disabled mine workers in Lesotho have strengthened the contention that it is not the mining houses, but the rural communities to which miners return, that bear the burden of disablement and ill health.

(212)

Centre chief Professor Tony Davies says: "If the question is whether this displacement of the burden from mine to rural community applies to disease as well as disablement, the answer is an unequivocal yes."

Davies spends several days a month at Groothoek Hospital in Lebowa examining ex-miners

with chest diseases

He says that wide disregard of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, which makes reporting of these diseases in ex-miners a legal requirement, has been responsible for the concealment of the problem until now.

"It should be a matter of great concern," he says, "that the widespread failure of the medical profession to report occupational lung diseases has led to a serious under-estimate. The amounts required to rectify the situation now will threaten the whole future of the mining industry."

More reports — Page 13



William Nakaphala . . . contracted a disease at this mine

PICTURE KEN OOSTERBROEK

The impact of mining on individual and community health is largely hidden in rural areas.
 Health Writer David Robbins reports from Lebowa

Steuer 3/18/93

Soldiering on in hope

(212)

Groothoek Hospital, these days called the Dr Machepe Mphahlele Memorial Hospital, is situated 45 km south-east of Potgietersrus in the self-governing homeland of Lebowa. A queue of men and women with x-rays of their own chests wait for hours to enter a makeshift examination room. They have one thing in common: they've all been mineworkers at some stage in their lives.

The doctor inside the examination room is Professor Tony Davies, chief director of the National Centre for Occupational Health. He shows me an x-ray, pointing out the typically distorted lungs of advanced tuberculosis.

"I doubt whether he knows he's got it," Davies says, glancing at the patient, a 52-year-old man who spent less than five years as a miner in the '60s. Davies fills in the forms, claiming compensation under the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act.

"TB must develop within 12 months of leaving the mines for it to be compensable. But the point is, he's got pneumoconiosis, too."

The extent of the problem to which the National Centre for Occupational Health is now responding was first highlighted by community-based research in particular, research in 1990 on disabled mineworkers in Lesotho focused attention on the social and economic burden of disablement being displaced from the mining houses on to the communities from which the miners had been recruited.

"The question in Lebowa is can the same idea of displacement be applied to occupational chest diseases? I believe, and this is the opinion of a number of NCOH staff, that the answer is an unequivocal yes," Davies says.

Only after more community-based research into the impact of asbestos mining in Mafefe, a remote Lebowa village, did the NCOH take serious notice.

As a result, the folly of the migrant labour system and the depth of ill-health in the homelands began to be apparent.

So, too, did the widespread disregard of the law on occupational diseases. The Act stipulates that chest diseases in living

miners must be reported to the department and that the respiratory organs of dead miners be submitted for examination.

But when Davies visited most of the hospitals in the lowveld in 1991 he found only two hospitals which were partially complying with these stipulations. When he got to Groothoek, nobody could remember when last a case of compensable disease had been reported.

Devolving three days of every month to examining people at Groothoek, Davies has uncovered hundreds of cases which will almost certainly be compensated.

The sum of money involved is substantial. At current rates for blacks, which are pitifully small (a mere 10 percent of the compensation paid for whites), this may total around R2,5 million a year, and this is only for a few communities in one part of Lebowa alone.

"Imagine two things," Davies continues. "First, if these men and women were while the sum paid out via Groothoek alone might total R25 million. Second, if every rural district hospital did what is being done at Groothoek, the sum might rise to

a figure which would threaten the whole future of the mining industry."

Davies does not hesitate to criticise doctors for the current state of affairs. "It should be a matter of great concern," he says, "that the widespread failure of the medical profession to report occupational lung diseases in miners and ex-miners has led to a serious under-estimate of the extent of disease caused by the mining industry."

"We desperately need to stimulate an awareness of occupational health. This awareness has withered. The law should be seen as an adjunct to prevention, so it is crucial that occupational disease is not only recognised but also reported."

I ask Davies why he does the work himself. "I could mobilise the whole Centre for Occupational Health, but the staff have other things to do," he replies. "I soldier on here in the hope

that someone will recognise the size of the problem and do something about it."

Davies brushes aside the relatively low profits of mining houses. Historical profits should be taken into account, he says. Why was the truth of the situation only now coming to light?

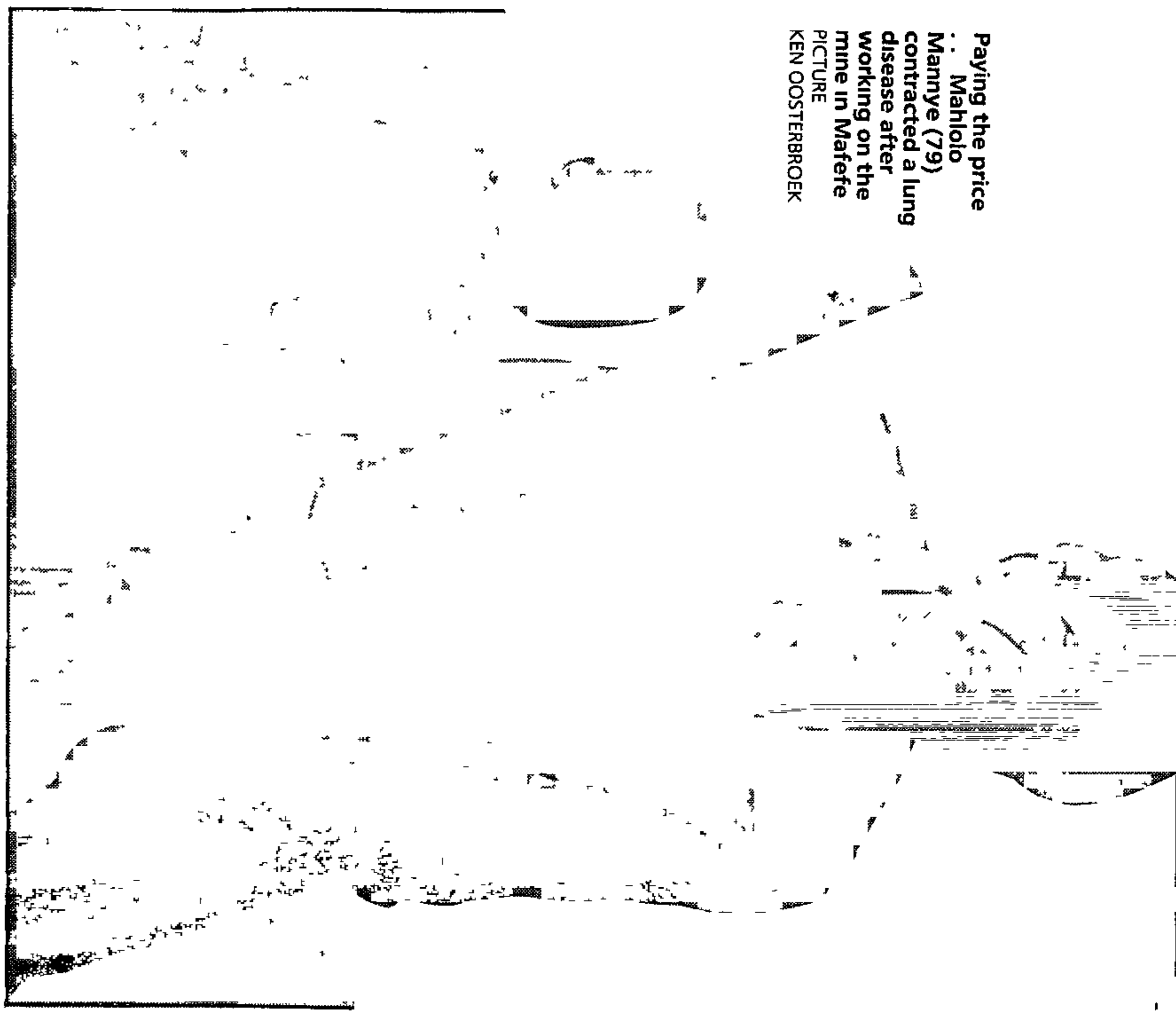
"We've been slow," Davies responds. "It's the community-based research, and also the efforts of the communities themselves, which have caused doctors to respond belatedly. The essence of the problem is that our health services are just not sensitive to community needs."

"A great deal needs to be done if our rural communities are ever to lift themselves out of the morass of underdevelopment."

"We also need, as a matter of urgency, to set up examination centres in rural areas throughout the country."

"Yes, I believe the mining houses should be involved in this."

Paying the price Mahlole Mannye (79) contracted a lung disease after working on the mine in Mafefe PICTURE KEN OOSTERBROEK



It's not long with asbestos

(212)

Look at asbestos. Go and talk to the people over there. They're all ex-workers in the asbestos mines."

The advice comes from Professor Tony Davies, head of the National Centre for Occupational Health, who examines dozens of ex-miners with chest diseases in Lebowa each month.

I talk to William Nakaphala, chairman of the Mafefe Asbestos Workers' Health Committee. Each month, Nakaphala brings a bakke-load of patients to be examined by Davies on his regular visits to Groothoek Hospital in Lebowa, the Transvaal's most neglected homeland.

"These are the people I have

brought," he says, indicating a group of 11 who sit on the bare earth outside the hospital, waiting for the long trip home. "Nine have got the sickness."

Asbestos mining in Lebowa stopped in 1974, yet there were several youngish women in the party. Nakaphala answers my query.

"They were children when they worked. The women would do the cobbing (breaking open mealie-shaped splinters of rock containing asbestos)."

Nakaphala urged me to come to Mafefe, a small settlement situated in the foothills of the Drakensberg, 45 km south of Tzaneen. He could show me many

things. At Mafefe, Nakaphala shows the still-exposed asbestos waste which sprawls like scree from the mouths of numerous horizontal tunnels blasted into the steep hillsides.

He tells me there had been four main mining areas around the village: Horngate, Gemmu, Dubbin and Dalton, where he had worked for seven years in the late '60s and '70s, contracting asbestos in the process.

He had at last been compensated in 1991, a lump sum of R3 253, he says without much bitterness.

There must have been hundreds on the mines in Mafefe

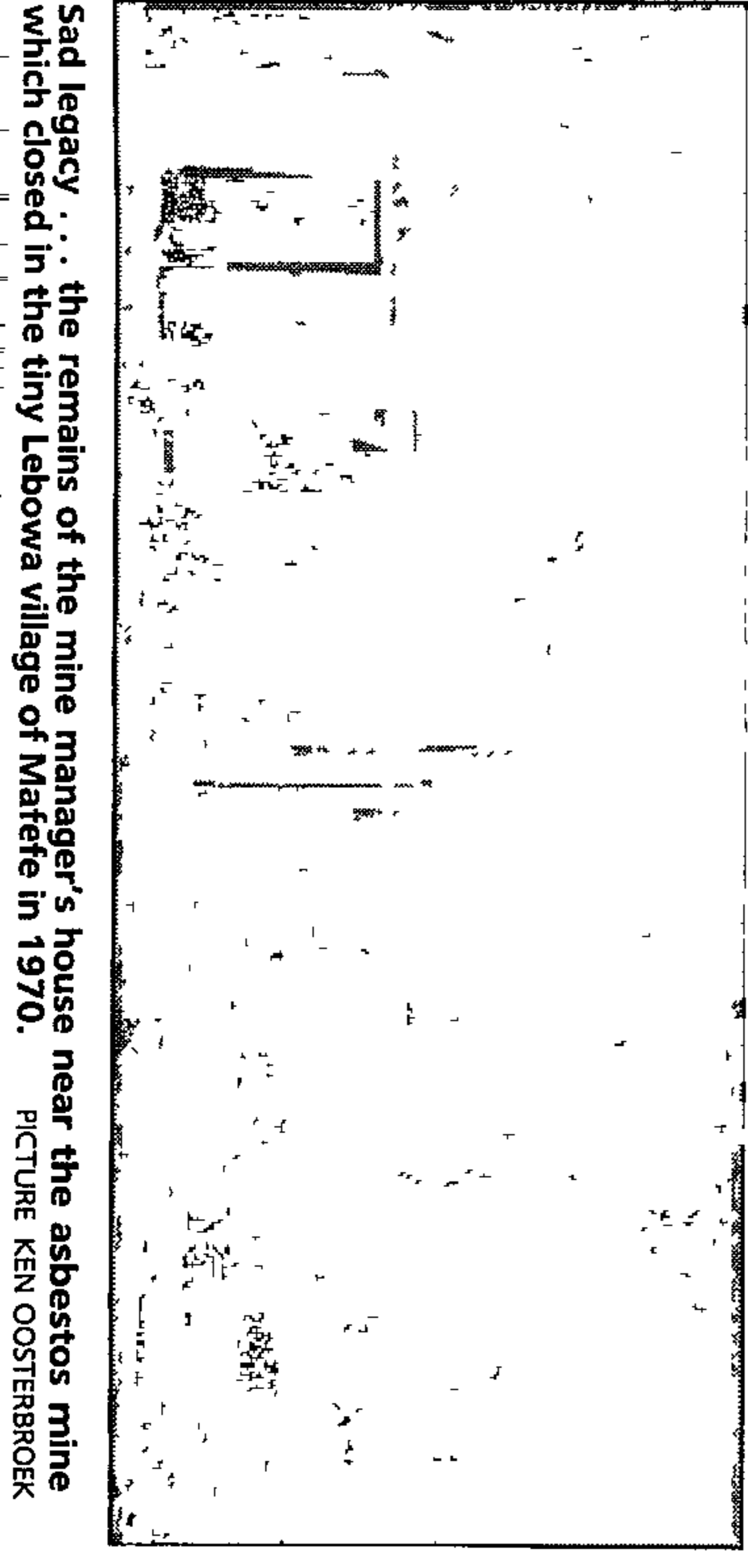
Nakaphala shakes his head. "Thousands. We in Mafefe were never enough. Here were people from Malawi and Zimbabwe. Here were Zulus and Xhosas, and Tsongas from Mozambique and Gazankulu."

The wind raises curls of faint grey dust from the exposed scree. Nakaphala says, "The worst dust was down here, at the mill. You could see the men coming from the mill, but you could not see who they were. They were like grey people, hidden in the dust."

I remembered one of the patients at Groothoek, an elderly man whose x-ray showed in abundance the hard white

marks of calcification associated with exposure to asbestos. He had worked on both gold and diamond mines, but only six months with asbestos and that several decades ago.

"Six months would have been quite enough," Davies had told me. "Hell holes, the mulls. Death traps."



Sad legacy... the remains of the mine manager's house near the asbestos mine which closed in the tiny Lebowa village of Mafefe in 1970. PICTURE KEN OOSTERBROEK

When I thank Nakaphala for his time, he says he will see me next time I visit. Then he smiles. "If I am still alive." He is 49.

Miners demand safety steps

(2/2)
MEMBERS of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) marched on the Welkom offices of the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department this week to underscore health and safety-related grievances

ARC 4/9/93

Mine safety standards shock Australians

B/Dav 16/9/93
ERICA JANKOWITZ

HEALTH and safety standards and working conditions in SA mines were vastly inferior to those in Australian mines, a delegation of six United Mine Worker officials from Australia said yesterday

Here at the invitation of the NUM, delegation leader and union district vice-president Pat Heumiller said they had been shocked by the lack of safety equipment and emergency communications procedures

They also noticed a lack of supports and ventilation, making mining hazardous and hot. Workers were not issued with safety clothing to keep them dry and were drenched with

sweat while operating machinery

Heumiller said SA mines were operating under conditions similar to those in Australia "more than 30 years ago" (212)

Since then sophisticated machinery to monitor methane levels and mine gas composition had been installed and any potential danger picked up by the operator would lead to the evacuation and temporary closure of the mine

In contrast, the methane monitoring equipment used in the colliery

visited by the delegation was inadequate and testing was conducted only every four hours in contrast to hourly in Australia

As a result of union organisational strength, it was able to force federal legislation to be passed to enforce stringent controls, Heumiller said. Although safety standards were lacking in SA, he felt both management at the mines visited and the NUM were working hard to rectify the situation

The delegation attended Cosatu's weekend congress and said it was struck by the level of debate and dedication displayed by participants

Two killed in rockburst

WELKOM — Two men died and a third was injured in a rockburst at President Steyn mine near Welkom early today.

(212) ARG 219 FB
Anglo American Corporation's Gold and Uranium Division announced that the rockburst — about 2 400 m underground in number four shaft — accompanied a seismic event measuring 3,5 on the Richter scale.

Rescue teams were recovering the bodies of the two men — Sapa.

2 killed in mine

WELKOM — Two men died and a third was injured in a rockburst at President Steyn mine here early yesterday morning (213)

CT 22/4/93

(213)

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Two rockfalls kill six miners at Anglo shafts

ERICA JANKOWITZ

SIX miners have been killed in two separate rockfalls related to seismic activity at Anglo American mines this week. **BIDAY 23/9/93**

In the latest incident, four workers died and six were injured, one seriously, at Western Deep Levels south mine near Carletonville yesterday.

Anglo American spokesman James Duncan said the tremor, measuring 1.6 on the Richter scale, had occurred 2 500m underground.

On Tuesday, two miners were killed at President Steyn mine near Welkom in similar circumstances. Duncan said the body of one of the men had not yet been recovered. **(212)**

Despite efforts to minimise risks from seismic activity, mines were unable to predict with precision when and where tremors were likely. At both mines safety was being improved on three fronts: increased back-filling, experimentation with new types of face support and upgraded seismic monitoring systems, Duncan said.

As a result of these improvements, fewer miners had been killed this year at Western Deeps than last year, when large seismic events had caused multiple deaths.

He said the mine was tackling safety with renewed vigour and indications were that it had implemented the correct procedures to minimise the danger of tremors.

News in Brief

Falling rock kills miners (212)

JOHANNESBURG — Falling rock killed four mineworkers at a gold mine west of Johannesburg yesterday. Six other mineworkers were injured, one seriously.

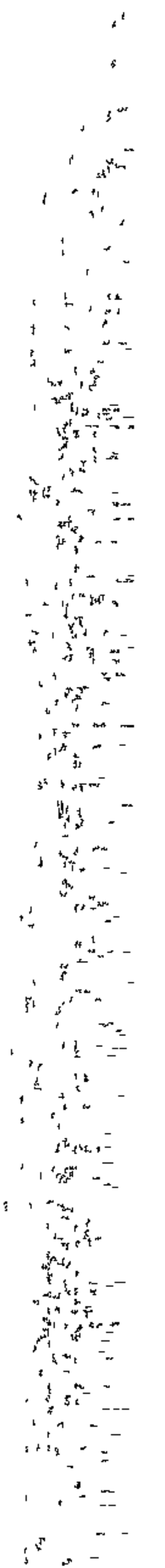
CT 23/9/93

SI Times 26/9/93

15 killed in black week for miners

SIX mineworkers were killed yesterday in a rock-fall at the Western Deep Levels Mine, bringing to 15 the number of miners killed in four mining accidents this week (212)

An Anglo American Corporation spokesman said one man was in a satisfactory condition after being trapped for eight hours at the Western Deep Levels
— Sapa



CT2719193
**Fifteen die in 12
mine accidents**

JOHANNESBURG —
Six mineworkers were
killed on Saturday in a
rockfall at the Western
Deep Levels Mine.

The accident raised to
15 the number of miners
killed in four mining ac-
cidents last week.

An earth tremor trig-
gered the fall. — Sapa

Nuke scare: Mines to be quizzed

ET 27/9/93

212

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's major mining houses have been summoned to a meeting on Wednesday to explain high levels of radioactive contamination in materials found at public sites here and in other areas of the Transvaal.

Probe: 10
scrapyards
found with
'hot' metal

radioactive material had sold contaminated material to the public via scrap dealers, with little control over such sales

The mines fell under Anglo American, Anglovaal, Genmin, Rand Gold, and Goldfields

"We will be asking them to tell us what they propose to do about it," he said

Council for Nuclear Safety spokesman Mr Phil Metcalf said at the weekend that recent investigations of metal scrapyards had revealed unacceptably high levels of contamination

It was believed most of the country's leading mining companies were guilty of distributing "hot" material to the yards, he said

The council's probe was triggered when authorities in the UK found a cargo of radioactive stainless steel from South Africa bound for Sheffield. The cargo, supplied by Bushveld Recyclers, originated at the Palabora Mining Company (PMC)

Although the spotlight fell on PMC, further investigations of nine other scrapyards and recycling plants had linked other mining companies to contamination, Mr Metcalf said.

The mining houses were all "running for cover" now that the spotlight had fallen on the issue

He said 20 mines licensed to process

Although local technology and detection equipment were on a par with international standards, he said, South Africa lagged behind in implementing controls because of the high costs and lack of expertise. There was also far less awareness here of the hazards of processing radioactive material

Mr Metcalf said there had been a lot of resistance from the mines to control measures imposed by the council

Earthlife Africa last week urged stricter enforcement of laws governing the disposal of hazardous waste, saying material dumped on scrap heaps was often scavenged and used to build shacks

PMC's general manager Mr Bruce Farmer said on Friday his company was not sure that the cargo of stainless steel pipes had originated from the mine, "but we are acting as if it did because we are committed to operating safely and because some contaminated equipment has left the mine"

33 miners rescued

Sowetan 18/10/93

A TOTAL of 33 people were hoisted to the surface by yesterday after being trapped underground at the Kloof Gold Mine since Wednesday

Mine spokeswoman Ms Marion Brower said another four were expected to be lifted out shortly

The men were a little weak but paramedics were administering medical aid, Brower said

An estimated 120 workers were trapped underground when some piping collapsed on Wednesday

The process of bringing miners to the surface had been particularly arduous, because each miner had to be hoisted 300 metres individually before they reached an exit walkway

Ventilation underground was good, Brower said, adding the miners were being fed and given water - Sapa

NEWS Man's suicide bid

Sowetan
40 miners rescued

13/10/93

FORTY mineworkers were brought to the surface yesterday at the Kloof gold mine, 50km west of Johannesburg, where about 120 miners have been trapped underground since Wednesday — *Sapa*

212

Concerted effort to rescue trapped miners

B/Day 15/10/93

ABOUT 80 miners remained trapped underground in Kloof gold mine's number 3 shaft yesterday, more than 24 hours after a construction work accident damaged the shaft, a Gold Fields spokesman said

Communications lines were severed, making it impossible for management to establish exactly how many workers were trapped and whether they were injured

The spokesman said about 40 uninjured miners had been brought to the surface during the day and management did not think that the remaining men had been hurt as they were working some distance

ERICA JANKOWITZ

from the shaft

Food had been taken to the trapped men by proto teams working to locate the miners. As the shaft below 39 level had been damaged, those working deep underground were expected to use a circuitous route to get to higher levels. This could take several hours. They had sufficient water and ventilation had not been affected by the accident, the spokesman said.

Production had been halted at the shaft and all efforts were being concentrated on

getting to the trapped miners

The water pipe dislodged during the construction work — which caused the damage to the shaft — had been recovered. Normal work would resume once the shaft had been repaired (212)

Almost 3 000 miners were working in the shaft at the time of the accident, but most had found their way out unaided

□ Two workers at the Durnacol colliery near Dannhauser in northern Natal were killed on Wednesday when a conveyor belt was accidentally switched on and they were pulled into the machinery, Sapa reports.

Trapped miners reported safe

Star 15/10/93

BY PHIL MOLEFE
and MONTSHIWA MOROKE

Rescue teams last night lowered food, water and medical supplies to 112 miners trapped 3 341 m underground at the Kloof gold mine in Carletonville since Wednesday.

Earlier rescuers established contact with another group of eight miners trapped at 3 192 m underground and managed to provide them with supplies. (212)

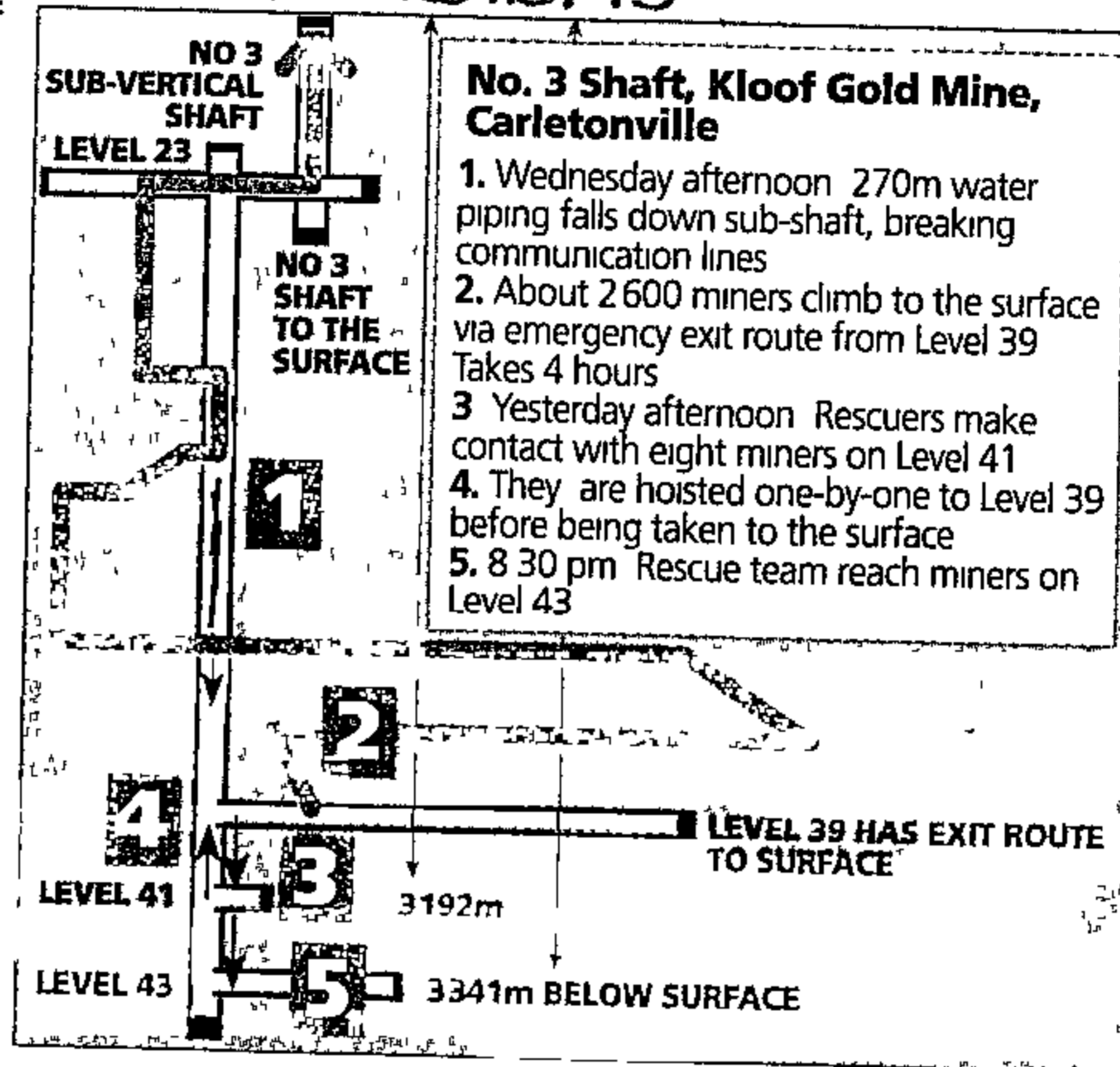
Mine management said all the trapped miners were "fine and in good health"

The painstaking task of hoisting each miner to the surface has begun, but mine management has warned it will take several hours to complete the rescue mission

The rescue effort is slow because the miners have to be lifted up to a certain level, moved to a side exit and then hoisted up one by one

Proto teams made a major breakthrough at 8 30 pm last night when they reached the 112 trapped miners after toiling through the day

Mine management said the entire group would be brought



GRAPHIC GAIL IRWIN

to the surface "in hours, but the main concern at the moment is to bring them out as comfortably as possible".

None of the eight, who were trapped on level 41, was injured and it was established that the other 112 miners, found on level 43, were not in any serious danger

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) yesterday accused the mine of disregarding the lives of mineworkers, "especially blacks".

The miners were trapped on Wednesday afternoon when 270 m of steel water

► To Page 3

Trapped miners are safe

Star 15/10/93

◀ From Page 1

pipings dislodged and fell down the No 3 sub-vertical shaft. Communication lines were severed.

The first contact was made at about 4 30 pm yesterday with eight of the miners.

Management said temperatures were "comfortable".

About 2 600 mineworkers had climbed to safety by way of a site

emergency exit (212)

Mine management threw a veil of secrecy over the circumstances surrounding the disaster and prevented journalists from getting near No 3 shaft

The mine released a statement about the disaster almost 24 hours after the incident

The NUM said there had been a "major cover-up" regarding the circumstances

Rescue teams reach miners

CT15/10/93

(212)

JOHANNESBURG — Rescue teams made a breakthrough last night when they reached the remaining 112 miners trapped underground at the Kloof gold mine in the western Transvaal's Carltonville

Mine management said all the trapped miners were "fine and in good health"

By late yesterday the rescue teams had established physical contact with another eight miners trapped two levels — 3192m underground — above the last group

The rescue teams toiled through the night and reached the miners trapped 3 341m below ground at 8 30pm

The massive rescue operation is expected to be completed by today

Mine management said the whole group would be brought to the surface within hours, "but the main concern at the moment is to bring them out as comfortably as possible"

112 trapped men 'in good health'

Mr Mike Eksteen, mine manager of the Kloof division of Kloof Gold Mines, said there was no reason to believe anyone was killed or seriously injured

Mr Eksteen said the operation would take a long time because at least four hours were required to get to the surface and workers had to be hoisted up one at a time.

The miners were trapped on Wednesday afternoon when 270m of piping dislodged and fell down the No 3 sub-vertical shaft. Communication lines were severed

The miners were surviving on water contained in bottles

Mr Eksteen said about 2 600

mineworkers had climbed their way to safety through an emergency exit

Mine management threw a veil of secrecy over the circumstances surrounding the disaster and prevented journalists from getting anywhere near No 3 shaft

Mr Eksteen defended the mine's attitude, saying its priority was not to make press statements but to rescue the workers

"All our efforts are directed at those people, and our priority is to evacuate them as soon as possible"

The National Union of Mineworkers said there had been a "major cover-up" regarding the circumstances which led to the accident, but Mr Eksteen said the mine would fully investigate the cause of the disaster

● Two workers at the Durnacol colliery near Dannhauser in northern Natal were killed on Wednesday when a conveyer belt was accidentally switched on and they were pulled into the machinery — Sapa

Rescue still under way

JOHANNESBURG. — About half the 120 mineworkers trapped since Wednesday by the collapse of hundreds of metres of steel piping in a shaft in the Kloof gold mine near Carletonville in the Western Transvaal, have been rescued. (212) 0716/10/93
Mine owner Gold Fields of South Africa said yesterday about 68 workers had still to be brought to the surface.

They said the task of hauling the men to safety was "an arduous and time-consuming task".

Rescuers are having to hoist mineworkers individually from 43 level to 41 level, from 41 level to 39 level, and then to the surface by conventional means.

Rescue operations would take at least another 24 hours to complete. — Sapa

It's a death trap

City Press

17/10/93

212

Terrified miners are pulled out of disaster zone one by one

By ELIAS MALULEKE

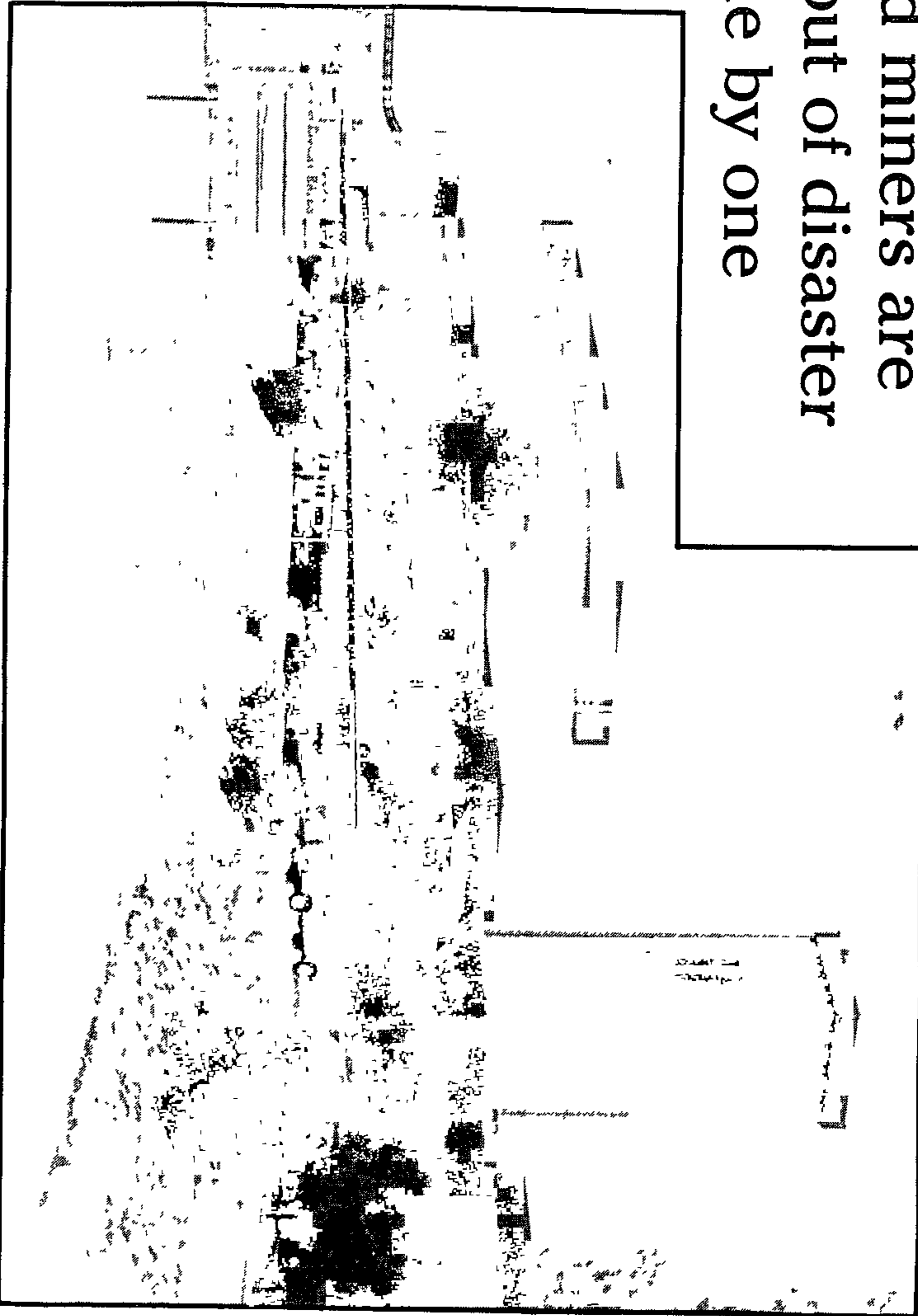
UNDERGROUND workers claim the last level of No 3 shaft at Kloof Gold Mine in Arleatonsville, where 56 miners have been trapped since Wednesday, is a death trap.

Sapa reports that 22 miners were brought to the surface yesterday. In the process a rescue worker collapsed and died. His identity has not yet been revealed.

The miners working in the last level were trapped on Wednesday afternoon when 270 m of steel water piping became lodged and fell down the shaft, causing extensive damage to the shaft structures, powerlines and communication systems.

Miners interviewed by City Press at the Kloof steel claimed that the 0.43 level, which is 141 m below the surface, has no side exits or tunnels connected to other shafts.

They said if there was fire or dangerous fumes, their only escape route in the last level was the lift used in the shaft. However, on reaching



THE RESCUE GOES ON . . . Miners are still trapped in Kloof Gold Mine after steel piping fell down the underground lift this Wednesday. NUM disputes the management figure of 56 men below, saying they believe more than 100 miners are trapped.

■ Pic: TLADI KHULE

level 39 they could escape from danger without using the lift as 39 level had an exit route to the surface.

That in spite of the danger underground, mine management did not deem it necessary to install step ladders between the "death trap" and upper

levels. The miners who were called in to assist with the rescue on Thursday, claim the chances of reaching their trapped

colleagues were slim. "It is impossible to reach the last level because there is no air. It is hot and humid down there. There are also no

lights and communication has been cut off," some of the rescuers said. Kloof's human resources manager Emelius Steyn has confirmed that

without the lift, rescue operations will be difficult.

Steyn said the trapped miners would have to be hoisted with a rope one by one until they reached level 39, from where they will walk to the surface.

He said food and water had been dropped to the trapped miners, and that medication was at hand nearby if it was needed. However, he pointed out that there was no immediate danger to the miners.

He refuted claims by NUM that mine authorities tried to "cover up" the incident by placing a veil of secrecy around the disaster.

The union also accused the mine of disregarding the lives of mine workers, "especially blacks". NUM spokesman Zola Sontonga told City Press late on Friday that reports from mine authorities were "sketchy" and the facts surrounding the number of trapped miners and the incident as a whole were not clear.

"We demand a full report on the lack of safety measures on the lower level and on the incident itself. We also believe there are more than 120 people in there," he said.

Sapa reports that Goldfields spokeswoman Maron Brower said the rescue operation was progressing well and it was understood the miners were not in any immediate danger.

'My 6 km trip through hell'

By ELIAS MALULEKE

TRAPPED Kloof Gold Mine worker Mamboba managed to escape to safety on Wednesday night by stumbling 6 km underground in a smog-filled tunnel.

Mamba, 30, a locomotive driver in 33 level of the No 3 shaft, was one of more than 2 500 miners left stranded underground when the lift of the shaft became inoperative following a massive collapse of pipes.

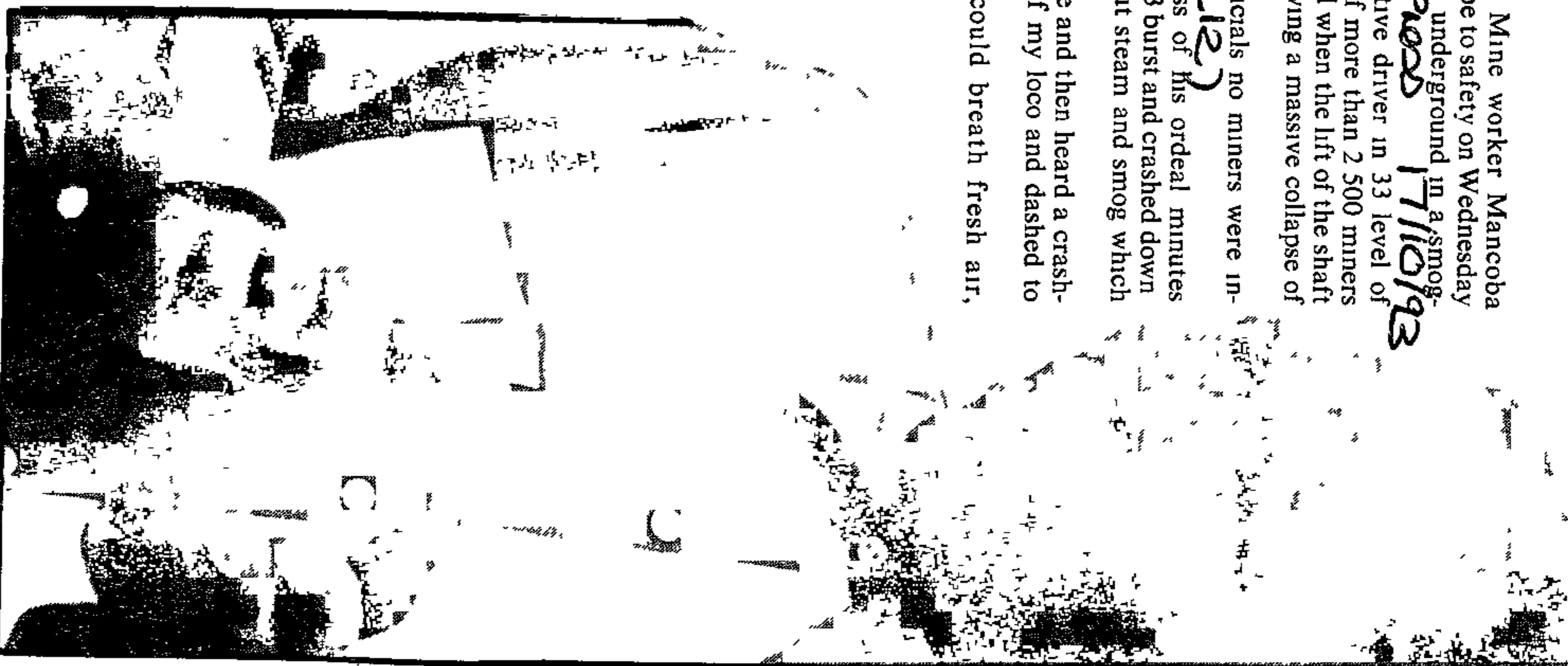
According to mine officials no miners were injured. Mamba told City Press of his ordeal minutes after "airpipes" on level 23 burst and crashed down. He said the pipes let out steam and smog which engulfed the shaft.

"I felt the ground shake and then heard a crashing noise. I jumped out of my loco and dashed to safety," he said. However, before he could breathe fresh air, Mamboba and some of his colleagues, had to walk for over 6 km underground to safety.

"The route from level 33 was jammed with miners hurrying to the surface and we deviated from the group and took a side tunnel. We walked and crawled through air ventilation pipes until we reached the No 1 shaft tunnel.

"It was a terrible task. The fumes made visibility poor, but we managed to zig-zag and got out in one piece," he said. A Kloof employee for 10 years, and a father of three, he said he thought his turn to die had come when he felt the ground shaking and then heard the crash.

"I never had time to pray - we pray before we enter the mine - and the first thing I thought was 'Get out'," he said. Another miner, who asked not to be named, said "There was no air, the heat was like an oven."



FRESH AIR . . . Mamboba Mamba, 38, and fellow miners were trapped underground.

NEWS Draft resolutions tabled after S

Raid: focus at Trade Centre

Sowetan 18/10/93



By Themba Molefe
Political Correspondent

THREE draft resolutions by the parties central to the raid on Umtata will be tabled for adoption before the negotiating council at the World Trade Centre today

The Pan Africanist Congress, the South African Government and Transkei will each propose how the negotiators could best settle the political dispute arising from the South African Defence Force assault in which five children aged between 12 and 17 years were killed on October 8.

The African National Congress is also expected to press the Government to disclose information about the raid

On Friday the Minister of Defence, Mr Kobie Coetsee, was grilled by the negotiating council but failed to con-

vince the negotiators the Government was justified in executing the attack. He, however, revealed that one of the objectives was to capture operatives of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the PAC's armed wing.

Already, Transkei leader Major-General Bantu Holomisa has announced the expulsion of the South African ambassador to his territory, Mr Horace van Rensburg. Holomisa said he should vacate Umtata by noon today.

Holomisa made the call on Saturday during the burial of the five youths in Umtata.

The Transkei delegation at the talks today is expected to repeat in its proposal that Coetsee resign. The PAC intends to propose that the resolution should provide that the council encourage bilateral meetings between the organisation and the Government to resolve their conflict.

33 miners rescued

Sowetan 18/10/93

A TOTAL of 33 people were hoisted to the surface by yesterday after being trapped underground at the Kloof Gold Mine since Wednesday.

Mine spokeswoman Ms Marion Brower said another four were expected to be lifted out shortly.

The men were a little weak but paramedics were administering medical aid, Brower said. (212)

An estimated 120 workers were trapped underground when some piping collapsed on Wednesday

The process of bringing miners to the surface had been particularly arduous, because each miner had to be hoisted 300 metres individually before they reached an exit walkway

Ventilation underground was good, Brower said, adding the miners were being fed and given water. - Sapa



Gold mine rescue 'arduous'

JOHANNESBURG — A total of 36 miners had been hoisted to the surface by yesterday after being trapped underground at Kloof Gold Mine since Wednesday

The men were a bit weak, but paramedics were administering medical aid, said a mine spokeswoman (212)

Bringing miners to the surface is arduous because each miner has to be hoisted 300 metres individually

An estimated 120 workers were trapped underground when piping collapsed on Wednesday

The cause of a rescuer's death on Saturday is still unknown — Sapa

Star 19/10/93 Farmers gather for crucial meeting

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

Farmers are to urge the Government this week to revise agricultural policy as a result of political and social changes.

This is one of the major issues on the agenda at the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) congress which starts in Bloemfontein today. Others include the economy, property rights, security, and labour legislation.

The congress — regarded by agriculture as possibly the most important ever held — will be asked by the northern Cape and Free State agricultural unions to take a deciding role in forcing the Government to rethink agricultural policy.

They say ad hoc policy adjustments have to be avoided and the White Paper on Agricultural Policy must be revised to create a policy framework with clear objectives.

The World Bank has ruled out the nationalisation of SA's farming land for subsistence farming. The World Bank had initially supported a plan to use commercial farming land for subsistence farmers, drawing criticism from the SAAU.

At a meeting between the SAAU and the World Bank in Pretoria at the weekend, the organisations agreed that the position which commercial agriculture assumed in the national economy "had to be placed in perspective when plans to establish small farmers on a large scale are considered".

SAAU president Boet Fourie said yesterday the union supported the establishment of small farmers on condition that commercial agriculture was not adversely affected, such farmers were helped to become fully fledged commercial farmers, and the agricultural potential of the land was maintained.

Star 19/10/93 75 trapped miners brought to surface

STAFF REPORTER

At least 75 of the 120 miners trapped at Carletonville's Kloof Gold Mine since Wednesday have been safely brought to the surface.

Mine spokesman Marion Brower said today that rescue and paramedic teams were continuing to hoist miners to safety and the operation would "hopefully be completed by the end of today".

She said that a lot of progress was made throughout last night.

The rescue teams are providing those miners still trapped with high-energy foods and liquids.

They are also administering medical supplies to combat exhaustion and dehydration. Brower said that the air supply to the miners had not been affected.

At least one man has died, but the cause of the volunteer rescuer's death is still unknown.

The rescuer collapsed underground on Saturday afternoon.

The workers were trapped late Wednesday afternoon when 270 m of steel water piping collapsed down the No 3 sub-vertical shaft, severing communication lines.

Brower said the process of bringing miners to the surface had been very difficult.

Hoisted

Each miner had to be hoisted 300 m individually before they reached an exit walkway.

The men had been trapped on levels 43 and 41, at 3 341 m and 3 192 m below ground.

They were first lifted to 39 level then moved to the surface via an alternative route since passage through the No 3 shaft was blocked.

Trapped miners due out tonight

ERICA JANKOWITZ

MORE than 30 miners remained trapped in Gold Fields' Kloof gold mine last night, facing a sixth day of being cut off from the surface after last week's construction accident blocked a shaft. *B/Day*

But a company spokesman said they were receiving a constant supply of food and liquid refreshment, and rescue teams and paramedics were down the mine helping workers get to the surface. They were equipped to deal with cases of dehydration and exhaustion. *19/10/93*

She said the rescue operation seemed to be speeding up and Gold Fields hoped all miners would be out by this evening. Morale was high among the trapped men and all appeared to be in good health.

Those who had been brought to the surface had been placed under medical observation and no more injuries had been reported since a volunteer rescue worker died underground at the weekend.

The rescue process had been time-consuming because each miner had to be hoisted about 300m before reaching the safe confines of an exit walkway. *(212)*

NUM PWV region leaders went to the mine yesterday to meet shaft stewards and those who had been brought up. The union said it would make a full statement today.

The Gold Fields spokesman said the accident could result in a 30% drop in production, even though double shifts had been introduced in other sections to minimise disruption. Although the number three vertical shaft had been rendered inoperable, other areas were operating normally.

A full statement about the effect of the accident would be made after all miners had been brought to the surface.

75 trapped miners freed

JOHANNESBURG — Seventy-five miners at Kloof gold mine who were trapped underground when piping collapsed last week have been hoisted to the surface, the company said yesterday (212).
Using the mine's esti-

mate of 120 miners trapped, 45 still remain underground

Proto teams have been battling since Thursday to free the trapped men.

The miners were being fed and given water, and morale was high, the company said — Sapa

(212) ARG 19/10/93

Kloof miners 'may be out by this evening'

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — All the miners trapped in Kloof gold mine's No 3 shaft are now in areas from which they can be brought to the surface.

Chairman of Gold Fields of South Africa Robin Plumbridge announced this at the company's annual meeting today.

He expressed regret that a member of the rescue team had died during the operation.

Engineers were trying to clear the shaft.

Gold Fields spokesman Marion Brower said all the miners were expected to be brought to the surface by this evening.

She said 150 workers — and not 120 as Gold Fields originally stated — had been trapped when collapsed pipework blocked exits three kilometres underground on Wednesday.

All those rescued were in good health.

(212)

ARLT 20/10/93

Miners rescued after six days in bowels of the earth

□ All 150 surface unhurt after underground ordeal

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — "Thank God we are alive," Dawid Janse van Rensburg said as he hugged his tearful wife after spending six days trapped in darkness, more than 3km underground at the Kloof Gold Mine near Carletonville

An excited but exhausted Mr Van Rensburg, 45, and three fellow supervisors were the last of 150 miners rescued yesterday in a "mammoth" operation after they were trapped last Wednesday when steel piping collapsed, preventing their exit

All the miners, who had to travel a route of more than 9km to reach the surface, were unhurt. But on Saturday, rescue team member Vivian Mbele, 33, died from bleeding in the stomach, according to post-mortem results

An investigation is under way to determine why the

270m of water piping fell down the No 3 sub-vertical shaft

Mr Van Rensburg said he had prayed for the first time in his life during his ordeal in the bowels of the earth, but that his spirits had been kept up by his three sons — who also work on the mine — who regularly spoke to him via a two-way radio

He said some miners had panicked when the water piping fell, but calmed down when they heard noises from the rescue team working above them

He said he and the other trapped miners spent most of their time sleeping

"My sons kept me going. Their presence, even though I could not see them at the time, did me a great deal of good. While assisting with the rescue work, they kept bringing messages from my wife and took mine to her"

Mr Van Rensburg's wife, Klein, said she was worried but her sons kept assuring her that everything was fine

"I cried sometimes, thinking of Dawid trapped in the belly of the earth and not knowing what would happen next. But my sons helped a lot, because they told me that they were speaking to him, so I knew he was alive. That was all I needed to hear"

Another supervisor, Dirk Kapp, rescued together with Mr Van Rensburg yesterday, said the first thing he would do when he got home would be to take a bath and sleep

Mine manager Mike Eksteen said that 75 miners were brought to the surface yesterday, the last one at 12 30pm

Hundreds of rescuers and paramedic personnel were involved. The teams lowered water, food and medicine to the trapped men

Mr Eksteen said the temperature below was "comfortable". But the miners found a novel way to cool down

"The miners did a lot of swimming in the settlers (pools

of accumulated water) during the first two days

"We really want to thank them for their assistance and fortitude and for remaining calm," Mr Eksteen said. He said they would all be given a week's leave

He congratulated the rescue team and all his staff for a job well done. He could not say when the mine would resume operating

Kloof mine chairman Alan Munro denied allegations by the National Union of Mineworkers that the accident had occurred because management had cut down on maintenance

"That is far from the truth. From the start our first priority was to rescue them (the miners)," he said

He said the miners had never been in any real danger because they always had water and had received food and medical assistance after being trapped for two days

Praise for rescuers as the last trapped Kloof miners reach surface

THE last four trapped miners reached the surface at Gold Fields' Kloof gold mine at midday yesterday, six days after a construction accident cut 150 workers off, mine manager Mike Eksteen said.

All four were supervisors who had remained underground with their teams to ensure the safety and morale of workers.

Both Eksteen and Kloof chairman Alan Munro praised the rescue teams for their "outstanding effort".

The trapped men had been given one week's paid leave in compensation for their ordeal, Eksteen said.

Munro said "I want to pay tribute to all involved — to those who were rescued for their fortitude and endurance and those who were involved in the arduous task of rescuing for their courage".

Two rescue workers were singled out for additional accolades. Derek Rautenbach of Vaal Reefs, who absailed down the shaft to make contact with the trapped men, and Blyvooruitsig's Jurie Scheepers, who was winched down the shaft to determine damage. About 40 proto teams, or 200 rescue workers, from mines in the area were involved in the operation.

ERICA JANKOWITZ

Eksteen described how about 75 men were manually winched to 39 level from which they could walk about 9km to the main shaft and from there get to the surface. On Friday, four motorised winches were installed to speed up the process.

The miners were trapped in a development area of the mine with single access, as was normal in such areas until tunnels were constructed, Eksteen said. Kloof had permission to have 400 workers in the area. The accident had crippled the power,

water and communications systems, meaning workers were trapped in the dark once their lamp batteries ran out. Ventilation was not affected, but temperatures at that level were always high.

The NUM described conditions underground as horrific. It said the men trapped in the lowest level, more than 3 500m underground, had alerted colleagues at higher levels "by their cries for help".

Many of those who had made their own way to the surface had collapsed and had to be helped by fellow workers.

In addition, the NUM — which is not recognised at Kloof but represents about 20% of the workforce — was harsh in its criticism of the mine, both for its lack of communication following the accident and for safety standards.

NUM PWV chairman Gwede Mantashe said Gold Fields had a history of attempting to exclude the NUM from the mine and of not keeping it informed.

NUM president James Motlatsi said "We are deeply concerned about a major cover-up regarding the actual circumstances of the accident".

□ To Page 2

Miners

Biday 2010/93

□ From Page 1

NUM health and safety representative Sazi Jonas said the union was not involved in setting and monitoring safety conditions at the mine. He said workers had spent the first couple of days without food and had to survive on drain water.

Eksteen confirmed that the first food was sent to the trapped men on Thursday evening, but explained the logistics of the operation made it impossible before then.

Sapa reports that he denied the NUM claim that a cutback in maintenance could have caused the accident. (212)

Now that the rescue had been completed a detailed investigation into the collapse of the piping could begin, he said.

Munro refused to "bicker with the union through the media". It is understood the local branch of the NUM met mine management yesterday afternoon.

Munro said Gold Fields would comment today on production losses and when the shaft would be back in operation.

● Picture: Page 3
● Comment: Page 8

Govt to launch probe into Kloof accident

ERICA JANKOWITZ

THE government mining engineer said yesterday a full investigation into the Kloof mine accident would be conducted, while the SACP called for Gold Fields to be charged with criminal negligence

Government spokesman Piet Botha declined to answer questions about the accident, saying it was sub judice. He also said the department had not yet conducted an inspection, the first step in the process

The NUM claimed Kloof engineers had been down the shaft to assess damage. Spokesman Jerry Majatladi claimed this action was irregular **BIDAY**

Senior Chamber of Mines technical personnel said in most instances shafts were out of bounds until the official inspection had been completed. **2/10/93**

Industry sources said it would appear a "significant length of time" elapsed between the accident occurring and management assessing the implications. This could explain the information blackout and the time taken to summon sufficient proto teams

The NUM also claimed the proto teams had been inadequately equipped when they first arrived and workers from the shaft who had managed to use alternative exits from the mine had been forced to join rescue operations. **(212)**

Despite having to walk about 9km in onerous conditions, these men had not been compensated, but had immediately been put to work either as rescuers or in unaffected areas of the mine. The rescuer who died, Vivian Mbhele, was a Kloof employee.

Majatladi expressed concern at the psychological damage suffered by the trapped men. He said management's attitude was that counselling was available, but only on a voluntary basis.

Gold Fields has declined to comment on the matter.

Black miners given 'raw deal'

Sowetan 21/10/93

By Ike Motsapi

A ROW has erupted between the National Union of Mineworkers and the management of the Gold Fields-owned Kloof Gold Mine in Carletonville over the way black miners were treated after being rescued (212)

Several black miners said they were not given medical treatment nor taken to hospital for a check-up as claimed by management (C)

"I am worried because we were forced to drink dirty water underground in order to survive," said one angry miner

About 150 miners were trapped about 3 000m below the surface for six days since last Wednesday after a mine accident. The last group was brought to surface on Tuesday

Mr Jerry Majatladi, media officer of

NUM said black miners were not given medical treatment and check-ups

"Management has done nothing to summon the services of their experts who might assist in alleviating the plight of victims of the accidents. The primary interest of management is to ensure that production is not lost

"Management has once more shown its total disregard for worker's rights," said Majatladi

Management spokesman Miss Marion Bruwer denied the allegations, saying there were paramedics and medical teams which treated miners once they were brought to the surface

Bruwer said "These people were immediately taken to hospital for medical check-ups. Once this had been done they were allowed to rest for 10 days before returning to work," she said

Call for speedy economic change

Affirmative action needed now - Manuel

Star 2/11/93

BY CHRIS WHITFIELD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ANC economics head Trevor Manuel warned last night of an "explosion" if affirmative action policies were not applied urgently.

In the keynote address to the "Business Revival" conference hosted by the Small Business Development Corporation in conjunction with The Star and the Sowetan, Manuel provided a "shortlist" of economic policies in need of rapid changes.

Manuel, who spoke in place of ANC president Nelson Mandela, said: "An economy which is perceived to be both owned and controlled by a little white enclave will not be able to find itself on a sustainable growth path.

"Delays in an affirmative action programme will cost this country dearly. We have been

paying lip-service to this dire need - the situation is becoming increasingly polarised, and we cannot afford an explosion," he said.

Manuel also warned of a need for State and parastatal institutions to be "sufficiently transformed to effect the necessary changes with the due determination".

Characterising the economy as still sinking into a marsh, he said clear strategies had to be developed.

These included additional focus on the social dimension.

"It is in this context that the reconstruction and development programme is so significant. In addition, we need a sound grasp of South Africa's current and past economic failures."

These included shortcomings in the 1960 to 1975 growth period, the maldistribution of wealth, and the patterns of ownership and control.

Five miners die, 14 hurt in rockfall

Star 2/11/93

STAFF REPORTER

Five miners were killed and 14 injured in a rockfall after a seismic event at the Kloof Mining Company's Leeudoorn Mine near Carletonville yesterday.

More than 800 miners have been killed in accidents since January (212)

Gold Fields Mining, which owns Kloof Mining, said the miners were 2 400 m below surface when the seismic event, measuring 1,9 on the Richter Scale, occurred at 8.18 am.

The rockfall took place on the 24 level in No 1 shaft

The injured men were treated by mine medical personnel.

Last month, 150 miners were trapped more than 3 km underground at Gold Fields' Kloof Gold Mine near Carletonville

All the miners were finally brought to safety after spending six days underground

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs is investigating the accident.

The National Union of Mineworkers said: "This emphasises our long-standing call for an inquiry into the safety and health of this country's mines. The mines are primarily concerned with profit-making and not people's lives."

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Rockfall kills 5 miners

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A rockfall nearly 2,5km underground killed five miners and injured 14 at Leeudoorn, a division of Gold Fields' Kloof gold mining company

—A Gold Fields official said of the 14 injured, two were admitted to hospital but were in no danger and the others had been treated at medical stations

The news, coupled with a sharp fall in bullion prices, knocked 325c off Kloof's share price which fell to R39,50. The accident at Leeudoorn coincided with a separate incident at

CT 2/11/93
Gold Fields's Deelkraal mine, which killed one miner (212)

The mining house said damage associated with last month's accident at the Kloof gold mine, which trapped 150 workers underground for several days, would not affect the company's results in the December quarter

Gold Fields gold division executive director Mr Alan Munro said Kloof had enough ore stored on the surface to meet the shortfall in production — which he declined to quantify — caused by the accident

Leeudoorn rock fall kills 5 miners

A ROCK fall nearly 2,5km underground yesterday killed five miners and injured 14 at Leeudoorn, a division of Gold Fields' Kloof gold mining company. **B/Daw**

A Gold Fields official said two of the injured were admitted to hospital, but were in no danger. The remainder had been treated at mine medical stations.

The news of the accident, coupled with a sharp fall in bullion prices, knocked 325c off Kloof's share price, which fell to R39,50.

The accident at Leeudoorn, near Westonaria, coincided with an incident at Gold Fields' Deelkraal mine, near Carletonville, in which one miner was killed. **212**

ERICA JANKOWITZ
and MATTHEW CURTIN

The mining house also announced that damage associated with last month's accident at the Kloof gold mine, which trapped 150 workers underground for several days, would not affect the company's results in the December quarter. **211/93**

Gold Fields gold division executive director Alan Munro said Kloof had enough underground ore stored on surface to meet the shortfall in production — which he declined to quantify. He said the accident

To Page 2

Leeudoorn

at Leeudoorn was "tragic". It would have little impact on production and was unrelated to the accident at Kloof.

However, NUM spokesman Hasha Gordon said the union was concerned about the mine's refusal to allow it to take part in today's inspection at Leeudoorn. Management had said that none of the dead or injured workers were NUM members but, as their names had not been released, the union was unable to verify this.

Also, any worker in the area conceivably could be held responsible for the accident

From Page 1

and should be represented at the inspection. The NUM had asked government mining engineer Piet Botha to intervene, but the department was "not supportive".

Gold Fields declined to comment on the union's exclusion. The NUM said it would take part in the Deelkraal inspection.

It condemned Gold Fields' safety record, saying it wondered if the group's mines were taking adequate care of workers or adhering to codes of practice to prevent accidents "which continuously occur".

NUM opposes new health Bill

ERICA JANKOWITZ

THE NUM yesterday rejected the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Bill, calling it an attempt to reduce employee categories entitled to compensation in the name of deracialising legislation

In a letter to the Joint Committee of Parliament for Health Matters, NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Golding charged that up to 75% fewer miners would qualify for compensation should the Bill become law

"The Bill, as tabled, goes far beyond its principal purpose to remove racial discrimination. It will reduce, by up to 75%, the number of workers who qualify for compensation. We therefore oppose the Bill as currently framed in the strongest terms," he said

NUM legal adviser Fleur Plimmer described the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, which would be replaced by the Bill, as a "dinosaur of apartheid legislation"

(212)
She said it was an embarrassment to government, but parties with a vested interest in reducing compensation costs were a powerful lobby group and would push to have the Bill promulgated in its present form

"In terms of the old Act, black miners received lesser compensation, but they still were compensated. Under

the new Bill, although compensation is equal, fewer black miners will qualify than was previously the case."

The NUM said it had approached both the Health Department and the Chamber of Mines to voice its concerns about the Bill's provisions and the union felt these could lead to a "mutually satisfactory resolution". As an interim measure, the NUM proposed that all workers be compensated the equivalent of white miners' current payouts. After next year's commission of inquiry into mining health and safety, the whole issue of occupational disease and compensation could be reviewed

Golding said a major cause of lung disease on mines was their failure to reduce underground dust levels. This was exacerbated by the high incidence of tuberculosis. Generally, 250 people per 100 000 had tuberculosis compared with 1 000 per 100 000 in the mining industry.

In terms of the Bill, only miners who were diagnosed as being permanently disabled by TB would be entitled to compensation. The NUM estimated the change would reduce the number of workers who received compensation from about 4 000 to about 400 a year

The Chamber of Mines was asked to comment, but declined to do so before today's executive committee meeting, which will discuss the issue in detail.

Occupational diseases Bill to be tabled

THE Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Amendment Bill, which eliminates racial discrimination in compensation, would be debated in Parliament today, outgoing NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Golding said yesterday. **Bill**

Black workers now receive compensation of R2 000 to R5 200 compared with R30 000 to R60 000 for white counterparts. In terms of the Bill, earnings-based compensation from R17 000 to R70 000 will be paid to all workers contracting occupational diseases as defined in the Act and, for the first time, mining industry employers would be required to cover medical

ERICA JANKOWITZ

costs of these workers. **21/12/93**

Golding said about 8 000 miners were compensated for occupational diseases each year, more than half for tuberculosis.

The Bill, resulting from negotiations between players in the industry, notably the NUM and the Chamber of Mines, was an improvement on previous drafts which the NUM had opposed, he said. **(212)**

"The Bill is an interim solution as a commission of inquiry into health and safety in the mining industry will sit next year and the issue of compensation will form part of the inquiry," Golding said.

MINING — ACCIDENTS

1994

Mine rockfall deaths

JOHANNESBURG — The body of a miner missing after a rockfall at Anglo American's Western Deep Levels near Carletonville in the far West Rand has been found, bringing the number of dead in the underground accident to three. (212)

Three workers were injured in the accident — which took place in the gold producer's East mine some 3 100m below surface — followed a seismic event measuring 1,9 on the Richter Scale — Sapa

ARC 1/11/94

Tighter laws vital for safer mines

B/Doy 10/11/94
MATTHEW CURTIN

TIGHTER legislation and improved training are vital if the mining industry is to improve safety significantly, says Government Mining Engineer Jan Raath.

The London-based Mining Journal reported in its latest edition that Raath said the Minerals Act was too vague on safety issues. Much of the training of newly recruited mine workers was dependent on trial and error, he said. (2/2)

His criticism of safety regulations and training standards came as it appeared that the launch of the government commission of inquiry into safety, health and compensation in the industry was being delayed by administrative wrangles.

The commission, backed by the Chamber of Mines and unions, was appointed in June, but an industry source said it had yet to appoint assessors to oversee its work.

Raath said the NUM's failure to appoint a representative was snarling up the commission's activities.

NUM officials were unavailable for comment at the weekend.

Meanwhile, latest Chamber figures indicate 1993 could be one of the safest years on record for the mining industry, with a sharp decline in the number of deaths on coal and gold mines, as well as reduced reportable injury and fatality rates.

Chamber statistics for the 11 months to November show 369 mine workers died on

To Page 2

Mine safety

B/Doy 10/11/94

From Page 1

gold mines compared with 400 in 1992, equivalent to an improved fatality rate of 1,08 deaths for every 1 000 workers.

If sustained, that would be the lowest rate since 1988 and compared with 1,12 the previous year. (2/2)

The reportable injury rate so far stood at 19,25 for gold mines and 4,29 for coal mines, compared with 1992 rates of 21,02 and 4,66 for every 1 000 workers.

Raath said legislation stipulated that mine managers had to take all "reasonable measures" to ensure workers' safety.

However, such measures were hard to define. Mine managers were rarely prosecuted for negligence.

He said more than 80% of mine accidents were attributable to human error.

While most occurred on gold mines, rates on collieries were relatively high in

SA compared with the low methane emissions in SA coal mines.

Methane monitoring equipment was installed frequently but whether it was read and interpreted properly was another matter. The report noted that the inquiry into the death of 53 workers at the Middelbult colliery was expected early this year.

Raath said legislation covering training had to be more specific and to overcome the problems posed by having to train novices who were often illiterate with no common language and only a week to learn the mines' *lingua franca*, fanagalo.

The Mineral and Energy Affairs Department would soon publish a survey detailing where inadequate training facilities existed, given that some big mines had reduced training efforts in their bid to cut costs.

However, mining houses have denied that such cuts took place last month.

Miners die in pressure burst

JOHANNESBURG —
Nine miners had died
and two were still miss-
ing yesterday after a
pressure burst at Kloof
Gold Mine's Leeudoorn
section near Carleton-
ville in the western
Transvaal. (212)

The tragedy occurred
on Monday afternoon

A miner who had earli-
er been reported seri-
ously injured was num-
bered yesterday among
the dead CT12/1194

Gold Fields of South
Africa said rescue par-
ties were continuing a
search for two workers

— Sapa

NEWS TEC in bid to end bloodbath

Nine miners dead

Sowetan 12/11/94

NINE miners had died and two were still missing yesterday morning after a pressure burst at Kloof Gold Mine's Leeudoorn section near Carletonville in the Western Transvaal on Monday afternoon.

A miner who had been reported to have been seriously injured on Monday was

numbered among the dead yesterday. Gold Fields of South Africa said in a statement, rescue parties were continuing a search for two workers.

The names of the dead are being withheld until their next-of-kin have been informed — Sapa (212)

Two Kloof miners still trapped after burst

TWO miners remained trapped in Kloof gold mine's Leeudoorn section near Carletonville yesterday after a pressure burst killed nine workers on Monday. **B/DM**

One of the men who died was brought to the surface alive on the day of the accident, Gold Fields announced **12/1/94**

The NUM condemned the incident, which occurred days after a similar accident at Anglo American's Vaal Reefs mine.

"It's the 12th day of the new year and already there have been three fatal accidents on our gold mines resulting in several deaths," NUM press officer Jerry

ERICA JANKOWITZ

Majatladi said.

He described Kloof's safety record as "disastrous" as this was its third accident in three months. **(212)**

The NUM would call on the new government to use the findings of the planned commission of inquiry into health and safety, due to sit later this month, to draft appropriate legislation, he said.

The commission would consist of the NUM, the Chamber of Mines and government representatives.

Cosatu slams Gold Fields safety

ERICA JANKOWITZ ^{BIDAY}

COSATU has accused Gold Fields of SA of having an appalling safety record on its mines due to negligence.

At the weekend the union called for an urgent investigation into safety at all mines, especially Gold Fields'

Cosatu also expressed lack of confidence in the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department's ability to investigate accidents in a non-partisan manner, saying it protected companies rather than workers. (212) (11/11)

Reacting to the Leudoorn accident last week, in which 11 miners lost their lives, the union said it fully supported "criminal and civil action being taken against those individuals and companies guilty of negligence which results in injury or loss of life". 17/11/94

Two miners killed in underground fire

B7 Day 18/11/94
A FIRE 2,5km underground at Gold Fields' West Driefontein mine near Carletonville claimed the lives of two miners yesterday after they inadvertently passed through a ventilation door and succumbed to smoke fumes, Gold Fields said

The fire, detected on Sunday morning, had not been contained by late yesterday, but the blaze was being fought, a spokesman said. The dead workers had not been involved in fighting the fire.

The NUM disputed this, asking how workers not involved in fire-fighting could have been killed a day after the fire had been detected. NUM Carletonville branch secretary Archie Pilane said: "This sug-

212
ERICA JANKOWITZ

gests workers are still in the area and have not been informed about the risk of going down. That's suicidal."

He said he had not yet been told about the fire, which was typical of Gold Fields. It told the union of accidents only if its members were directly involved.

The company could not say what had caused the fire or estimate its effect on production. The area had been evacuated.

A rockburst at Gold Fields' Leeudoorn mine killed 11 miners last week. Cosatu recently called for an urgent investigation into the group's "appalling" safety record.

Cyanide poisons miners

Star 2/2/94

■ BY ANNA LOUW
EAST RAND BUREAU

More than 100 miners were treated for cyanide poisoning after being overcome by leaking gas about 400 m underground at the Primrose gold mine in Germiston early today.

Germiston's fire chief, Simon Barkhuizen, said the cyanide leak had been discovered soon after the day shift had gone underground at 6 am.

Rescue workers and disaster buses from Germiston Central, Primrose and Wadeville fire stations were despatched to the scene. (212)

Barkhuizen said the miners were being treated as they were brought to the surface.

At the time of going to press miners were still being evacuated from the shaft.

Mines dispute 'HIV dismissals'

Biday 2/2/94
JACQUE GOLDING

TWO mining houses have disputed NUM allegations that they dismissed 16 miners who tested positive for the HIV virus.

The NUM said 10 miners from Genmin's Beatrix mine and six from JCI's Randfontein Estates were dismissed last year despite a special "AIDS agreement" between the Chamber of Mines and the union.

Genmin said yesterday the allegations were untrue, while JCI said it was investigating the matter (212)

The NUM has demanded the reinstatement of the dismissed workers. Both managements are expected to respond today

The AIDS agreement between the NUM and the chamber states that "HIV positive employees will be protected against discrimination, victimisation or harassment". It also states that "no employee should suffer adverse consequences, whether dismissal or denial of appropriate alternative employment opportunities, merely on the basis of HIV infection" (212)

NUM health and safety co-ordinator Sazi Jonas said the union was against testing members for AIDS as the disease "does not hinder or affect work performance".

"We are committed to protecting our members' rights in terms of fair employment practices. With AIDS, there is no vaccine and the disease's spread can be limited only by informed and responsible behaviour by employees and employers."

The NUM said the 10 workers from Beatrix left the mine last year after faction

□ To Page 2

HIV dismissals

Biday 2/2/94

□ From Page 1

fighting, but returned at the year-end. The mine agreed to reinstate them once their records were checked. Instead it forced the workers to undergo medical examinations and refused to employ them after they tested positive for HIV. (212)

But Genmin spokesman Andrew Davidson said medical examinations were compulsory for all prospective employees. Employment was at the discretion of mine managements. He denied that Genmin discriminated against HIV positive workers and said "no miners were dismissed be-

cause of AIDS tests".

The union said the Randfontein six were tested for AIDS without being consulted and without the union's knowledge. They were later dismissed.

In terms of the AIDS agreement, the union has to be informed before examinations are conducted and independent doctors should be used.

JCI spokesman Andre Geldenhuys said the union had named one worker. If a mistake had been made the company would rectify it.



Worried . . . miners at Belmore Private Hospital wait to be tested after inhaling sulphur dioxide. PICTURE GARY BERNARD

168 miners in hospital after inhaling gas

BY ANNA LOUW
EAST RAND BUREAU

A total of 168 miners were admitted to hospital after inhaling sulphur dioxide 400 m down the Primrose Gold Mine's Waverley and Balmoral shafts in Germiston yesterday.

General manager Mike Mortlock said 344 miners were evacuated from the Waverley shaft, which was worst hit.

Mortlock said the sulphur dioxide caused an irritation to

the throat and lungs.

He said the miners smelt an unusual odour when they reached level 9, 400 m underground, after they went on duty between 5.30 and 6 am.

The mine supervisor, Peet Swart, was alerted by telephone and went underground to investigate the problem. He quickly realised the gravity of the situation and ordered a general evacuation before alerting Germiston's emergency services

The National Union of Mine-

workers (NUM), however, reacted with outrage to the fact that miners had even been allowed to go underground before the accumulation level of poisonous gases had been tested, reports Sapa.

NUM spokesman Jerry Majatladi said modern technology had advanced to an extent where gases could be detected from the surface without risking workers' lives. "Workers should under no circumstances be used as guinea pigs. Human lives are more im-

portant than gold," he said.

Miners were treated with the antidote, amyl nitrate, as they arrived at the surface, and rescue workers from Germiston's three fire stations gave emergency treatment before transporting the miners to the Delmore Clinic.

Mortlock said it was suspected that pulp from a slimes dam, which contains a small amount of cyanide, could have entered the shafts through an outcrop which appeared to have collapsed.

Star 3/2/94

Boycott backs striking miners

PHALABORWA — A consumer boycott has begun here in support of members of the National Union of Mineworkers, who are on strike at the Foskor Mine over a wage dispute (212)

A spokesman for the SA Communist Party, which has organised the boycott along with the ANC, Cosatu and the local civics organisation, said the stayaway would continue until the dispute was resolved

NUM set to negotiate on healers' sick notes

THE National Union of Mineworkers will negotiate with employers to secure recognition of medical certificates and sick notes issued by traditional healers.

The NUM took this resolution at its eighth national conference in Pretoria last week. Its resolutions were released yesterday. *Biday 17/2/94*

The union said it wanted 56 days sick leave a year for its members and 10 days paternity leave for its male members.

It would also investigate its own registered charity or developmental agency to help miners and mining communities.

It wanted dismissal benefits increased to R5 000 for workers, R4 500 for wives and R2 500 a child. It would also negotiate adequate transport to the funerals of deceased mineworkers for family members and friends. *(212)*

The NUM also resolved to become actively involved in the campaign against more nuclear power stations.

It called for an end to the secrecy surrounding the nuclear energy industry and the upholding of international health and safety standards. It said a forum in which nuclear issues could be discussed should be established.

A discussion document on a draft energy policy noted the advantages of coal as a generator of electricity as job opportunities, its cheapness and the preservation of technology built up over the years.

However, stricter pollution guidelines would have to be adopted.

The NUM said the building of the Koeberg nuclear reactor had been a political and not an economic decision. — Sapa.

Ultimatum for strikers (212)

JOHANNESBURG — Altogether 1 800 striking workers at Germiston's Primrose Gold Mine have been told to report to work today or face immediate dismissal

CT 23/2/94

Reports by Staff Reporter Own Correspondent, Sapa Reuters AP and UPI

Fire traps 35 miners underground

The Argus Correspondent

(212)

JOHANNESBURG — An underground fire at the Koorfontein coal mine near Middleburg in the eastern Transvaal has left 35 miners trapped 181m underground

Although 17 of the miners are safe in a rescue bay, their 18 colleagues are still unaccounted for

This is the second major mine disaster in three days. On Tuesday night the Merriespruit suburb of Virginia was buried under tons of sludge when a mine slimes

dam burst its banks after a heavy down-pour

ARG 24/2/94

Noel Halgreen, spokesman for Trans-Natal, which owns the mine, said a fire broke out underground near the mine's Gloria shaft at 12 45am today

Mr Halgreen said the fire blocked the miners' exit to the surface, but 17 of them managed to make it to a refuge bay 181m underground

It is not known what happened to the other 18 men, who were working in the vicinity when the blaze began

Meeting called after third Libanon death

MANAGEMENT and the NUM will meet today in an effort to reduce tension at at Gold Fields' Libanon mine in Westonaria after a third miner died yesterday following weekend clashes. **BIDAY**

Gold Fields said it regretted the deaths. The cause of the violence was being investigated, but it appeared to be "politically motivated". **(212)**

Workers could be supplied with protection on their way to and from work.

The NUM criticised the company for allowing Inkatha PWV chairman Themba Khoza on to the mine on Tuesday while

JACQUIE GOLDING

permission for a union meeting had apparently been refused **24/2/94**

The fighting started on Friday night and continued until Sunday.

Gold Fields management said it would continue meeting employee delegations and union representatives in an effort to "resolve concerns with regard to violence". It said attendance over the past three days averaged 85%.

Management was not sure if workers would return to work today.

Workers 'part of assessments'

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ERICA JANKOWITZ

cise, evaluation became a base from which to analyse training needs to continually upgrade skills and all workers understood the process as they had contributed to writing job descriptions.

McDonald emphasised that companies needed to assess each job's worth, although this was an unpopular concept with unions.

Unions tended to concentrate on the skills content of evaluation and overlook worth, as they felt this was a subjective and value-laden concept.

She suggested that companies explore more creative ways of determining competency, particularly when it came to recognising skills brought to the job.

In implementing a job evaluation system based on broad banding, a company should determine the mix of skills required for each task to be performed competently. Companies needed to be realistic in assessing training and skill requirements, she warned.

She told delegates whose companies were not organised by trade unions not to be complacent. White-collar unionism was growing rapidly and would make inroads into traditionally unorganised work areas.

Mine extends strike deadline

JACQUIE GOLDING

MANAGEMENT at Primrose Gold Mine in Germiston has extended until today its deadline for striking NUM members to return to work.

Primrose MD Jomo King earlier this week threatened to dismiss workers if they did not report for duty by Wednesday, but yesterday he said management had decided to extend the ultimatum and to pay workers the 30c-a-day wage increase demanded by the union.

Management said about 70 afternoon shift workers had reported for work yesterday, but most of about 1 500 morning shift workers had continued striking. **BIDAY**

About 1 800 workers went on strike earlier this week after management failed to pay increases which had been part of an agreement reached between the union and management last year. **24/2/94**

Management said the agreement had been conditional on the mine reaching productivity targets.

NUM officials said yesterday some workers had wanted to return to work and others had wanted to continue striking.

The workers wanting to strike had rejected the 30c-a-day increase and supported a new demand for a R7-a-day increase. **(212)**

King said Primrose would not know until today whether the strike was resolved. He hoped the mine would "pull together" and continue to operate as usual.

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Management was not sure if workers would return to work today.

Camera indicates no sign of life in fire-hit mine

The Argus Correspondent

MIDDELBURG — A sophisticated camera, probing the fire-ravaged Koornfontein coal mine today where 19 miners are trapped, has shown no sign of life.

Rescue workers have also reached the area where the

men were believed to have been working, but they have found no sign of them.

The miners have been underground for more than 40 hours. They have battery lights which can last for 12 hours if sparingly used.

Trapped now in the dark,

they were equipped with an emergency 30-minute air supply and designed for use in evacuation to safety immediately after a fire starts.

Proto teams are combing the maze of tunnels 180 metres underground. Lethal levels of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide are forcing them to wear

breathing apparatus.

Seventeen other miners were rescued today. They were unharmed but were taken to Middelburg Hospital for observation. Trans-Natal Coal Corporation said.

The fire is still burning, but has been contained and visibility has improved.

(212) ARG 25/2/94

Rescue

teams find

17 miners

CF25/2/94 (212)

MIDDELBURG — Rescue teams last night reached 17 of the 36 miners trapped by an underground fire at the Koorfontein colliery near Middelburg in the eastern Transvaal, Trans-Natal Coal Corporation announced

The 17 miners had sought shelter in a refuge bay and were in good health

Rescuers found a route past the blaze in Gloria section and arrived at the bay at 7 30pm, Trans-Natal senior manager Mr Noel Halgreen said in a statement

The teams then continued the search underground for the remaining 19 missing miners, while surface teams continued to drill a hole for a rescue capsule to be lowered

The two groups were working in different parts of the mine when their exits were cut off by the fire, the cause of which was not yet known

Those in the refuge bay included I S

Claassen (fitter), J C Lock (miner), A Malaza (roofbolter operator), S Manana (shuttlecar driver), W Mokwena (belt operator), P Smit (electrician), R H Thebe (technical assistant) and G Vayo (front-end-loader driver), Trans-Natal said

Probe holes were being drilled from the surface to try to establish the whereabouts of the missing workers

Trans Natal's main concern was the safety of employees and everything possible was being done to ensure they were rescued as soon as possible, Mr Halgreen said

The cause of the fire has not yet been established and an inquiry has begun

Rescue workers are trying to isolate the fire so that nitrogen can be pumped in to extinguish it, he said

The mine management is trying to reach the trapped miners' families and will only release their names today — Sapa

Underground fire traps 36 coal miners

Business Day Reporters

THIRTY-six miners at Trans-Natal's Koorfontein Mine were still trapped by an underground fire late yesterday, mine spokesman Lyn Geldenhuys said. **B1D9**

A hole was being drilled to reach 17 of the trapped coal miners at a rescue bay 181m underground, and contact had been made. Food, water and playing cards were being provided through a drill haul.

The mine expected rescuers to reach the rescue bay this morning. But 10 proto teams were still trying to locate 19 missing miners by drilling probe holes in strategic sites. The two groups were working in different parts of the mine when the fire cut off their exit route. **2512194**

The fire broke out shortly before 1am yesterday at the Gloria shaft of the mine 45km south of Middelburg in the eastern Transvaal. Proto teams were trying to isolate the fire so nitrogen gas could be pumped in to extinguish it. **(212)**

Geldenhuys said rescue teams from the neighbouring mines and the Chamber of Mines had arrived to assist the search for the missing workers and he was confident the workers were still alive.

The cause of the fire had not yet been established. A joint inquiry by the mine and other authorities had already begun.

Although unions were not involved in the search, he said qualified representatives would be welcomed to assist.

A NUM delegation, headed by Witbank health and safety official Strongman Mpangana, was at the mine.

"Once again the question of safety on mines has to be addressed to prevent such incidents," a NUM official said. "An investigation, whether independently or with management, will have to be conducted."

A meeting between the NUM and management is due to take place as soon as the missing workers have been found.

Mine authorities hope to make contact with other missing workers this morning.

Speaking at a news conference earlier in the day, Gencor spokesman Noel Halgreen said management was concerned about the safety of its employees and would do everything possible to ensure it.

The attack, occurred last night
The attack, occurred last night

14 bodies found as mine fire blazes

MIDDELBURG — Rescuers have found the bodies of 14 miners killed by an underground fire at the Koornfontein colliery in Middelburg in the eastern Transvaal

Although five miners were still unaccounted for, rescue teams had to abandon the underground search yesterday afternoon as the intensity of the fire was increasing

"To continue the search for the missing mine workers under these circumstances will endan-

ger the lives of the proto teams.

"The main dangers are the heat and the risk of being isolated behind the fire," Trans-Natal Coal Corporation manager Noel Halgreen said

The bodies of the 14 miners were found in an area south of a refuge bay where 17 others had found shelter when the fire started on Wednesday night

The 17 were not injured and were brought to the surface on Thursday night

It appeared the miners had

been making their way towards the rescue bay which they probably missed because of poor visibility

A Chamber of Mines rescue rig is continuing to drill a hole through which a rescue capsule can be lowered

The drill is expected to break through into the working area, 181 metres below surface near the door of the refuge bay, this morning and will be used to search for the five missing miners. — Sapa

WARNING TO ANYONE

Miners pass bay, die

Staff Reporter

(212)

to the surface

CT 26/2/94

SIX of the 14 miners killed in an underground fire at the Koornfontein colliery in Middelburg yesterday walked past a refuge bay — and safety — trying to escape from the smoke-filled mine-shaft

Trans-Natal Coal corporation manager Mr Noel Halgreen said yesterday rescue teams had found the bodies of the six, but were unable to bring them

He said 17 other miners had spent 30 hours in the refuge bay — required in all mines by law to be within 1 000m of where miners work — until rescue teams were able to reach them

Meanwhile, a Chamber of Mines rescue drilling rig was continuing to drill a hole through which a rescue capsule could be lowered in the search for five missing employees

Two miners still missing

Biday 113194

JACQUIE GOLDING

THE search for missing miners at Trans-Natal's Koornfontein colliery continued yesterday, but management conceded there was almost no hope of finding more survivors

The families of the men who died in the fire were informed and their names released yesterday

Fourteen bodies were found underground but two remain unaccounted for. A Trans-Natal statement said the bodies would be recovered when conditions allowed rescue teams to proceed underground. (212)

The mine said three people originally thought to be missing were not underground at the time of the incident, confirming that 16 and not 19 employees were trapped

Koornfontein senior manager Noel Halgreen said walls had been built on the shaft side of the fire, sealing it off from the undamaged section of the underground workings

Work to seal off the far side of the fire continued.

NUM spokesman Jerry Majatladi said SA mining houses had become "massacre houses".

He attributed the increase of deaths in the mining sector to the "negligence of management".

"It is totally unacceptable that Trans-Natal, an experienced coal industry, did not secure their underground electrical substations in fire-resistant cages," said Majatladi

"Mines should be controlled by a new government which takes into account safety regulations and workers' lives."

Halgreen dismissed NUM claims as "assumption", adding that an investigation by the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department into the cause of the accident would begin as soon as conditions underground allowed

"We will then be in a position to prevent the recurrence of such a disaster," he said

Production has not yet resumed and it is estimated that 25% of the mine's production capacity has been affected in the short term

Production at the Gloria shaft will be restored to 85% within a month

mine officer
GARTH LUMLEY

Bribed buyer refused leave to appeal

BLOEMFONTEIN — A former SA Air Force commandant has been refused leave to appeal against his imprisonment on three counts of bribery.

Albert Johan Rheeder, of Wierda Park, Pretoria, was responsible for the purchase of household furnishings and other items for the SAAF. He pleaded guilty in

the Pretoria Regional Court in November 1992 to nine counts that arose from "kickbacks" from merchants.

He was effectively imprisoned for five years and fined R100 000. The imprisonment was imposed under the law that allows prison authorities to consider early release under corrective

supervision

An appeal to the Transvaal Supreme Court was dismissed on August 13 1993

The charges relevant to the present application involved cash amounts of R346 145, a sheep braai, woodwork machine, curtains worth R20 000 and a vacuum cleaner — Sapa.

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Housing plan

Biday 113194 From Page 1

preferred "subsidy".

Shill said that with the main thrust of the plan completed, government believed it could wait no longer. "There is such a pressing socioeconomic need that we decided to go ahead and announce it now."

He said 120 to 200 jobs were created for

every R1m spent on housing. With estimated annual expenditure of between R7,5bn and R9bn, about 1-million jobs would be created. These jobs would be long-term as once the initial building had been completed, upgrading and improvements of older housing would be needed.



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2 Bay 113194

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EY

Fire mine could take three months to recover

TRANS-Natal's Koorfontein coal mine could take three months to recover from the fire two weeks ago that killed 16 workers and halted production in a vital section of the mine, the company said yesterday.

Finance director Loutjie Smit said Trans-Natal, SA's largest coal exporter, had still to quantify the likely damage to its earnings. However, the mine had sufficient reserves to meet contractual commitments, he said.

The blaze knocked out Gloria section, a central cog of Koorfontein's export mechanism accounting for 25% of the mine's 5-million-ton annual export output.

Smit added that Koorfontein was hoping to "claw back" a large slice of lost production within three months.

But analysts cautioned that establishing a new face at the Middelburg mine could take time.

Irish & Menell Rosenberg analyst Paul Brogan said, "The mine cannot just take people from the burnt-out section. It has to open up a new area, and that is not an easy job."

He said it was not clear that Koorfontein would have enough reserves to tide it over.

Gloria accounts for less than 10% of Trans-Natal's exports, which last year stood at 11.6-million tons.

ANDY DUFFY

But the section, which came on stream in 1990, has been used by Trans-Natal as the base for a R200m development programme to redirect the mine towards exports. (2/2)

The strategy was prompted by the loss in 1990 of a contract with Eskom's Komati power station, which cut 31% from the mine's revenues and bit deeply into its profitability.

Trans-Natal plans to phase out production at Koorfontein's Blinkpan section by 1996. Gloria then will be the sole producing section.

Investor reaction to the fire has been slight. Trans-Natal's share price dropped just 2% to R12,50 when news of possible production hitches emerged. The share has more than recouped its losses since then, closing yesterday at R13,50.

The bodies of 16 workers — two more than expected — were recovered from Koorfontein at the weekend. Seventeen miners escaped the blaze, though rescue operations in the area — 181m below ground — were hampered by poor visibility.

Smit said that an investigation into the cause of the fire would start later this month.

Rustplats at standstill

PRODUCTION at the Amandelbult section of Rustenburg Platinum Mines has stopped following an illegal strike by about 8 000 workers, according to mineowner Johannesburg Consolidated Investment

The strikers are demanding immediate payment of their contributions to provident and unemployment funds, death benefit insurance and income tax (2/2)

Negotiations to end the action, which started on Wednesday, continue

ARCT 16/4/74

■ RUSTENBERG Platinum Mines was granted a court interdict on Thursday requiring about 8 000 striking workers to return to their shifts (212)

The workers, on strike since Monday, are demanding the immediate pay-out of their contributions to the provident and unemployment funds, death benefit insurance and income tax

ARG 23/4/94

100

BUSINESS DAY, Tuesday, May 17 1994

Health and safety inquiry for mines

A JUDICIAL inquiry into health and safety on the country's mines next month could result in sweeping changes to the Minerals Act

The commission, to be headed by a chairman and three assessors, will hear arguments and recommendations on health and safety laws by the NUM and the Chamber of Mines.

Albert Davies, an independent international consultant and professor at the University of Cardiff, and rock engineering expert Prof Miklos Salaman from the Colorado School of Mines will assess safety, while Prof Tony Davies, chief director of the National Centre for Occupational Health, will deal with health aspects

The chairman has not yet been named. The NUM said yesterday the purpose of the commission was to tighten up health and safety regulations under the Minerals Act with a view to reducing accidents on mines. The union is expected to put forward technical and legal arguments aimed at strengthening and improving existing laws and to change the way in which health and safety are regulated.

Chamber of Mines chief negotiator Adrian du Plessis said the commission could advance the debate between the two parties on appropriate legislation. The chamber would make written and oral representations to the commission, but could not give further details.

The NUM said one of its strongest objections to current legislation was the leeway

JACQUIE GOLDING

given to mining houses regarding the appointment of safety representatives. "We want safety stewards to be elected and protected by law, which is currently not accommodated in the Act."

NUM health and safety co-ordinator Sazi Jonas said the commission was of the utmost importance as a vehicle for filling loopholes in existing safety laws on mines.

SA's mines lagged far behind technology and safety standards in other mining countries such as Canada, Australia and Britain, Jones said. (212)

According to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, there were 7 795 accidents at SA's gold mines during 1993, with 419 miners killed and 7 376 "reportably" injured. And in SA's coal mines during the same year, there were 360 accidents in which 90 workers were killed and 280 "reportably" injured.

According to the NUM, 32 miners were killed during the first three months of this year because of accidents in the coal and gold industries.

An NUM research co-ordinator yesterday said workers' injuries were only reportable after 14 days' absence from work, while in other countries workers were classified as being "reportably injured" after missing only four days.

"Should reportable injury in SA be reclassified as a worker having spent four days off work, the injury rate would more than double," she said.

Miners clash: 1 dies, 10 hurt

WESTONARIA — A man died and 10 were injured in faction fighting here (212)

Police said the fighting at Westonaria gold mine on the West Rand began about 9 30pm on Saturday, after a group of hostel dwellers asked about the arrest of a colleague

After the men spoke to the mine manager, whose offices are near another hostel, fighting broke out between residents of the hostels

Seven of the injured had bullet wounds and three were stabbed

All the injured were taken to hospital

Police were not called and the incident was dealt with by mine security

No one has been arrested, but police are investigating one murder charge and 10 counts of attempted murder — Sapa

Mine death toll 65 in five months

Star 25/5/94

BY BRENDAN TEMPLETON

The death of five miners, struck by a runaway locomotive at the West Driefontem Gold Mine near Carletonville yesterday, took the national mine death toll for the year to at least 65 (22)

The mine's owner, Gold Fields, said the accident occurred after a rope snapped and the locomotive broke loose while being lowered by a rigger

Negligence

But the National Union of Mineworkers accused the company of "total negligence" and called for stricter legislation on health and safety on South African mines

The NUM claims that the high death toll on South African mines — among the highest in the world — is due to management's disregard for the safety of workers

But the Chamber of Mines denies this, attributing the high figures to the special conditions of South African mines, the world's deepest. Some extend 3 km into the earth, resulting in huge pressures being built up on the rockface, leading to unavoidable rockfalls and pressure bursts, says the chamber

NUM spokesman Jerry Majatladz said those responsible for yesterday's deaths should be dismissed and that criminal charges should be laid.

He said the non-recognition of the NUM at most of Gold Field's mines enabled management to operate below acceptable safety standards

The names of the deceased are being withheld until their next of kin have been told.

Of the 65 reported deaths, 18 have died in fires, 10 in rockfalls, 11 in pressure bursts, four in tremors and 17 in the Merriespruit slimes dam disaster

Mine skeletons still a problem

(212) CTZZ 6/94

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The skeletons of two miners who went missing underground five years ago at Randfontein's Estate Gold mine were found in April after management claimed they had "deserted", the National Union of Mineworkers said yesterday.

The NUM said Mr Lulama Yekani, 31, and Mr Fantu Mamani, 43, never returned from their shift at Cook One Shaft five years ago.

It said the families were paid no compensation and there was no communication with owners JCI since the skeletons were discovered in an old incline at Cook One Shaft.

An inquiry originally set for May 16 had been postponed three times by JCI, the union said.

NUM regional health and safety officer for the PWV, Mr Charles Freeland, said JCI had shown a "complete disregard" for its workers.

"If it had been white workers that had not reported to the surface, would they have waited five years until their skeletons were discovered and delayed and delayed an inquiry?"

JCI yesterday said it regretted that the NUM issued a statement accusing management of acting irresponsibly, adding that the union statement had "numerous" inaccuracies.

Skeletons in the mining closet (212)

wm 24-20/6/94 (213)

Vuyo Mvoko

SKELETONS are falling out of the cupboard of the mining industry. Unanswered questions surround the discovery of skeletons of two miners who went missing five years ago at JCI's Randfontein Estates Gold Mine on the West Rand.

Although the two disappeared a year apart, they were found underground only metres from each other, in a section of the mine that had not been used for decades. Miners are barred from entering the incline.

This week the National Union of Mineworkers hit out at JCI for postponing an inquiry into the deaths, accusing the mining house of "foot-dragging" since the discovery of the

skeletons earlier this year.

JCI spokesman Frans van Rensburg said company representatives would meet the union to find ways of amicably dealing with the problem.

Although the NUM went public only this week, the remains were found in April by workers of an independent contractor who had gone underground to obtain soil samples.

On Wednesday JCI accused the union of trying to discredit it in the eyes of the public, but would neither confirm nor deny the allegations beyond saying "there are numerous inaccuracies" in the NUM's statements.

The union said workers at Randfontein were also angry at mining officials' refusal to grant them permission for a memorial service at the mine's

hostel after the discovery of the skeletons. The union said it had discovered that JCI was not planning to compensate the families of the deceased.

"If it had been white workers that had not reported to the surface after work, would you have waited five years until their skeletons were discovered, and then delayed and delayed an inquiry into their deaths?" asked union spokesman Charles Freeland.

Lulama Yekani (31) and Fanti Mamane (54) disappeared in March 1988 and November 1989 respectively.

Mine rescue personnel who searched underground claimed to have found nothing, and a report that was later submitted by shift bosses said the men had "deserted" the mine. According to the mine's rules, a shift cannot be "cleared" if a person is missing until the shift bosses and the mine captain are "satisfied".

In both cases, the NUM charged this week, workers were dissatisfied with the company's explanations and wanted to send their own group to conduct a search. Although their men were allowed to go underground, the union claimed they were refused entry to the site where the remains were found.

Willington Mamane, brother of one of the dead men, said this week he had been told Mamane had "deserted" the mine when he went to inquire about his whereabouts in 1989.

"I still hold a grudge against the white man who said my brother had gone home because he did not want to work any more," he said after burying his brother's remains in the Transkei town of Cofimvaba. He said JCI had given his family R2 000 for the burial and promised to contact him within weeks.

Judge will chair mine safety probe

Star 7/17/94

Mr Justice R M Leon has been appointed chairman of a commission of inquiry to investigate the regulation of health and safety in the mining industry, the Chamber of Mines confirmed yesterday

Chamber of Mines spokesman Llewellyn Kriel said the commission was mooted by a mining industry summit in 1992

"The chamber has complete confidence in the commission and its chairman and believes it is premature to comment further at this stage"

The commission, which is to be chaired by the retired judge and three assessors, begins work on July 18

The National Union of Mineworkers said the commission was a long overdue opportunity for a review of legislation and

UNION says commission is a long overdue chance for a review of legislation controlling health and safety on the mines

regulations controlling health and safety in the mines

Inadequate

The NUM said it was campaigning through the Miners' International Federation to have mineworkers' policies on health and safety made a convention of the International Labour Organisation, for adoption at the ILO's 82nd conference next year

It said the Mineral Act govern-

ing health and safety at mines was inadequate Health and safety had been left as a prerogative of management and there were no regulations governing open-cast mining (212)

The NUM gave the following casualty statistics

■ 53 miners died in mine accidents in the first three months of this year in the PWV

■ 578 miners died in mine accidents last year.

■ An average 600 miners died and 8 000 were injured in mine accidents every year

■ 69 000 miners had been killed and more than 500 000 injured since the turn of the century

■ There had been six disasters in the mining industry in the past 10 years More than 30 miners had died in each incident. — Sapa

Govt mines safety commission 'long overdue'

MINING health and safety legislation under the Minerals Act was "totally inadequate", the NUM said yesterday.

A commission of inquiry into health and safety appointed by government earlier this year is due to sit on July 18.

The NUM yesterday said the commission was long overdue.

Chamber of Mines spokesman Llewellyn Kriel yesterday said the chamber had complete confidence in the commission, but it was prema-

JACQUE GOLDING

ture to comment further at this stage.

NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said that in the first six months of this year more than 3 000 workers had been involved in accidents, 213 had died and about 3 222 workers had been injured.

The level of disease caused by the industry could barely be estimated, the union said. Tuberculosis was endemic in the mining industry.

Laws regulating compensation for occupational diseases were race-based until the end of February, the union said, with white workers receiving 13 times more than their black counterparts. The new system, while not racially discriminatory, still paid limited benefits.

The NUM said it was campaigning through the Miners' International Federation to have policies on mineworkers' health and safety made a convention of the International Labour Organisation.

Debating across a vast chasm of mine safety

Biday 15/7 1977

NUM president James Motlatsi made a speech two years ago in which he said, "If it is possible to put a man on the moon without injury or disease, then it is possible to put a person safely in a mine."

Chamber of Mines safety and technical services GM Johan Greef takes another view — the industry is definitely making progress in improving safety conditions, but in the short term the only way to stop fatalities is to stop mining.

On Monday, Judge Ramon Leon enters this sphere, which has been the source of some of SA's most bitter and emotional labour disputes, with his commission of inquiry into occupational health and safety on mines. He will have to listen to claims and counterclaims, allegations and denials and even a range of serious technical proposals before finalising his recommendations to the President on improvements to the existing legislative framework, and to propose how such changes should be implemented in the light of prevailing circumstances.

The Mineral and Energy Affairs Department says 578 miners died in accidents during 1993 — more than one worker per thousand. Since the turn of the century, more than 69 000

have died and more than a million have been injured.

Arguably there have been, at best, only marginal improvements in safety standards in the last 50 years, judging from average fatality rates. On the other hand, it could be argued that conditions have become more dangerous because of deeper mining.

The NUM, which originally called for the inquiry which was later endorsed by the industry, believes SA's mine safety legislation lags behind international standards, and that this is reflected in comparative accident rates.

In 1992, the fatality rate on SA collieries was 0.64 per 1 000 workers in service, compared with the UK (0.08), New South Wales (0.43) and the US (0.36).

The chamber says these accident and fatality rates are not comparable. Conditions differ, particularly because of a higher labour intensity in SA and because there are fewer (safer) opencast operations in SA. Fatality rates on opencast collieries in SA seem to be unavailable. Gold mines, too, are more labour intensive, often because of the nature of reefs.

The NUM argues that work practices are unsafe because "production

authority of government mine inspectors are likely to be hotly debated before the commission. Mineral and Energy Affairs deputy director Lionel Naude says overseas mining industries have many more inspectors to monitor observance of safety regulations.

In SA, inspectors are forced to spread themselves thin. In 1993, Britain had 89 inspectors per 100 000 miners, compared with 20 in SA.

One mine safety analyst says many local inspectors are also more poorly qualified than their foreign counterparts, but they are nevertheless responsible for a greater number of workers.

The chamber says it believes the commission of inquiry will "make a great contribution to the safety debate".

The NUM expects the commission to take an "in-depth" look at SA mining practices. The union wants more effective hazard control by making regulations more easily enforceable, introducing penalties which encourage safe behaviour and making accident prevention a priority.

The chamber says mining safety is a "very serious issue", and that many research projects are under way. Among these are research into seis-

mology, developing a quantitative understanding of rock mass behaviour near excavation in deep mines, developing improved strategies for mining in highly stressed areas and deep mine layout criteria. In the eyes of the NUM, these projects lack credibility.

The chamber points to improvements in the last 10 years in ameliorating the hazards of rockfalls and rockbursts through the installation of rapid-yielding hydraulic props, yielding tunnel supports, backfill-design software, environmental computer software, heat stress management, a comprehensive database of the combustion characteristics of material underground, and self-contained self-rescuers.

Further, the fall of ground campaign initiated by the government mining engineer and the Association of Mine Managers two years ago helped focus employee attention on the importance of maintaining support standards at the rockface.

The NUM, however, says SA legislation and the systems for its enforcement require an "extensive overhaul" to match contemporary international standards, and to provide effective employee participation and regulation in future.

JACQUIE GOLDING

(212)

pressures" lead to the compromising of safety standards, and there is inadequate health and safety training and insufficient worker-union representation on safety matters.

It says the greatest causes of deaths on gold mines are falls of ground and rockbursts.

Greef says safety standards often depend on specific site conditions in the planning and design stages of a mine. But the application of technology, mechanisation, labour productivity and research obviously also have an effect.

"The underground work environment cannot be easily controlled, and as a result production is more difficult and uncertain, and the risk of accident and injury to those working is greater."

Eleven SA gold mines are operating at depths of more than 2 100m, and about 10% of the workforce is employed at depths of between 3 000m and 3 500m.

The numbers, qualifications and

LETTERS

A collection of various symbols and characters including mathematical symbols like π , α , and λ , as well as decorative symbols like hearts and circles.



Uncertain future . Marcelino Kangombe has been confined to a wheelchair at the Rand Mutual mine hospital since being paralysed in a rockburst at Durban Deep in 1971. The mine is to close soon.

PHOTOGRAPH RUTH MOTAU

Hidden misery behind SA's golden heritage

As a new government commission prepares to examine mine safety, **Vuyo Mvoko** speaks to a victim of a mining disaster

AWARD at the Rand Mutual mine hospital in Johannesburg has, for nearly a quarter of a century, been "home" to paralysed migrant miner Marcelino Kangombe.

In 1971, he had been employed for only seven months when an underground rockburst at the Roodepoort Durban Deep mine left him paralysed from the neck down, sentencing him to life in an electric wheelchair.

In all the years he has been in hospital, he has not seen his wife or his son, who is now 29 years old. Kangombe left them at home in Owambo, Angola, and came to look for work in South African mines. He doesn't even know whether they are alive or dead, he has heard of the civil war ravaging Angola.

"I pray to God to save at least those two souls, so I can see them when I return."

Kangombe persistently wrote numerous letters to his family. All were returned undelivered, as letters were not delivered in the war-torn areas.

The hospital feeds him, and with the R500 disability grant he gets from the mine each month he has

bought himself a hi-fi, *mbube* music cassettes and clothes.

Speaking in fanagalo, the mineworkers' lingo, he said: "I can wear these clothes but women don't see me. My son will never be able to inherit them either."

To add to Kangombe's troubles, he has heard Durban Deep is going to close, and he does not know what is going to happen to him then. He said doctors at the hospital were concerned about sending him home because of the uncertainty in Angola. "Otherwise, me, I want to go now."

There are thousands of mine accident victims like Kangombe. Several hundred of them are to march on the Mineral and Energy Affairs' offices in Johannesburg tomorrow. They aim to highlight their plight ahead of the opening on Monday of a government-appointed commission of inquiry into health and safety standards in South African mines.

It will mark the start of the 300 000-strong National Union of Mineworkers' (NUM) mine safety campaign. Last year alone, of the 600 000 workers employed in the mining industry, 578 died and 8 532 were seriously injured in mine accidents.

Since the turn of the century, more than 69 000 mineworkers have died and more than a million have been seriously injured, according to NUM figures.

The commission of inquiry, chaired by retired judge Raymond

Leon, consists of the United Kingdom's ex-chief inspector of mines and quarries, Albert Davies, the United States's Colorado School of Mines' Miklos Salamon and South African occupational diseases specialist Anthony Davies.

After investigating the legal regulation of health and safety in mines, the commission will make recommendations to the state president on the implementation and enforcement of improvements.

After barring journalists from going underground only two weeks ago, the Chamber of Mines this week laid on a two-day programme for them, to explain the "extremely complicated nature of the NUM's recommendations".

The NUM wants mine safety to override all economic arguments put forward by the mine managements, the union said in a statement this week.

In gold mines — which employ 400 000 mainly unskilled workers — most deaths are caused by rockfalls and rockbursts. The union says underground support techniques are inadequate. Some miners work at depths of between 3 000 and 3 500 metres, more than 30 have died in each of the six major disasters that have occurred in the past 10 years.

The NUM says workers have declared war on mine managements' attitude of "work now, complain later".

The union wants workers to have the right to refuse to do work or use equipment they believe is a threat to their safety. This includes exposure to chemicals, radiation, dust, noise and fumes.

Mine safety reform could mean considerable cost for the mining industry. But the NUM's position is strengthened by a more labour-sensitive government now in power.

And with the recent readmission of South Africa to the International Labour Organisation, the government itself must now adhere to the ILO's convention on mine health and safety, which the NUM helped formulate.

■■■■■

Unions and big

business lock horns, forcing new rulers to quickly step in to defuse a growing . . .

Miners demand safer conditions

THOUSANDS of mine-workers marched on the Department of Energy and Mineral Affairs in Johannesburg yesterday morning, demanding improved safety conditions at South African mines

At the forefront of the march, organised by the National Union of Mine-

workers, were scores of disabled miners in wheel-chairs

Most had been paralysed in mining accidents and several had lost one or more limbs Others hobbled on crutches and walking sticks

Police estimated the number of marchers at 3 500

They were closely monitored by police on foot and in armoured vehicles

The march took place on the eve of a Government-appointed commission of inquiry into health and safety regulations in the mining - Sapa

LABOUR RUMBLES
... Shoprite/
Checkers workers
on Friday protested
against
management and
yesterday miners
were demanding
safer conditions.

Pic: Lucky Nxumalo



Probe into mine safety under way

The first commission of inquiry into health and safety in the mining industry in 30 years gets under way today under the chairmanship of retired judge Mr Justice R N Leon. *Star*

The commission, with three assessors — professors Miklos Salamon, Albert Davies and Tony Davies — is to investigate all legal aspects regulating health and safety in the mining industry and make recommendations to President Mandela on improvements to existing regulations. *18/7/94*

The greatest challenge facing the commission is whether its recommendations will lead to binding legislation, which will set uniform industry-wide health and safety standards, or whether it will leave these issues to be negotiated with each mining house.

The industry's two main players, the Chamber of Mines and the National Union of Mineworkers, have different expectations.

The chamber wants the commission to recommend an enabling legislative framework for the regulation of health and safety, while NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said the commission should set industry-wide standards, instead of recommending agreements to be negotiated with individual mining houses — Sapa

(212)

Support for ~~the~~
mine inquiry 212

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. —
The Chamber of Mines
yesterday expressed its
support for the Commis-
sion of Inquiry into
Health and Safety in the
mining industry.

Chamber president Mr
Jurie Geldenhuys said
there was no other issue
that generated more
concern in the mining
industry than the safety
and well-being of its
500 000 employees.

About R1,5bn had
been spent on safety
since the 1970s

CT/18/7/94

NUM blames management for accidents

CT 19/7/94

Own Correspondent

(212)

JOHANNESBURG — Mine accidents were the product of unsound management systems and weak technical programmes, Mr Edwin Cameron yesterday told the commission of inquiry into the regulation of health and safety in the mining industry.

Representing the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Mr Cameron rejected the Chamber of Mines' approach that accidents were inevitable because all mining contained the risk of human error.

Mr Cameron said accidents could be reduced by worker training and education programmes, intensified research and increased union participation in health and safety matters.

The NUM also stressed the need for a powerful and independent inspectorate to implement and maintain international health and safety standards.

Mr Chris Loxton, representing the Chamber of Mines, said the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department should continue to administer health and safety issues, as their technical knowledge could not be divorced from mine safety.

NEWS

Chamber suggests consultative body

Call for flexible mine safety reform

Stat 19/7/94

The Chamber of Mines has called for flexible regulatory reforms governing health and safety in the mining industry.

Chamber of Mines counsel Chris Loxton, SC, yesterday told the commission of inquiry into health and safety in the mining industry, chaired by Mr Justice Ramon Leon, that the chamber favoured, where possible, regulation of agreements applied at mine level.

The commission — which began yesterday in Johannesburg with assessors Professor Miklos Salamon, Professor Albert Davies and Professor Tony Davies — is to investigate all legal aspects regulating health and safety in the mining industry and make recommendations

THE COMMISSION of inquiry into all legal aspects regulating health and safety in the mining industry kicked off yesterday

to President Mandela on improvements to existing regulations (212)

Loxton said parliamentary legislation was the least flexible to change.

He said in his submission the Department of Mineral Affairs should be retained to oversee the implementation of health and safety regulations.

He also called for a consulta-

tive body with employers, unions and State representatives with an emphasis on regulatory goals that would include solutions to health and safety.

The legal representative for the National Union of Mine-workers, Edwin Cameron, told the commission that while there were areas of consensus on health and safety issues between the chamber and the NUM, there were also serious differences. The NUM wanted legislative intervention that would restructure the balance of power in the mining industry.

The appalling accident statistics in the mining industry were a reflection of the socio-economic legacy of apartheid, he said. — Sapa.

Jobless stay on mine

JOHANNESBURG — Management of Durban Roodepoort Deep gold mine on the West Rand will allow about 4 600 retrenched workers to remain on mine property while they are retrained by the Department of Manpower, provided the National Union of Mineworkers accepts its retrenchment package

(212) ARG 20/1/94

Mboweni to receive mine safety proposals

GOVERNMENT Mining Engineer Johan Raath said yesterday he would recommend to Labour Minister Tito Mboweni that he ratify the International Labour Organisation's convention on health and safety in the mining industry

Raath said this to a commission of inquiry into mine safety yesterday

He said the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department would recommend separate legislation to govern health and safety in the mining industry, to replace regulations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act

He said the department concurred with the Chamber of Mines and the National Union of Mineworkers in their suggestion for three-tier regulation of mining health and safety. The three levels are Parliament, an advisory board representing government, trade unions and employers, and fo-

rums of employers and trade unions on individual mines *Biday*

Raath also proposed a statutory mine qualifications board with representatives of the government, unions and employers to determine competency levels in the industry. The board would set examinations and issue certificates

Chamber of Mines coal mining expert witness Hendrik van Zyl said 694 coal miners had been killed in accidents between 1984 and 1993

Falls of ground had caused 33% of the deaths, machines 30%, and fires and explosions 20%

Van Zyl said there had been five major coal mine accidents in the past 11 years: at Hlobane, Newcastle in 1983, killing 68 workers, at Middlebult, Secunda in 1985, killing 27, at Ermelo in 1987, killing 31, at Middle-

bult in 1993, killing 54, and at Koornfontein this year, killing 16

He told the commission that the occurrence of methane gas explosions could not be controlled as they could be caused by a spark from the friction arising from the use of machinery *2117194*

Ventilation systems removed gas to the surface to prevent it accumulating. Coal miners were given regular lung tests *(212)*

NUM counsel Edwin Cameron said SA coal mines had a comparatively high incidence of methane gas explosions. There had been few such explosions until 1944, but a dramatic rise in the 1970s, which could be attributed to mine managements promoting productivity at all costs

Van Zyl said mining methods were more labour intensive and less mechanised before 1944 — Sapa

focus on *illness*

ALL EYES will be on the Commission of Inquiry into Health and Safety on the Mines which is sitting in Johannesburg

It is expected that the recommendations of the commission will change the record of the "bad past" in the strict implementation of health and safety measures on the mines

But what led to the establishment of this commission?

For years, the National Union of Mineworkers, one of the largest affiliates of the Congress of South African Trade Unions with more than 300 000 paid-up members, has been fighting for the establishment of the commission

The reason for this, according to NUM, was an average of 600 accidents a month or more than 20 a day, in which mineworkers were either killed or injured

While the statistics for fatalities and injuries are known, the level of disease caused by conditions in the industry can barely be estimated

During 1992 only 6 151 workers were compensated

These figures are said to be merely the tip of the iceberg

Mr Jerry Majatladi, media officer of NUM, said "Diseases such as tuberculosis are endemic in the industry and the rate of infection is several times higher for mine workers than for others in the area in which the workers reside"

He continued "The majority of black mineworkers manifest symptoms of illness once they have returned to their homes in the rural areas or neighbouring countries and are never treated for their illness, let alone claim compensation"

"The law regulating compensation for occupational diseases was explicitly racist until the end of February this year

Limited benefits

"Compensation was based on racial classification, with white workers receiving as much as 13 times more than their black colleagues working under the same conditions

"The maximum benefit that a black mine worker could receive was R5 600, while a white worker could receive much more than R60 000

"The new compensation system for accidents, while not racially discriminatory, pays limited benefits

"Many workers who are permanently excluded from the workforce receive a lump sum of a pension representing a small percentage of their earnings," said Majatladi

NUM has been at the forefront in the struggle to bring to an end this situation at the mines since it was formed in 1982

Various campaigns here and abroad were conducted to highlight the health and safety record of South African mines

When 177 mineworkers were gassed in an underground fire at Kinnross in 1986, NUM called a successful national mass protest that included workers from all industries

South African coal and gold mines employ

Swekman 25/7/94
The Commission of Inquiry into Health and Safety on the Mines is expected to show up many flaws on the mines. Labour Reporter **Ike Motsapi** discusses the background to the commission:

(212)
The law regulating compensation for occupational diseases was explicitly racist until the end of February this year. Compensation was based on racial classification, with whites receiving as much as 13 times more than their black colleagues

about 400 000 workers who are mainly unskilled

In 1992 the mining industry employed over 600 000 workers

There have been many accidents which claimed many lives over the years

In gold mines the main killing agents are groundfalls and rockbursts

Majatladi said rockburst fatality rates were related to inadequate support techniques used in the exceptionally deep mines

He said "About 10 percent of gold miners work in depths of between 3 000 and 3 500 metres underground

"These workers face a three-times greater risk of being killed than workers at lesser depths

"For example, in the major gold mining area of the PWV, 53 mineworkers died in accidents in the first three months of 1994 and half of these were rockbursts

"At current accident levels a black mine-worker who spends 20 years underground faces a one in 30 chances of being killed and one in two chances of being permanently disabled," Majatladi said

In 1993 about 578 mineworkers died in mine accidents This is more than one worker out of every thousand in the mining industry

A total of 8 532 mineworkers were seriously injured in mine accidents This is more than 15 workers out of every thousand

In 1993 the fatality rate in the South African mining industry increased from 0,62 to 2,23 for every 1 000 employees at work

"The reportable injury frequency rate in-

creased from 5,31 to 5,40 for every 1 000 employees," Majatladi said

In coal mines methane gas explosions caused deaths and injuries frequently

Majatladi said "Legislation governing health and safety in the mining industry, the Minerals Act, is totally inadequate to protect workers

"A critical review of the Act indicates that several rights of workers normally found in the legislation of mining countries throughout the world, and also in several International Labour Organisation conventions, are missing

"Workers should have the right to take part as elected representatives in equal, or greater numbers than management, on mandated safety and health committees for the mine," he said

The cost of human lives is shocking. Statistics reveal that over 69 000 mineworkers have been killed since the turn of the century and more than a million have been injured On average, each year 600 workers die in mine accidents while 8 000 others are left injured

There have been six major disasters in the last 10 years in which more than 30 workers were killed in each of them

Lives should enjoy priority

The Chamber of Mines has welcomed the establishment of the commission

Mr Justice Ramon Leon is assisted by Professor Albert Davies of Cardiff University, Professor Miklos Salamon of the Colorado School of Mines and Professor Anthony Davies, a specialist in occupational diseases

Both NUM and the Chamber of Mines agree that "it is of paramount importance that the lives of mineworkers should enjoy priority over all economic arguments"

Mr Llewelyn Kriel, spokesman for the Chamber of Mines, said, however that some of the statistics provided by NUM were misleading

Kriel said "Some of the points by NUM are being debated by the commission while some have been refuted

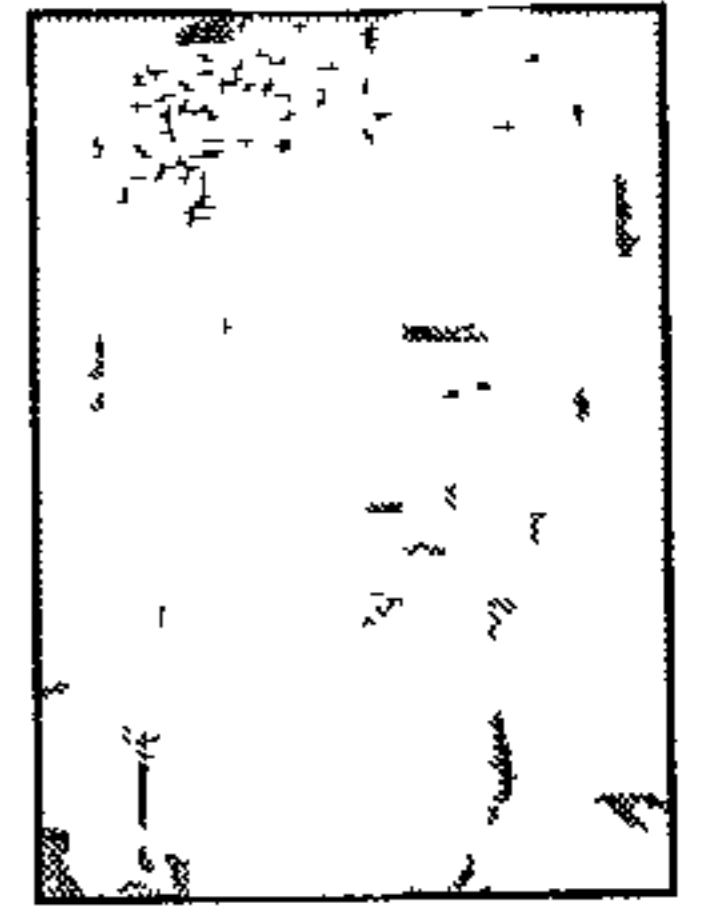
"The commission of inquiry arose after the Mining Industry Summit in 1992

"The initiative arose from that In May last year the Government agreed to the appointment of the commission

"The Government called on the industry to agree on the appointment of the chairman

"It was agreed that compensation would be held back for a separate commission

"This commission is looking only at the laws governing health and safety at the mines," Kriel said



Doctor tells of mining risks

Star 20/7/94

Mineworkers entering the industry in South Africa faced a one in two chance of being permanently disabled by accident or occupational disease, a medical expert claimed yesterday

National Union of Mineworkers expert witness Dr Jean Leger was giving evidence in Johannesburg to a commission of inquiry into mine health and safety

The commission is comprised of chairman Mr Justice Ramon Leon and three assessors.

Leger told the commission a black miner who spent 20

years underground had more than a 50 percent chance of being permanently disabled by accident or occupational disease

Hearing loss

Between 40 and 80 percent of workers would have noise-induced hearing loss after 10 years, he said

Leger has completed a doctoral thesis on rockfalls in South African mines

He said although rockfalls were a major cause of death they had attracted little re-

search

Underground work also increased the incidence of silicosis and tuberculosis and there was systematic under-reporting of occupational diseases in the mining industry, he claimed (212)

He said inadequate compensation for accidents and disease meant much of the costs were borne by miners and their families rather than the industry

Since 1983 the government had not published adequate statistics on mining accidents, Leger said — Sapa

Mining wage talks fail (2/2)

JOHANNESBURG

Wage negotiations between the Council of Mining Unions (CMU) and De Beers ended in deadlock yesterday, with De Beers refusing to abandon performance-related increases as part of its overall approach.

The CMU, which represents artisans and miners, was demanding that De Beers abandon a system agreed on in 1993 giving employees general wage increases as well as increases based on individual performance.

The CMU wanted an across-the-board 10% increase, while De Beers had offered a basic salary increase of 5,5% with a further three percent for merit increases.

Sapa

CT 26/7/94

'50% of miners face disease, accident'

JACQUIE GOLDING

ONE in two SA miners would either contract an occupational disease or fall victim to a mining accident in the course of their careers, the commission of inquiry into occupational health and safety heard yesterday. *B Day 26/7/94*

Testifying on behalf of the NUM, mining health and safety specialist Jean Leger told the commission that a black miner who spent 20 years underground had more than a 50% chance of being permanently disabled and/or contracting a disease and a one in 30 chance of being killed.

Leger said between 40% and 80% of workers would have noise-induced hearing loss after ten years underground.

Leger, who has completed a doctoral thesis on rockfalls in SA mines, said rockfalls were a major cause of death. Little research had been done although it accounted for a considerable fatalities in coal and gold mines. (212)

The commission also heard that 68 in every 1 000 workers were likely to contract silicosis, caused by inhalation of silica dust, after 15 years underground while an average of 58 out of every 1 000 workers were likely to suffer from tuberculosis after an average of 5 years underground.

AAG 26/7/94

Wage deadlock

JOHANNESBURG — Wage negotiations between the Council of Mining Unions and De Beers have ended in deadlock, with De Beers refusing to abandon performance-related increases as part of its overall approach (212)

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Mine health 'a challenge'

THE challenge facing the commission of inquiry into health and safety in mining was recommending equitable and nonracial medical intervention in prevention and early detection of work-related disease, specialist physician Neil White said in Johannesburg yesterday. 27/7/94

White told the commission, chaired by Judge Ramon Leon, that medical intervention should embrace retraining or alternative placement options for miners with work-related diseases. (212)

He said miners should be removed from high exposure areas after a time because there was evidence that a driller in a gold mine, for instance, was likely to contract silicosis after 15 years.

White said some miners were infected by tuberculo-

sis before recruitment and their conditions worsened with exposure to mines.

There was an increasing correlation of tuberculosis with length of service on mines, which could be compounded by age.

The relationship between tuberculosis and mining could be attributed to exposure to silica dust.

He said the number of benefits awarded by the Medical Bureau for Occupational Disease, to black miners suffering from silicosis was more than four to every 1 000 workers a year.

About 3 000 new cases of silicosis were certified each year, most of them from exposure to gold mining.

White said there should be regular detection tests for occupational diseases, and checks for tuberculosis.

— Sapa.

Human error in mine accidents

HUMAN error played a significant role in mine explosions such as that at the Hlobane colliery where 68 people were killed in 1983, University of the Witwatersrand mining engineering department head Prof Huw Phillips told a commission of inquiry into health and safety in the mining industry yesterday.

Phillips told the commission, chaired by Judge Ramon Leon with three assessors, that lack of proper training, inadequate supervision and deliberately not adhering to standards all contributed.

Under cross-examination by NUM counsel Edwin Cameron, SC, Phillips admitted statements he had made on the cause of the Hlobane explosion had not been based on a study of the record of the inquiry into the accident.

Phillips said it appeared scientific principles and engineering knowledge existed to prevent most explosions.

"What is needed is a better transfer of knowledge, better training methods and more effective ways of maintaining safety awareness."

He said transport and machinery caused more coal mine deaths than did explosions, but explosions generated more public in-

terest and created anxiety among mine workers.

There was a disproportionate allocation of research funding to explosions, Phillips maintained.

He said that in spite of local research, legislation on explosion protection continued to be based on research findings from countries in the northern hemisphere.

Phillips said there had been regular explosions in SA collieries, and although the average number of fatalities per ton mined or per 1 000 employees had fallen in absolute terms, there had been a worrying increase in the number of fatalities in the past decade.

"Equally telling is the increase in the number of reported ignitions and explosions, from 18 in the 1970s to 49 in the 1980s and at least 24 in the first four years of the 1990s," Phillips said.

He said the ingredients of a disastrous explosion in coal mining were forever present. But the risk could be reduced, he added, by a judicious combination of safety precautions such as good ventilation, properly maintained flameproof enclosures, and the vigilance of a trained and alert workforce — Sapa

CT 2/8/94
(212)

Call for mine labour reform

JOHANNESBURG. —
The mining industry's migrant labour system needs reforming, a commission of inquiry into health and safety in the industry heard yesterday.

Professor Francis Wilson of the Southern African Labour Development Research Unit said in evidence before the commission that the migrant labour system had deprived workers of a stable social life and caused the break-up of families.

A solution to the problem would be a system whereby workers lived with their families near the workplace, coupled with a living wage.

BUSINESS DAY, Wednesday, August 3 1994

Mine inspectors need greater skills — NUM

JACQUIE GOLDING

THE role of SA's mine inspectorate should be reviewed and mine management had to play a more active role in health and safety issues, former NUM health and safety official May Hermanus said yesterday.

Testifying on behalf of the NUM at the commission of inquiry into health and safety, Hermanus said the commission should make recommendations to change existing legislation. It should urge mine management to be actively involved and receive full training in health and safety issues.

She said "enormous" changes and progress in the industry would be made if the role of inspectors was reviewed and their expertise improved.

Inspections on mine accident scenes, locally, were often casual, with inspectors relying upon the information and documentation supplied by management.

Inspectors needed to have as good, or better, expertise than any other professional in the industry. This could be achieved, in part, if inspectors were shown the way inspectorates abroad operated.

Hermanus said legislation needed to provide the framework for a stable and equal relationship between management, unions and the state if, together, they were to define problems and find solutions.

Too much time was spent by parties

whittling away at one another's negotiating positions, Hermanus added.

She told the commission that the role of safety representatives in the industry was not defined and often conflict between union safety representatives and mine team leaders resulted in insufficient time being dedicated to safety investigations.

Hermanus, who took part in the mining safety committee — an industry level body that reports to the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department director-general — also challenged the purpose of accident inquiries.

She said inspectors often looked at the immediate cause of accidents rather than at accident trends.

Commission chairman Judge Ramon Leon, however, said the fault lay with existing legislation rather than with the inspectorate and asked whether Hermanus wanted the commission to make recommendations in this regard.

Government mining engineer Jan Raath, in cross-examination, challenged Hermanus and denied inquiry documents were not made available to unions for scrutiny. Raath said documents were available to all interested parties.

Radiation levels 'imperil miners'

ABOUT 10 000 mine workers were currently exposed to radiation levels well in excess of the average levels allowed by the industry, Council for Nuclear Safety representative Bert Winkler said yesterday

Testifying at a commission of inquiry into health and safety on mines, Winkler said many of the ores mined in SA contained elevated levels of natural radioactive elements — uranium and thorium, which had long radioactive lives — that affected workers' health.

Protection against radiation could be ensured through sound engineering practice, he said

He added that the stabilisation of the workforce in the mining industry was likely to see radiation become a severe problem

Information that 10 000 mine workers were exposed to hazardous radiation levels had been established during a survey conducted in 1992/93 by the Chamber of Mines

The dangers of radiation, which included the development of lung cancer, had been known for years while controls had only recently been put in place in SA's mines, Winkler said

The Chamber of Mines said it desired a situation where mining engineers were trained in nuclear safety to reduce radiation exposure.

Winkler said the world demand for uranium exceeded production, but in the foreseeable future, as the exploitation of commercial nuclear power gathered momentum, local produc-

Biday 418194

JACQUIE GOLDING

tion for commercial nuclear power would increase

Underground Railway Association president Johannes Vermeulen told the commission that the mining industry had to utilise and maintain rail transport effectively in order to promote safety and efficiency

Underground Railway Association president Johannes Vermeulen said technical recommendations regarding track structure, layout and construction had to be developed to improve safety

Research also had to be encouraged, he said

He added that 35 people had been killed in locomotive accidents last year

Vermeulen said the mining industry was not in the transport business by choice, but due to the tonnage transported underground being 12% more than that transported on surface track in 1989, the industry was forced to regard its transport system as a necessity

The length of the industry's track underground was also greater than that on surface in the whole of the SA, he said Efficiency and maintenance of the track had to be improved

The mining industry was therefore forced to take transport seriously while trying to make it economical, he said (212)

Locomotive accidents were rated the third highest cause of accidents underground, after rockfalls and rockbursts.

...ter courtesy talks held in Pretoria yesterday.

Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

'Mining, industry should fund occupational health'

OCCUPATIONAL health funding should not come from the state and the general tax base but the mining industry, National Centre for Occupational Health occupational division director Dr Daniel Rees said yesterday. *B/Dan*

He told the commission of inquiry into health and safety in Johannesburg he believed a unitary system was needed for health to accommodate mining and other industries. *9/8/94*

Health hazards were not confined to the mining industry.

NUM legal counsel Edwin Cameron said the commission should make recommendations for an occupational health Act separate from the current Safety and Occupational Health Acts.

Rees disagreed with this, but said there should be clear minimum statutory requirements concerning health and safety. He reiterated the need for a unitary sys-

JACQUIE GOLDING

tem of health and safety.

Council of Mining Unions representative Karel Cronje said workers should be involved in health and safety issues. More inspectors should be recruited.

Commission chairman Judge Ramon Leon said the problem was the cost of paying more inspectors.

He asked Cronje to make recommendations in this regard.

The Chamber of Mines asked the Council of Mining Unions whether it trained its members in health and safety. *(212)*

Cronje said training was given to union stewards, the majority of whom were artisans and miners.

When challenged by the Chamber, Cronje said the Council of Mining Unions did not disagree with production bonuses but added that more emphasis should be placed on health and safety issues.

NUM ballot on mine wage offer

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers is to hold a ballot over the final wage offer from the Chamber of Mines, the union said in a statement yesterday (212)

21/15/8/74
This follows the failure of the Conciliation Board to reach a settlement on August 10 after two days of discussion. Agreement had been reached on several other issues, the NUM said. NUM moved from a wage demand of

15% to 11%, while the Chamber is offering 9,25% to goldminers and 10% to coalminers. The union said the ballot result was expected in two weeks.

● PWV IFP chairman Mr Humphrey Ndlovu has called for racial integration at mining hostels.

He was speaking after IFP supporters' demands for the reinstatement of 350 Zulu-speakers fired from a Boksburg mine last month — Sapa

Mine contaminates wetland

212 WM 19-25/8/94

Paul Stober and Eddie Koch

A GOLD mine on the West Rand has contaminated a nearby wetland with radioactive materials, according to a study carried out by mining consultants.

"It is a major environmental problem which has to be dealt with," said Randgold Geology and Exploration head Mark Bristow, who headed the study.

The wetland is located 5km from Kagiso, but Bristow said there was no evidence that residents of the township face any immediate health hazards. "On the basis of what WesGold told us, the water in the wetland is not used for human consumption."

Bristow conducted the evaluation of the mine after First Wesgold's recent bid to take over Randgold. Randgold shareholders are set to make a decision on the offer on Thursday.

Randgold is using Bristow's study as part of a campaign to prevent the hostile takeover bid by WesGold's owners, Fraser Alexander. The takeover includes a proposal that Randgold shareholders should purchase the West Rand mine.

The study warned that Randgold would have to pay up to R50-million to rehabilitate the contaminated mine. This would mean containing the water from the mine and preventing it from flowing off the mine's premises, said Bristow.

Another problem identified by the study was the presence of dust, with

indications of radioactivity, blowing off the mine. The dust could increase the risk of lung cancer.

The WesGold mine, once the richest uranium producer in South Africa, has two processing plants on its premises. One is contaminated with radioactive material and has been closed, the other is still operating.

According to Bristow, it appears that radioactive waste is leaking from the southern processing plant into the drainage system which ends in the Wonderfontein wetland.

During flights to measure radioactivity on the mine and the area immediately surrounding it, Bristow's team found high concentrations of radioactivity in the wetland. In two boreholes on the southern border of the mine, the team found traces of hexavalent chrome, known to be extremely carcinogenic, and concluded that the chrome was "leaching into the property and the neighbouring water-drainage system."

First Wesgold could not be reached for comment on the report.

The National Union of Mineworkers has entered the fray by demanding that the PWV government launch an immediate investigation into the impact of radioactive waste in the mining industry on the health of workers and neighbouring residents.

The NUM is also opposed to the attempted takeover of Randgold by Fraser Alexander because it regards the latter as a mining group hostile

to organised labour. The union says Randgold has a more progressive labour-relations policy and is open to union participation in environmental rehabilitation and other health and safety issues.

"These disclosures (of radioactive contamination) provide shocking evidence of negligent disregard for the health of employees and residents alike, and an exploitative approach to mining, in which profits are reaped with scant regard for the social and environmental costs," said the NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe. The disclosure of the contamination on the West Rand follows a report by the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) that about 10 000 workers are being exposed to higher than normal levels of radioactivity in the gold mine industry.

The CNS this month told a commission of inquiry into health and safety on the gold mines that 9 600 workers are exposed to radioactive dust and gas clouds in the workplace that range between 20 and 50 milliSieverts each year. The international safety limit for radioactive inhalation is 20 milliSieverts.

Such exposures could result in a higher rate of lung tumours among mineworkers. The radioactive dust comes from uranium and a substance called thorium. Radon gas combines with these to form a toxic cloud in underground areas and reprocessing plants. All three radioactive substances are byproducts of gold mining.

New mine safety committee proposed

IN ITS closing submission to the inquiry into mining health and safety, the Chamber of Mines yesterday proposed adding a section to the Minerals Act establishing a mining regulation advisory committee

This tripartite committee would act as an advisory body to the Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister on health and safety matters in the mining industry relating to

- Determining objectives and the role of regulations,
- Rationalising regulations,
- Analysing the fiscal and social effects of

ERICA JANKOWITZ

regulations, **B/Day**
 Drafting necessary amendments for technological advances, **23/8/94**
 Promoting health and safety at mines with safety guidelines, codes of practice and special rules, **(212)**
 Reviewing regulatory requirements after major accidents and incidents,
 Assessing and evaluating technical criteria in regulations, and

To Page 2

Mine safety

B/Day 23/8/94

Reviewing regulations' effectiveness

The chamber said the commission should be flexible and should concentrate on identifying objectives to be achieved by legislation. Guidelines on health and safety regulations should be formulated within the commission, from which mines could derive their codes of practice **(212)**

The chamber clarified its position on self-regulation, saying this was not equivalent to adopting a laissez faire attitude. The state, in consultation with employers and workers, should establish a legisla-

From Page 1

tive framework within which mine managers would design systems to meet objectives "in a manner best suited" to the mine

The commission should consist of no more than 15 members appointed by the Minister, with five each from government, mine owner and worker ranks

Chamber counsel Chris Loxton said although no single reason for the persistence of high accident and occupational disease rates on mines existed, the most significant cause of avoidable accidents was a failure to implement safety procedures

Call to give unions say on safety

Sowetan 24/8/94

■ MINES PROBE Demand for

right to take part in decision making:

By Mzimasi Ngudle

THE NATIONAL UNION of Mineworkers has put forward proposals on the regulation of mining and health safety on the mines

The proposals call for workers to have the right to take part in decision making on matters affecting their health and safety

They also call for workers to have the right to information about health and safety, to refuse to do dangerous work and the right to training on health and safety matters

Commission of Inquiry

These were submitted at a Commission of Inquiry into Mining Health and Safety hearing in Johannesburg yesterday

This was after lawyers accused the Chamber of Mines of lack of interest in mining health and safety, calling for urgent state intervention in the mining

industry

Closing his argument at the hearing, National Union of Mineworkers counsel Mr Edwin Cameron said the union was concerned that senior mine officials preferred to prevail on Parliament to accept self regulation instead of giving evidence before the commission

"Where were all the people from the six mining houses comprising the chamber? Why has no one from the mines' health and safety executive given evidence? It is very disquieting," Cameron said

(212)
Cameron referred specifically to Chamber of Mines' president Mr Jurie Geldenhuys who told Parliament last week that the State's regulatory role should be confined to the minimum to ensure safe and orderly production

On the chamber's insistence on self regulatory measures on mining and health safety, Cameron said "We reject with passion such an attitude and say that urgent intervention is needed in the mining industry"

Leon probe into mine safety ends

THE Leon Commission of Inquiry into Health and Safety in Mines closed yesterday after seven weeks of investigation

Commission chairman Judge Ramon Leon is expected to make his report by the end of the year

In his closing remarks, Chamber of Mines representative Chris Laxton criticised the NUM for apparently using the inquiry as a forum to attack the chamber. Little would be achieved if it adopted such an approach in future, he said

In response to NUM criticism of the chamber's failure to call in industry leaders, he said he believed the committee was more interested in hearing practical suggestions from people on the rock face, than hearing theories expounded by the captains of industry.

He rejected proposals for greater state regulation and said the sector had more regulation than any other industry. The concept of a self-regulating industry could not be rejected just because of a few failures which had required the intervention of government engineers

The government and union representatives disagreed. The NUM argued that accident levels showed mining houses could not be trusted to regulate themselves

The Mineral and Energy Affairs Department said health and safety training had been left to mine managements but never implemented

The union's references to claims of affluence on the part of mines was countered by the chamber's argument that the industry had had to retrench large numbers of workers over the past few years, and many jobs were still "borderline"

There was criticism of the chamber's failure to give the cost of implementing its proposals, but Loxton said this was impossible until final proposals were worked out

Loxton suggested that the Safety In Mines Advisory Body investigate precisely what it was that made some mines safer than others. The questions of training and risk analysis should be studied

All parties at the inquiry agreed,

however, that changes were needed to the Minerals Act

They were unanimous in calling for the establishment of groups involving government, employers and employees to improve health and safety and ensure transparency in the mining industry

Sapa reports that the hearings may have revealed a lack of labour representation in health and safety decisions. Management made decisions unilaterally, and safety inspectors relied too much on information from management

It also emerged that the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs employed only two "people of colour" as mining industry inspectors, a black mine inspector and a coloured machinery inspector

The commission also heard that black miners were allowed to progress only to grade eight, below the level of shift boss.

It was revealed that labour representatives were often excluded from accident investigations, that for years recommendations made by investigators had not been implemented, and that accident reports had not been made public

The commission heard that the danger of polyurethane in mines had been recognised for 20 years, yet the authorities had done nothing about it

The parties agreed that methane gas levels at collieries were too high and could be reduced

Little or no statistics on occupational diseases and accidents were available from the mining houses. Legislation to correct this was proposed, as well as regulations on rockbursts and rockfalls, respirable dust, noise, truck and tram accidents, radiation and colliery explosions

Experts pointed out the problems of migrant workers, citing an increase in diseases such as tuberculosis in rural areas when ill miners returned home

The migrant labour system was also blamed for the disintegration of families. There was a proposal to do away with single-sex hostels and accommodate miners' families near the workplace

KATHRYN STRACHAN

Miners accept pay offer

PORT ELIZABETH — The National Union of Mineworkers accepted the latest pay rise offer by De Beers, but the motor industry strike headed into its fifth week as formal talks closed unresolved yesterday

NUM said in a statement that the offer was for a pay rise of between 8,5 and 9,7% (212) (213)

The union said it had reduced its demand from 14 to 12% but De Beers had increased its offer by "only 1%" and refused to offer other benefits

In a statement, De Beers said the wage offer was final and if accepted by September 8, would take effect the same month

Motor industry strikes continued countrywide yesterday with a "no comment" from both parties at the negotiation table. Talks will resume today CT 25/8/94

● Durban's King Edward VIII Hospital yesterday asked families to take their sick relatives home because of the strike by workers — Sapa

NUM 'sacrificed' Zulu miners

WM 29/7-4/8/94

The National Union of Mineworkers has not opposed the firing of 350 miners after ethnic conflict at ERPM mine, reports **Vuyo Mvoko**

A HUNDRED of the Zulu miners fired from the ERPM goldmine were National Union of Mineworkers members whom the union had "sacrificed", the workers' representative said this week.

Elias Luthuli was speaking after the failure of a last-ditch application in the industrial court on Wednesday aimed at preventing the dismissal of the 350 Zulus. Bringing the application was the obscure United People's Union of South Africa (Upusa).

The men were sacked after violent ethnic conflict at the East Rand mine had left two dead and five injured.

Accusing the strongly ANC-aligned NUM of colluding with management and of a hatred of Zulus, Luthuli said the NUM had "sacrificed" over 100 of its members in the dismissed group. "We are puzzled the NUM did not oppose the move," he said.

NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe confirmed that more than 100 of the fired workers were NUM members. While the dismissals were "regrettable" and "unfair to workers and their fami-

lies", he said, there had been clashes at the mine which had resulted in the loss of life.

Motlanthe denied the NUM had "sacrificed" members, saying the Zulus had themselves refused to be integrated with others after the clashes and subsequent "cooling-off" period. ERPM was a marginal mine that could not afford to pay workers who were not working or to be disrupted in endless conflicts.

The Zulu workers had brought in Inkatha Freedom Party leaders who demanded a separate hostel for the Zulus as a solution to the conflict, he added. The NUM had fought against the separate hostel proposal.

ERPM defended its "no-fault termination" decision, saying management could only protect lives and property by dismissing the Zulus.

"This was done with regret and in the sincere hope that the ethno-political issues that divide our society are resolved without bloodshed," it said.

ERPM public relations spokesman Martin Fallon said the Zulus were a numerically "small grouping" compared to the mine's Xhosa workers and that the NUM had agreed to the settlement. He would not comment on whether he thought the dismissal was an unfair labour practice.

The dismissals were condemned by the South African Council of Churches, which tried to mediate between the warring factions.

10% pay rise for miners

212 ARG 29/8/94
JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers and the Chamber of Mines today agreed on a 10 percent average pay rise.

About 200 000 unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled miners will get rises of between 8,5 and 13 percent

The agreement covers various improvements in working conditions, including bigger contributions by employers to employees' provident funds

NUM president James Motlatsi said he believed the union had done well for its members — Sapa

Mine wage deal 'good'

212 ~~213~~
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Miners and the Chamber of Mines yesterday described this year's wage agreement — based on an annual wage bill of more than R9 billion — as a good compromise

This goes some way towards achieving income equity while

stimulating growth and investment

But on the issue of productivity bonuses and profit-sharing schemes — introduced three years ago during an economic crisis in the industry — the parties were widely divergent

With effect from July 1, the NUM's 200 000 members at the chamber's mines will receive increases ranging from 8,5% to 10%

for unskilled gold miners and an average 10% for unskilled coal miners, to between 8% and 9,75% for skilled gold miners and 9,75% to 10% for skilled coal miners

The agreement affects an additional 200 000 workers on member mines

The chamber and Council of Mining Unions will try to resolve their wage dispute on Thursday

CT 30/8/94

Zuma warning on AIDS

Sowetan

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

2/9/94

AT least 560 000 people — of which 14 500 are babies — could be HIV-positive in South Africa today, Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday.

Speaking during her Budget debate in Parliament, Zuma said Aids was a major threat to the country's economy and health services.

She said the reported number of people with Aids as at June 29 this year was 3 909 — of which 930 had died — but said this was not an accurate reflection.

She said many people died without being diagnosed as having the disease and that doctors were "notoriously bad at reporting cases".

Pregnant women

Zuma said a better indication was a survey done on pregnant women during 1993. At least 4,25 percent of the 15 000 women tested HIV-positive, she said.

"With this background it was estimated that by the end of 1993 about 560 000 people in South Africa were infected. This included 14 500 babies."

"The tragedy is that to combat this threat a mere R22 million was allocated to Aids prevention. It is obvious that Aids calls not only for a high level of commitment from Government, but also for the introduction of effective measures to ensure that the epidemic is contained. Both of these have been sorely lacking," Zuma said.

Deaths on gold mines

Sowetan

2/9/94

FIVE miners were killed and 14 injured in rock bursts in South African gold mines on Wednesday night and yesterday.

Yesterday morning three miners were killed and 13 injured in a rock burst after a tremor at Anglo American Corporation's Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney. The deaths occurred 2,7km below surface.

On Wednesday night two miners were killed and one was injured in a rock burst 2,8km below the surface at Kloof gold mine.

The names of the dead are being withheld until their families have been told. — Sapa.



NUM supports De Beers offer

27 3/9/94
JOHANNESBURG. —
The National Union of
Mineworkers yesterday
undertook to recom-
mend its members ac-
cept a De Beers wage
offer tabled at a Conci-
liation Board meeting
earlier in the day. (212)

De Beers said employ-
ees would receive in-
creases ranging from
R93 to R253 a month, and
employees at Venetia
mine would receive mer-
it awards out of a fund
equal to two percent of
the bargaining unit's
wage bill. — Sapa (212)

Mine safety still lacking, says Gencor's Gilbertson

Biday
SAFETY was one of the mining industry's major challenges and steps taken to reduce fatalities had been inadequate, Gencor chairman Brian Gilbertson said.

Gilbertson told the Council for Metallurgical and Minerals Conference at Sun City yesterday a new initiative was needed.

The commission of inquiry into health and safety, which drew on the combined insights of the industry, unions and government, was an important step. But there were social issues that had to be addressed before any real progress could be made.

Too many workers were still living in high-density single sex hostels away from their families. There was no possibility of their becoming integrated into the mine's social support systems or identifying with the interests of the mine.

A third challenge was the effective use of the labour force, Gilbertson said.

The local industry should consider methods of building efficient and motivated working teams.

But social issues such as the disparity in education levels among mine workers, the racially structured hierarchy and the lack of a common language were likely to make

6/9/94
MICHAEL URQUHART

progress slow and difficult.

The industry had to realise some of the best mineral reserves now occurred overseas. "If SA is to prosper in the long term, it has to be able to operate wherever good reserves are found. The benefits would eventually flow back to SA," he said.

Chamber of Mines president Jurie Geldenhuys said the industry was under great pressure to achieve better productivity from its labour complement.

Poor productivity, caused by public holidays, random strikes and general labour unrest had led to large increases in gold production costs. *(212)*

A sustained reduction of inflation and the negotiation of realistic wage settlements were important to combat rising production costs.

"The industry requires a stable environment in which to operate, while government needs a strong and vibrant mining sector to support the reconstruction and development programme," Geldenhuys said.

5 killed at Western Deep (212)

CT 4/11/94

JOHANNESBURG — Five underground workers were killed, five were injured and one is missing in a rockburst at Western Deep Levels' West Mine near Carletonville on the West Rand

Reports by Staff Reporter Own Correspondent Sapa Reuter-AP and UPI

Six miners killed in earth tremor

SIX miners were killed and five injured yesterday after a localised seismic event 3 200m underground at Western Deep Levels West Mine near Carletonville, Anglo American spokesman James Duncan said.

Four of the injured men were admitted to hospital and were reported to be in a satisfactory condition.

The mine said that it was "cautiously optimistic" it would continue to improve safety conditions at the mine, having achieved 70% backfill-

ERICA JANKOWITZ

ing and improved face support in the stopes *31 Dec*

Duncan said West Mine reported 10 deaths to the end of October, seven of which were seismically related

Last year, 18 deaths were recorded, 16 of which were a result of seismic events *4/11/94*

The names of the dead would be withheld until their next-of-kin had been informed *(212)*

Health, safety neglected — NUM

BONHE NGUYAZA

A full-time position focusing on health and safety should be created within the NUM, chairman Frans Shomoilele said.

At a national health and safety conference in Johannesburg, Shomoilele said while health and safety were as important as wages and other conditions of employment, the issue had not been taken seriously as it "has never appeared on the agenda" at meetings of the NUM executive.

The NUM constitution was also silent about the role of the national chairman of health and safety on the executive committee, he said.

The NUM has signed more than 30 health and safety agreements in the

industry, since the last conference two years ago.

Shomoilele was critical of the absence of safety officers in some of the regions.

He hoped the conference would find a clear direction as to where the organisation was headed regarding health and safety.

"We should empower and develop our own safety officials currently employed."

The union said the rate of accidents in the industry "remains unacceptable". In 1993, 547 workers were killed and 7,852 injured.

BD 212

BD 12/12/94

Mines oppose end to migrant labour

(212)

PHASING out of migrant labour for the mining industry — as proposed in the ANC draft minerals policy document — would have catastrophic consequences for the mining industry and for regional stability, a Chamber of Mines spokesman said.

Migrant labour makes up 48,8% of total labour on chamber member gold mines, a total of 283 861 workers at October. Migrant workers come from Lesotho, Mozambique, Botswana and Swaziland.

In Lesotho, remittances of miners make up 55% of the GDP, and in Mozambique about 50%. About 76 000 workers come from Lesotho and 40 000 from Mozambique.

The chamber spokesman said that each miner supported seven to 10 dependants, meaning the SA mining industry supported up to 2,8-million people in neighbouring countries.

One source said the phasing out of legal migratory work would see a flood of desperate work seekers pouring over SA's borders illegally.

He said also it was not easy to find SA workers prepared to work down the mines.

The ANC document states that "the concomitant negative effects (of the phasing out of migrant labour) on neighbouring countries should be ameliorated by entering into joint

MICHAEL URQUHART

discussions with them".

The chamber spokesman said if migrant labourers suddenly had to be replaced, the mining industry would have to make a massive investment in training just to bring new workers to basic levels of competency.

A NUM spokesman said the union did not have a problem with the system of migrant labour, only with its implementation. It believed workers should be allowed to live with their families. She said migrant workers made up a large proportion of the NUM membership.

Meanwhile, the chamber reported in its latest newsletter that a settling of conditions on chamber mines during the September quarter saw an increase in productivity over the June quarter valued at R699,21/kg.

It said the increased productivity was not unexpected, given the reduction in output during the June quarter as a result of disruptions related to the election.

But a price underrecovery amounting to R666,61/kg meant mines were left with only a R32,60/kg gain in unit working profit.

The newsletter said the improvement in productivity was linked to the increase in tons produced following the weak June quarter.

MINING - ACCIDENTS

1995

JANUARY - MAY

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Miner dies in rockfall

(212)

CP 1/1/95

THE MANAGEMENT of West Driefontein mine announced yesterday that an employee died in a fall of ground on Friday

"Rescue parties are in the process of opening up the area in search of a second employee who is presumed to be dead," it said in a statement.

Three other employees suffered minor injuries and were being treated by mine medical staff.

(212) Sowetan 3/1/95
Body of miner recovered

THE body of a West Driefontein miner, who went missing after a fall underground on Saturday, has been found and brought to the surface at the weekend, the mine said in a statement yesterday. Three other employees, who had sustained minor injuries in the accident, were treated by the mine medical staff.

The management reiterated its deep regret at the accident. The name of the deceased was being withheld until his next of kin had been informed.

Accidents increase as mines focus on output

BD 13/11/95 (212)

GENEVA — Coal mining is becoming more dangerous in some countries, with up to a million serious accidents and 11 000 fatalities in coal mines worldwide each year, according to a report from the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

"The drive for improved productivity has sometimes been stronger than the drive to improve and even maintain safety standards," says the ILO report, which was presented to a two-week meeting of industry representatives in the 24-country Coal Mines Committee.

In west Germany for example, the risk of suffering permanent disability from mining is more than five times the average for all industries.

But what is disturbing, the report says, is that non-fatal accident rates in the coal mines of many countries are no longer declining, in some they are increasing, as is their severity as measured by the average number of days lost.

The major causes of accidents leading to temporary or permanent disability are over-exertion, falls and workers being struck by tools or machinery.

The main causes of fatal accidents are roof falls and explosions.

Australia's safety record is the best, with a fatality rate of 0,1 workers killed per million tons of coal mined. The US with 0,11, Britain with 0,17 and Canada with 0,18 also have good records.

By far the worst conditions are found in Turkey, where a fatality rate of 119 workers per million tons was recorded for the five-year period 1988-93. A single accident there in 1992 killed 270 miners. Pakistan's Baluchistan province has 29,9 worker fatalities per million tons, Romania 10,3,

Own Correspondent

Morocco 6,12, China 6,1 and Croatia 3,39

The ILO says privatisation will bring into focus the need to pinpoint responsibility for mine rescue.

In the UK, British Coal has hitherto provided the necessary cover and training facilities for mine rescue. That service will cease one year after privatisation.

The situation in Russia is bad. Production is falling, plant breakdowns and injuries are rising, and there is no money to buy new equipment.

Some mines are reported to have closed their safety departments, and government subsidies are being channelled into wage increases rather than safety measures.

Worldwide, the industry employs about 9,4-million coal miners. This global figure remains roughly constant, but there have been regional changes.

In central and eastern Europe, 300 000 jobs disappeared between 1988 and 1993, while 182 000 jobs were cut in western Europe. But the number of miners increased in China — which now has 5,4-million — and in Russia and Ukraine.

The ILO warns that the employment outlook is not good, particularly in the transitional economies of the former communist bloc where up to a million mining jobs and 2-million related jobs could be lost in the next ten years, or even sooner, if a programme of rationalisation similar to that of western countries is introduced.

Conditions in SA's coal industry were not included in the ILO survey as the Republic's post-apartheid admission to the organisation came only after it was undertaken — © Telegraph plc.

port

Sapoa, Cosab unite against rising crime

By **MAGGIE ROWLEY**
Property Editor

THE South African Property Owners' Association is joining forces with Cosab to mount a major campaign against soaring crime rates, which is threatening business and the country's tourism potential.

Sapoa president Colin Steyn said yesterday that Piet Liebenberg, CE of Cosab had written to President Nelson Mandela calling for an urgent meeting to address the issue.

"While many in government have spoken out against the soaring crime rate we need government to take action and we need it now if it is not spiral out of all proportion"

Liebenberg and Sapoa CE Brian Kirchmann will spearhead the initiative on behalf of the interests they represent and invite other concerned bodies to join them in formulating a strategy and a united business front to

insist that action is taken

Steyn said Cosab and Sapoa would be holding a national workshop to get input from business and other concerned bodies and together try and arrive at solutions to the massive problem

"But in the end it is up to government to act and act firmly"

Steyn stressed it was not just white middle class people or business being affected

"People regardless of race, creed or colour are victims of this appalling culture of crime developing in South Africa The time has come for business to take steps, to implement strategies in order to combat the ever increasing lawlessness prevalent in South Africa"

Compounded the crime problem, he said, was the rising number of illegal immigrants who were unemployed and a solution to this problem also needed to be found

SA develops key mine

support system

212

CT 23/2/95

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa has reaffirmed its position as a world leader in mining technology with the development of a revolutionary fibreglass support system capable of withstanding underground pressures exerted in deep level mines

A statement issued by the developers yesterday said the new system, which included a much larger load spreader for hydraulic props used to support the hanging walls of stopes, was likely to provide increased protection for miners against rockfalls resulting from seismic activity

A Verwoerdburg-based consulting firm, MMS, was commissioned by Anglo American's Western Deep Levels to develop the new headboards which improved the effectivity of hydraulic props — Sapa

SA's November mineral exports

JOHANNESBURG — The following shows preliminary figures for South Africa's exports of gold, coal, diamonds, platinum group metals, silver, chromite, copper, lead, manganese ore, zinc, uranium ore and cobalt for November 1994, received here yesterday from the Minerals Bureau of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs

The commodity is followed, unless otherwise stated, by the export volume for November 1994, then in brackets the export volume for October 1994 and November 1993, then export value for November 1994 in rands and dollars

The rand/dollar conversion uses the central Reserve Bank's average exchange rate for November of 28,25 US cents to the rand.

Gold: Production (export volume not available) 48,424kg (51,863/51,368kg), R2,124bn (\$600m)

Platinum group: 14,361kg (5,108/6,108kg), R451m (\$127,4m)

Silver: 25,072kg (10,528/18,758kg), R11,42m (\$3,22m)

Coal: 3,921 million tons (3,423/4 082 million tons), R335,01m (\$94,64m)

Diamonds: Production (export volume and value not available) 805 789 carats (995 913/843 159 carats)

Chromite: 46 233 tons (42 837/18 889 tons), R9,35m (\$2,64m)

Copper: 6 694 tons (7 766/6 819 tons), R57,61m (\$16,27m).

Lead (metal-in-concentrate) 10 131 tons (8 937/15 436 tons), R11,05m (\$3,12m)

Manganese ore: 93 190 tons (97 364/57 433 tons), R24,94m (\$7,04m)

Zinc (metal-in-concentrate) 2 514 tons (October 1994 production 6 928/November 1993 exports 2 549 tons), R2,55m (\$720 375)

2 JAN 17/3/95
**2 miners killed in
Free State rockfall**

Two mineworkers were killed by a rockfall 1 350m below surface at Anglo American's President Brand mine near Welkom in the Free State early on Wednesday morning. Their names are being withheld until their next of kin have been informed. — Sapa. (212)

Botha denies delay over mines safety report (212)

CT 27/3/95

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: The Leon Commission's report on health and safety on mines, which has led to a war of words between Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr Pik Botha and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), has been handed to President Nelson Mandela who is expected to respond to it "shortly"

Mr Botha said in a letter to the union on Friday that the report, which the union alleged had been delayed since last August by Mr Botha's "unavailability", had been handed to Mr Mandela on March 17, four days after he learned that it was ready

Mr Botha has asked the union to issue a statement correcting "the wrong impression" that he had delayed the release of the report

Gold mining fatality rate at a new low — chamber ^(2/2)

FATALITY rates for the gold mining industry last year were the lowest recorded, according to provisional statistics released by the Chamber of Mines yesterday

Fatalities on SA gold mines totalled 372 workers, a rate of 0,95 fatalities per thousand, 11% down on the 1993 figure. The previous best figure was in 1988 when the fatality rate was 0,97 **BD 30/3/95**

Chamber spokesman Llewellyn Kriel said falls of ground accounted for the majority of deaths, but there were 47 fewer deaths and 159 fewer reportable injuries from rock bursts and rock falls.

Although it was too early to draw firm conclusions from the figures, he anticipated that, among other factors, the increased use of backfill and the concentration on rockburst hazards in the industry's "safe face" campaign could further reduce fatalities from rock bursts.

Despite the decline in the fatality rate, chamber consultant John Stewart said trends in mining injury and fatality rates had been disappointing over the past decade

Speaking at the sub-Saharan oil and minerals conference, he said a new approach

MICHAEL URQUHART

was required to bring about further improvements in health and safety.

As the industry in SA had a number of marginal operations, any increase in working costs would have a direct effect on the number of jobs at risk. He said a 20% increase in SA gold mining working costs would cause as many as 130 000 jobs to be associated with uneconomical mining

Experience pointed to improvements in mining technology, methods and working practices, and the elimination of human error as the most promising avenues for major improvements in mine safety.

National Union of Mineworkers regional health and safety chairman Thomas Qhena said the first step toward real progress would be participation by workers in the shaping of safety policies. It was not possible to make mines safe by tinkering with regulations or increasing the number of mine inspectors

He described the SA mining industry as having one of the worst safety records of the Western world.

● See Page 13

Leon commission sets guidelines for improved safety

THE Leon commission of inquiry into safety and health in the mining industry yesterday called for urgent attention to be given to reducing the number of deaths, injuries and disease in the industry.

It has recommended the drafting of a new Health and Safety Act, restructuring enforcement agencies such as the mine health and safety inspectorate, establishing tripartite health and safety committees and appointing representatives on mines.

The commission, chaired by Judge Ramon Leon, was asked to investigate the

regulation of health and safety in the industry, and to recommend improvements.

It heard evidence from the NUM, Chemical Workers' Industrial Union, Sasol, the Chamber of Mines and the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department from July 18 to August 24 last year.

The parliamentary mineral and energy committee would help to process comment from interested parties, which had to be submitted by May 15.

Committee chairman Marcel Golding said the commission's recommendations provided an adequate framework to ad-

RENEE GRAWITZKY

dress the problems in health and safety. The recommendations had to be implemented as soon as possible after comment from stakeholders.

The commission recommended that the new Act "should be devoted to regulating health and safety in the mining industry" by a tripartite body, the mining regulation advisory committee. The new legislation should ensure that the existing imbalance between health and safety was corrected.

It also recommended the establishment

of a mine-health and safety council chaired by the government mining engineer and consisting of an equal number of representatives from employers, employees, mine officials and the department. The council would advise the Minister on all matters relating to health and safety and enforcement of legislation.

The commission proposed that health and safety committees consisting of an equal number of management and elected workplace representatives be established by the mine manager after consultation with workplace representatives.

Mine safety (212) 60313/95

between the type of accommodation provided and the health of mine workers. It recommended that the industry move towards family housing, but in the meantime upgrade hostels.

For example, where a mine had a life of 10 years or more, within five years hostels had to be improved to accommodate eight men per single room.

In terms of matters for further investigation, the commission said that in attempting to improve health and safety, communication had to be improved. In that light mining houses who could "move forward the national initiative in adult education" were requested to do so.

Emphasis was also placed on training with recommendations that training programmes be revamped to re-emphasise health and safety.

Other recommendations included giving prior notice to interested parties, including the NUM, for all in loco inspections of accidents; no onus of proof being placed on the accused in mining prosecutions; regulations to provide for regular health inspections of facilities on the mines; efforts

From Page 1

to control the spread of tuberculosis, and efforts to conduct a thorough examination of practices in areas in which HIV was prevalent to ensure "that the control scheme proposed has the best chance of success".

The commission suggested research conducted to prevent accidents and occupational environment should be funded by the M. & E. levies collected from the mines on the basis of a health risk factor. This would be achieved by establishing a data collection system to facilitate the mine calculation of the health risk factor.

Reports of accident inquiries should be published and attention should be given to collating data on health and safety, which should be made available to the public.

Reuter reports that the commission said the presentation of statistics on mining accidents over the past decade left much to be desired, and there was no reliable information on diseases caused by the industry.

The commission said more than 69 000 mine workers died in the first 93 years of this century and more than 1-million had been seriously injured

The committees should be consultative in nature and discuss matters either raised by management or the safety representatives relating to health and safety.

Following consultation with the workforce, the mine manager should facilitate the election of one health and safety representative for every 100 employees. The commission did not say whether the representatives should be employed full time in such a capacity.

Based on submissions by the NUM, the commission found there was a correlation

□ To Page 2

Mining safety inquiry ends (212)

AN inquiry into mining health and safety, headed by Mr Justice Leon, had completed its work and comment should reach the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs by May 15, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said yesterday.

The report by the Commission of Inquiry into Safety and Health in the Mining Industry was of great interest to the mining industry, he said in a statement.

Both the National Union of Mine-workers and Chamber of Mines had approved the commission's assessors.

The report is available from Mrs M Mulder, Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Room A8034, DRC Synodal Centre, 234 Visagie Street, Pretoria (Tel (012) 317-9055), at a cost of R60 each *sowetan*.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to the Director-General (for attention Mr T M Doyle),

Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Private Bag X59, Pretoria, 0001, by 15 May 1995.

The commission was officially announced on May 6 last year.

The Parliamentary Mineral and Energy Portfolio Committee will help process comments and evaluate the report *31/3/95*.

Botha said he would ask the committee for its recommendations — SA Press Association

Legal action likely after Merriespruit finding

Mine faces huge damages claims

STW 1/4/95

(212)

SHIRLEY WOODGATE and SAPA
MINING consultants Fraser Alexander and Randgold's Harmony Gold Mine, whose officials were yesterday found responsible for the 1993 Merriespruit slimes disaster, now face the possibility of multimillion-rand damages claims.

Prominent lawyers say massive legal action will probably be instituted against the two organisations after Mr Justice Dirk Kotze yesterday found six staff employed by the two organisations criminally liable for the disaster which claimed 17 lives on the night of February 22 last year.

The 192-page findings of the commission of inquiry headed by Mr Justice Kotze and two assessors were heard over two days in Virginia Magistrate's Court.

Theuns Lind, employed by both Fraser Alexander and Harmony Gold

See Page 3

Mine, and senior employees Johan Mouton, the mine company's deputy manager in charge of slimes dams, regional manager Frikk Botha, foreman A.J.J. Uys, superintendent R. Bantjes and B. Avron-Jones were found guilty of gross negligence.

Mr Justice Kotze said the families of the 17 victims could charge them with manslaughter. If this happens, Harmony Gold Mine and Fraser Alexander will also be in the firing line.

Earlier the court was told how the officials had lied and in some cases colluded over their evidence. Mr Justice Kotze accused top officials of ignorance, dereliction of duty, laziness and incompetence.

He said warning signals had been ignored for almost two years. When the dam wall eventually burst, Mouton had his hands in his hair in incap-



AFTERMATH: A year after a torrent of slime avalanched through the streets of Merriespruit, municipal worker Flip Mabula sifts through the rubble of a devastated house. Large-scale legal action against Harmony Gold Mine is thought likely. PHOTOGRAPH MYKEL NICOLAOU

stood with his hands in-
able of stopping the ava-
lanche of sludge which
ran up to 4 m deep
through the village below
the high-risk slimes dam.

While the six senior of-
ficials took the full rap,
few employees of either
company walked out of
the hearing with their re-
putations intact

The main reasons for
the disaster included the
continued dumping of
sludge in the M4 dam de-
spite repeated warnings
that serious problems had
developed.

These included the for-
mation of a pool of water
on the northern side, the
side above the Merrie-
spruit village.

The sluice gates were
not operating properly
and the dividing wall be-

◆ Dam disaster

tween the dams had dis-
appeared. Continual
pumping into the dam had
resulted in the disappear-
ance of the freeboard on
the northern side of the
dam.

The wall was perman-
ently wet and stress signs
had been visible long be-
fore the catastrophe. The
last straw was a heavy
shower of rain.

No action had been
taken to halt dumping or
to close down the dam, Mr
Justice Kotze said.

A year before, not far
from Merriespruit, there
had been a slimes dam ca-
tastrophe at the Saaiplaas
mine in the Free State
Both mines are owned by
Randgold.

Gary Rae, chairman of
Fraser Alexander's tail-

ings division, said yester-
day his company sym-
pathised deeply with all
who had lost family,
friends or property in the
Merriespruit disaster. The
findings of the inquiry
would be carefully consid-
ered by his company, it
which was reserving its
rights with regard to any
further proceedings.

Fraser Alexander had
joined Harmony Gold
Mine in establishing a
R10-million fund to expe-
dite the settlement of
claims for uninsured prop-
erty losses.

Dan Jordaan, general
manager of Harmony, said
the loss of life and proper-
ty in the Merriespruit di-
saster was a matter of
abiding sorrow to all asso-
ciated with the mine

Stev 114175

Mine firms may pay ⁽²¹²⁾ R70-m over ^{ARG 3/4/95} slime deaths

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Mining consultants Fraser Alexander and Randgold's Harmony Gold Mine are bracing for more legal battles after six company officials were held responsible for the 1993 Merriespruit slimes dam disaster.

Seventeen died when a slimes dam wall burst, sending an avalanche of sludge up to 4m deep through the village

Expert opinion was that claims arising from the disaster would not exceed R70 million.

In the Virginia Magistrate's Court, Mr Justice Dirk Kotze said the families of the victims could now lay charges of manslaughter.

Officials cited were Theuns Linde, employed by both Fraser Alexander and Harmony Gold Mine, Johan Mouton, the mine company's deputy manager in charge of slimes dams, regional manager Frik Botha, foreman A J J Uys, superintendent R Bantjes, and B. Hetton-Jones.

The judge said sludge was dumped in spite of repeated warnings of a pool of water forming above the village

Radioactivity found in mines

(212) CTS/4/95

RADIOACTIVE contamination had been found at 30 sites in the Gauteng and Free State goldfields, the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) said in its annual report which was tabled in Parliament yesterday

It said another eight sites in Phalaborwa were contaminated

The CNS said surveys of 105 sites were made last year after

Britain rejected a contaminated consignment of scrap metal from a South African company

"On 15 sites there were contaminated items which required removal in a controlled manner"

The mining industry gave R5 million for investigations and control measures at sites elsewhere in the country, the report said — Sapa

'Faulty' gear endangers miners

CT 21/4/95 (212)

JOHANNESBURG. Mine unions said yesterday over 40 000 miners could be at risk because of faulty safety equipment

A statement by the National Union of Mineworkers, the Mine Workers Union, the Council of Mining Unions and the Underground Officials Association of SA said some "self-rescue" packs used

in areas of fire risk were unreliable. These packs contain chemicals which convert into breathable oxygen when the pack is activated

The unions said tests conducted over the past three years had "shown that one brand of the packs, the cheapest and most widely used, deteriorates almost immediately underground" — Reuter

Star 2/14/95

'Mine safety devices faulty'

More than 40 000 miners were at risk because a cheap safety device which provides emergency oxygen was faulty, mining unions claimed yesterday. They said the defective device, called a self-rescuer, deteriorated underground. The unions called on the Government Mining Engineer to instruct all mines to review their escape procedures. A Chamber of Mines spokesman said the defects found presented serious problems not immediately solvable —

Sapa (212)

Two dead in W Tvl mine rockfall

Rescue workers have recovered the body of an employee killed in a rockfall at Western Deep Levels West Mine near Carletonville.

Mineowner Anglo American said the recovery yesterday brought to two the number of

(212)
employees killed in the accident. Two others were injured and were recovering in the mine's hospital.

The rockfall, 3 000m below surface, followed a seismic event measuring 3,6 on the Richter Scale — Sapa.

Blaw 25/4/95

(212) STAN 27/4/95

Rockfall kills four gold miners

Four miners were killed in a rockfall at Freegold's Western Holdings gold mine near Welkom in the Free State yesterday. A miner injured in the accident was in a satisfactory condition, mine owner Anglo American Corporation said. Two bodies were found early yesterday and the bodies of two men who had been missing were found by rescue workers in the afternoon. The rockfall occurred at the mine's No 4 shaft about 1 900m below surface after an earth tremor measuring 2,5 on the Richter scale — Sapa

BO 28/4/95
(212)

Mine rescue-pack makers react to union's criticism

SEVERAL self-rescue pack (ResQpac) manufacturers supplying the mining industry have reacted strongly to reports that mineworkers were being supplied with cheap and ineffective packs, because of the impression that self-rescuers were of similar quality.

ResQpacs, in terms of the Minerals Act, are supplied to miners who work in areas in coal, gold and platinum mines where the risk of fire is high.

According to the Mineral and Energy Affairs Ministry, about 129 700 units which are in use in the industry were being supplied by six companies.

Drager South Africa, one of the largest suppliers, said it was aware that some competitor units had been functioning unsatisfactorily. But the statement made by the unions was "generalised and undoubtedly does not apply to all".

The ministry, in response to claims by mining unions that it had known about the problems for a number of years, said problems with the units become known in 1993,

RENEE GRAWITZKY

but the seriousness of the problem only manifested itself at the end of 1994.

In 1993, a research project under the auspices of the Safety in Mines Advisory Committee (Simrac) was conducted on ResQpacs and the results forwarded to the relevant mines.

"It was during this period that certain makes of these units manifested problems with their ability to scrub carbon dioxide," the ministry said.

The ministry said the original equipment manufacturers were notified and modifications made, but some units continued to display similar problems.

The department took action to address the problems, the ministry said.

The ministry said "self-rescuers are a second line in the defence against the presence of noxious gases". There was a fully fledged, effective and operating carbon monoxide detection system which warned miners immediately.

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EMPLOYEES of Rossing Uranium are to have greater say in safety measures after an agreement between management and the Mineworkers' Union of Namibia. Management and the union said the settlement was a first for the Namibian mining industry, but "not perfect"

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Locomotive plunges six levels on to cage, 100 men feared dead

Orkney mine disaster

Up to 100 miners are feared dead at Anglo American's Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney and rescue efforts are being hampered by damage to the shaft after a locomotive and carriage plunged down and crashed on to a lift cage laden with mineworkers.

Mine spokesman James Duncan says rescuers have reached the mangled steel and bodies through the next shaft, Number 5, and have reported on damage to the double-decker cage that was carrying about 100 miners.

The locomotive and carriage — a train for carrying both miners and equipment — were on Level 56 when they smashed through four lines of safety devices.

They fell on the laden cage on Level 62 about 1700m underground. The hawser on which the cage was suspended snapped and plummeted more than 500m to the bottom of the shaft.

The locomotive was not manned when it began to move on 56 Level and the shocked houses the State and unions draft a new health and safety Bill.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said investigations into the causes of the accident had already started.

"It is clear that in this accident the human factor must have played a role the cause cannot be attributed to a natural

THE locomotive and carriage which carries miners and equipment smashed through four lines of safety devices

Work is now under way to repair the shaft above the crashed cage so rescuers can descend directly to the tangle of steel at the bottom of the shaft. When this task has been completed it will be safe for rescue workers to reach the 100-person capacity cage.

Only a small number of people are down there now, said Duncan. Space is very restricted. All the steel work in the shaft is managed and loose. We are not optimistic that anybody will be found alive. There are apparently no signs of life.

About 400 workers working underground at number 2 shaft at the time of the accident were being brought to the surface via number 5 shaft.

Mine management expected to know later this morning the identities of the people in the cage.

Duncan said the four lines of defence the locomotive crashed through were a boom, a vertical steel bar, a hole-like trap and gates.

The locomotive dropped over the edge of 56 level and collided with the cage full of miners, causing the rope to snap and sending the cage hurtling to the bottom of the shaft.

The locomotive and carriage are jammed in the shaft. Production on the mine is expected to be severely hampered.

Those concerned about the safety of a family member or relative may telephone the mine's 24-hour hotline (018) 478-2574 — Staff Reporters Sapa.

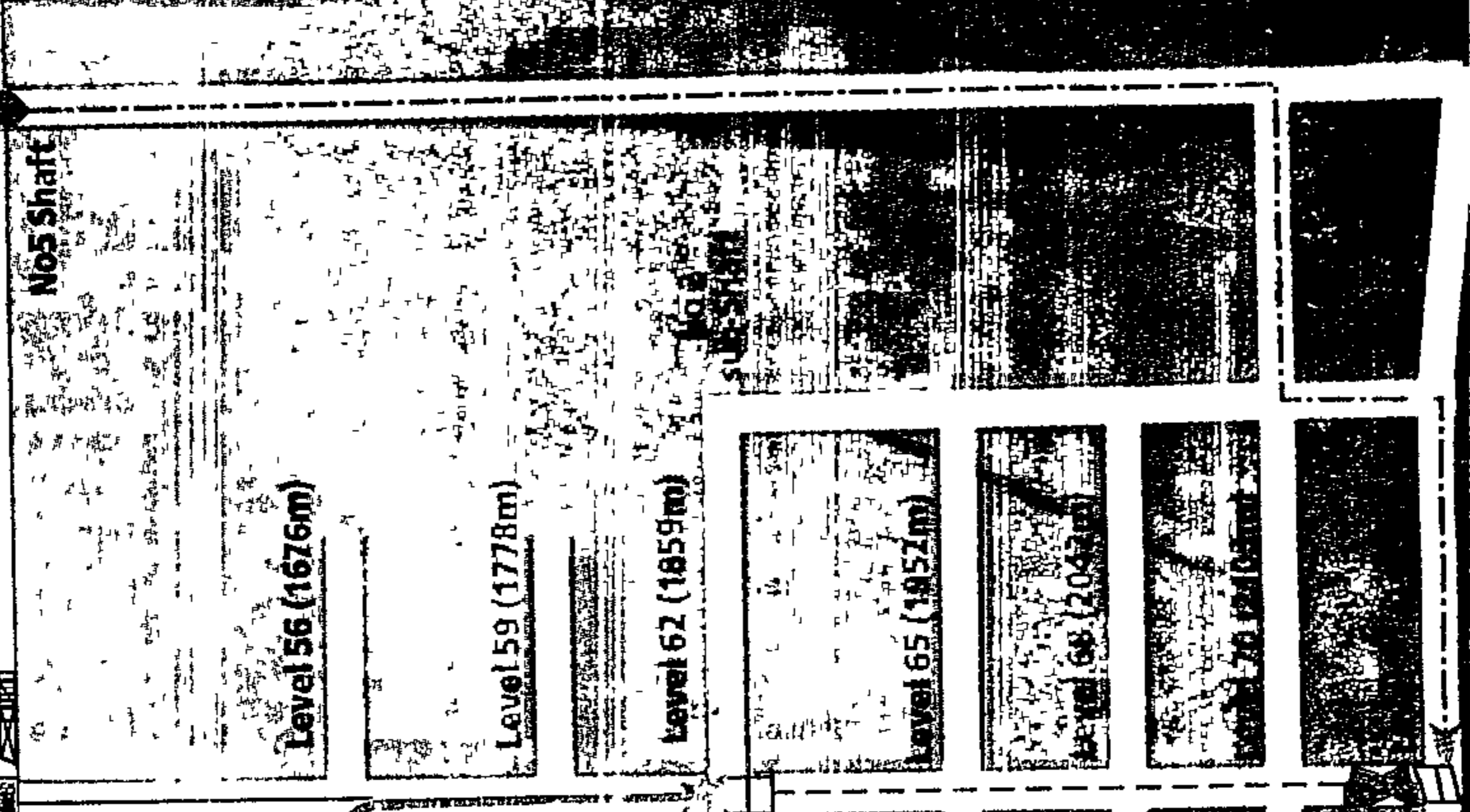
Vaal Reefs

- No 2 Shaft**
- 1 Boom
 - 2 Vertical steel bar
 - 3 Trap hole
 - 4 Gate

Unmanned locomotive and carriage smash through devices and fall down shaft

At level 62 locomotive lands on top of double-decker lift carrying 100 men

Rescue team of 12 went down here



Rescue team of 12 went down here

No 5 Shaft

Level 56 (1676m)

Level 59 (1778m)

Level 62 (1859m)

Level 65 (1957m)

Level 68 (2043m)

Everything crashes to bottom of shaft

'Hit squad' intercepted on mission

BY ANNA COX

Parkview police arrested four men believed to be a 'hit squad' on its way to attack a Johannesburg taxi rank yesterday.

Parkview police spokesman Warrant Officer Ian Loubser said the men were arrested in Emmarentia when they were stopped at a police roadblock.

They were carrying illegal firearms and had a 'hit list' of 20 registration numbers for taxis belonging to members of the Alexandra Taxi Association (ATA), Loubser said.

Police believe they could be connected to the assassination of an Alexandra taxi driver in Hyde Park on Saturday.

The ATA and the Faraday Taxi Association are disputing the route from Randburg to Noord Street in Joubert Park.

Alexandra drivers went to the Parkview police station on Monday and demanded protection. They gave the police descriptions of cars possibly involved in the shootings.

Police patrols were placed on the route and cars fitting the description were randomly stopped at roadblocks.

The men arrested were driving a stolen car.

We believe this was a hit squad. We found a list in their possession with a description and registration numbers of 20 Alexandra taxi drivers," Loubser said.

Four men were due to appear in court today.

Over 8 000 casualties in thousands of mine accidents last year

According to figures released to Parliament this month, 485 people died and 7 899 were injured in 8 039 accidents on South African mines last year.

The Leon Commission into health and safety on the mines — the first of its kind in more than 30 years — sat for six weeks from July 1994. It took mining houses to task over poor health and safety records, and recommended that a new

The locomotive could not have acted as it did had it been properly controlled."

Botha added that he had 'learned with deep shock of the accident'.

On behalf of the South African Government I wish to express my deepest sympathy and fellow human feeling with the next of kin, many of whom have yet to learn even as to whether or not they have lost someone dear to them.

100 Mine Shaft Workers

(212)

100 feared dead as loco crashes on to workers

AP 4/11/51 195

● President Mandela said he was deeply shocked by the accident

He had been briefed by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pk Botha and had discussed the matter with Mr Motlatsi

"Apart from regretting the incident, we should expect any comment only after all the facts are known," he said

Mr Botha was on his way to the Vaal Reefs mine near Orkney and would brief him again later, Mr Mandela said

● The Mineworkers' Union has called for an independent investigation into the disaster

Union secretary Flip Buys said the inquiry had to be launched as soon as possible

The accident showed the necessity of

'Just body bags of human flesh'

VAAL RELIEFS — Bodies on stretchers were brought to the surface by shocked rescue workers today

The mangled bodies, wrapped in blankets and plastic body bags, were taken from Shaft 2 to a small office at the entrance to Shaft 5 about three kilometres away—where they were to be identified

"They are body bags of human flesh," one mine official said

James Duncan, a spokesman for mine managers Anglo American, said management was still trying to identify miners

JOHANNESBURG. — Rescuers deep underground today started to remove bodies from a crushed lift cage where about 100 miners were feared dead, Vaal Reefs mine managers said

"Regrettably there is very little chance that anyone has survived," mine regional general-manager Dick Fisher said

An electric locomotive and carriage operating about 1700m below the surface fell down the Number 2 shaft onto the double-tiered lift cage carrying about 100 miners to their shift last night

"Rescue workers have managed to work their way along 3km from Shaft 5 to Shaft 2 and have started bringing some bodies to the surface," said Mr Fisher

He said the train went through several safety devices "and jumped a rail — which changed its direction — and it then fell down the shaft. At the same time, the double-decker carriage was going down the shaft"

Mr Fisher said the locomotive driver survived, having jumped free. He was being treated in a mine hospital and was under sedation

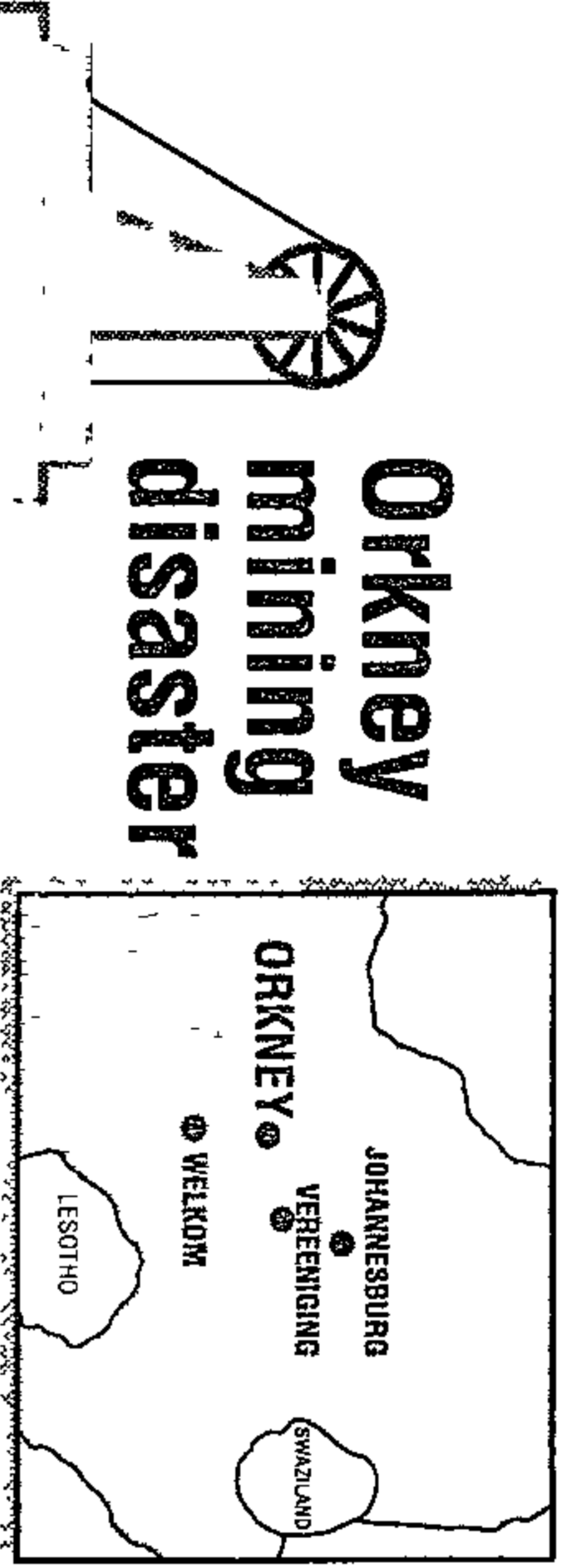
"He is suffering from shock and has been unable to tell us what went wrong," Shaft 2 produces about 27kg of gold a day, but production stopped after the accident

Mr Fisher said the identities of the dead mineworkers were unknown

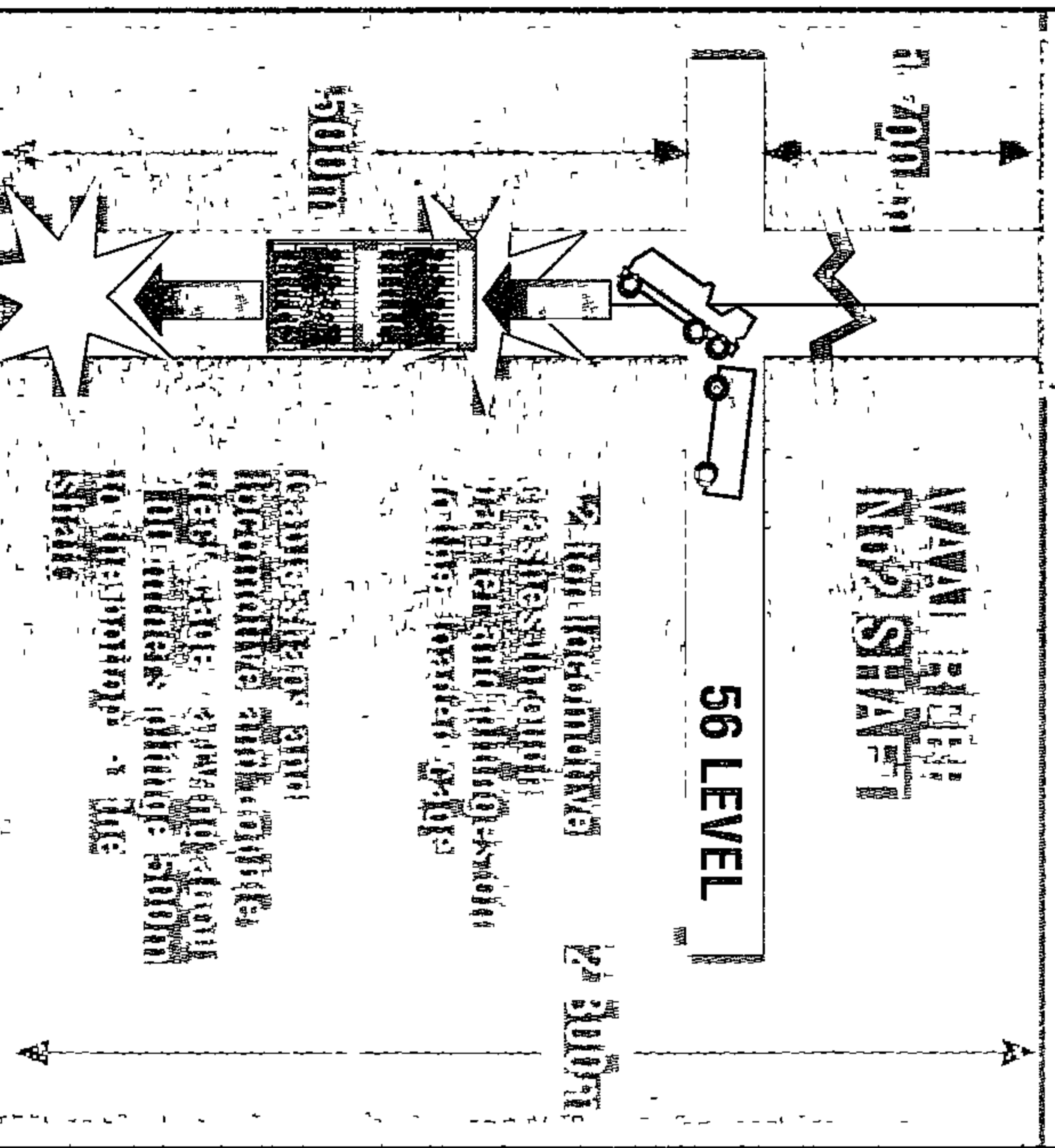
"We can merely speculate on who was in the cage"

Three senior National Union of Mineworkers' officials, including Num president James Motlatsi, arrived at the shaft today and were expected to hold a news conference later

Clem Sunter, chairman of Anglo American's gold division, arrived at the shaft by helicopter just after 10am



Orkney mining disaster



Graphic BOB GRIERSON The Argus

NUM blames Anglo for 'inexcusable' tragedy

ORKNEY — The National Union of Mineworkers says there is little chance of finding survivors of the Vaal Reefs mine disaster.

NUM president James Motlatsi, who blamed the disaster on mine owners Anglo American, yesterday demanded compensation for the families involved. The accident was inexcusable as the company had been negligent and had not observed safety precautions, he alleged.

"More than 100 people — who are breadwinners and who have families — cannot be seen anymore. This is a great tragedy."

20 12/5/95 (212)
Motlatsi said it would be a matter of procedure for the union to file a complaint with Anglo American.

However, "there is nothing to inquire about — they cannot explain why this happened."

The entrance to the mining area displays a sign reading "safety is our number one concern."

The ANC meanwhile has backed the call by Cosatu for the disaster to be investigated by an independent commission.

The ANC said that since 1909 the country had had 13 major mine di-

sasters, and this was too much.

There was an urgent need for a commission into mine safety and for new, stringent regulations "to bring the sorry train of death and injury to an end."

"To this end the ANC supports the call by Cosatu for an independent commission of inquiry into the Vaal Reefs mine disaster to determine safety standards and whether any person is culpably liable."

The government should consider declaring a day of mourning, it said — Sapa

Accident highlights the dangers of deep mining

(212)
BD 12/5/95
THE disaster at Vaal Reef's gold mine in which up to 100 people were feared killed on Wednesday night highlights the dangers facing workers in some of the world's deepest mines

Mining companies say more than 69 000 miners had been killed and more than 1-million injured in SA mines between 1911 and last year

The Mineral and Energy Affairs Ministry said yesterday 485 people were killed in mine accidents last year, compared to 586 in 1993.

The number of deaths in SA mines has shown a steady decline since 1993 when the industry said between 700 and 900 miners were killed and 15 000 injured in mine accidents every year.

Some of the worst accidents in recent years are.

- 1993 Methane gas blast at Middelbult colliery, east of Johannesburg, kills 53,
- 1990 Methane gas explosion in Ermelo, east of Johannesburg, kills 35 workers,
- 1990: Earth tremors rock the Western Deep Levels and the Buffelsfontein gold mine, killing 12 miners,
- 1987: Explosion kills 62 at St Helena mine, Welkom,
- 1987: Methane gas explosion at Ermelo colliery kills 34,
- 1986: Fire kills 177 at Kinross gold mine,
- 1983 Methane gas explosion at Hlobane colliery kills 68; and
- 1980: Thirty dead in lift cage fall at Vaal Reefs — Sapa-Reuter.



Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha, top, arrives at Vaal Reefs gold mines in Orkney yesterday to meet officials to discuss the disaster while, above, rescue workers bring bodies to the surface
 Pictures ROBERT BOTHA

Politicians, businessmen and unions call for urgent inquiry

POLITICAL leaders and the mining industry yesterday expressed shock at Wednesday night's disaster at the Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney in the Northwest, in which up to 100 people are feared to have been killed.

An underground locomotive and carriage plunged down the mine's number two vertical shaft, crashing on to the top of a cage carrying a full load of night-shift workers.

President Nelson Mandela said he was deeply shocked by the news of the disaster.

"It is a very shocking affair — but I would like to reserve comment until the facts have become clear," Mandela said at a news briefing.

He said he had discussed the disaster with both ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa and Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha.

Botha said he had "learned with deep shock of the accident."

"On behalf of the SA government I wish to express my deepest sympathy and fellow human feeling with the next of kin, many of whom have yet to learn whether or not they have lost someone dear to them."

"The regional director of my department is on the scene."

Botha said the investigation into the causes had already started, and "will be made known as soon as the

investigation has been completed.

"I am making arrangements to visit the mine today to personally appraise myself of the situation."

The Mineworkers' Union called for an independent investigation into the disaster. Union secretary Flip Buys said the inquiry had to be launched as soon as possible.

Cosatu general secretary Sam Shilowa blamed inadequate safety standards for the disaster.

He also called for an expert independent inquiry.

Mineral and energy affairs select committee chairman Marcel Golding said the accident demonstrated the "urgent need to enhance safety reform and minimise deaths in the mining industry" and added his voice to calls for an urgent inquiry.

Northwest premier Popo Molefe said mine owners had to re-evaluate safety in light of the tragedy.

Chamber of Mines president Alan Munro expressed "deep shock" and extended condolences on behalf of the chamber's members to the bereaved.

He said the chamber and its members had offered their full support to the Vaal Reefs recovery operations.

CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg expressed sorrow and extended condolences to friends and relatives of the victims on behalf of the CP.

The NP was shocked by the tragedy, mineral affairs spokesman Melt Hamman said.

The NP trusted that the cause of the accident would be established swiftly, because the mining industry could not accommodate such incidents, he said.

"It is necessary for the mining industry and for the national economy that the industry maintains an unimpeachable safety record."

The Leon commission of inquiry into mining safety, which was finalised in March, was very timely and the NP trusted all role players would urgently co-operate with the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department to implement its recommendations.

DP leader Tony Leon expressed his "shock and deep regret."

"Our hopes and prayers are with the trapped and injured miners and we extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those who have been killed," he said.

The appalling accident had highlighted Parliament's need to give urgent and sustained attention to the implementation of the Leon commission's report, Leon said.

People concerned at the possible involvement of a relative in the accident can call the 24-hour hotline for assistance on (018) 478-2574 — Sapa

BD 12/5/95 (212)

Rescue team

Searching for

BD 12/5/95

(212)

105 missing

ONE hundred and five miners were unaccounted for at Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft near Orkney in the Free State, Anglo American's Clem Sunter said last night after the biggest mine disaster since Kimross in 1986

Proto teams were continuing to recover those smashed in a cage underground, but identification was proving difficult because of the degree of maulation

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said after visiting the scene yesterday that it "defied description we saw a mash of human flesh mangled with metal"

The cage going down to 62 level on Wednesday night was compressed from 3m to 0.5m after a locomotive and man carriage on 56 level plunged down the shaft and crashed on to the cage

Motlanthe said the accident was "without any doubt the result of human error and negligence", he said

RENEE GRAWITZKY
and all other workers was a matter of serious concern

The reason for the locomotive smashing through several safety mechanisms was unclear as the locomotive driver was still under sedation last night

Management and the union agreed it was inexplicable that the locomotive was stationed in the shaft farm area. Signs

Acting government mining engineer Dirk Bukker said it was the responsibility of mine management — and others — to ensure health and safety on the mine

Mineral and energy parliamentary committee chairman Marcel Golding called for an inquiry into the incident and said steps should be taken to ensure it did not

Disaster

(212)
BD 12/5/95

happen again. Golding said the "tragic incident" called for urgent action in implementing the recommendations of the Leon commission report into mine safety released on March 30.

Sunter said Anglo was doing all it could to improve safety on mines, a matter "which needed the commitment of both management and employees". Anglo would seek to implement the Leon commission's recommendations.

An NUM spokesman said it was the first time the union had been involved in investigating a mine disaster from the outset. The Labour Ministry urged "parties including government to consider the implementation of these recommendations as a matter of urgency"

Motlanthe said there should be no further delay in terms of the implementation of the commission's recommendations. Federal and the Underground Officials' Association also called for the finalisation of discussions on the commission.

From Page 1

families and dependants of mine workers killed would be paid out 36 times the monthly salary of the individual. NUM president James Motlatsi said in this instance a penalty should be imposed on the mine.

In the case of the Kimross disaster, when 171 miners died, the plate welder found guilty of causing the methane explosion was fined R100 or R50 for two contraventions of the regulations of the then Mines and Works Act

Production at No 2 shaft, which has the highest grade of ore of all Vaal Reef shafts, has stopped and will probably resume only in three to four weeks' time. This will result in the loss of millions.

Vaal Reefs mine manager Mike Prinsloo said yesterday the rescue operation was expected to take two to three days. Proto team member Garth Ellis described the remnants of the cage the miners died in as "just a heap of mangled steel"

The accident scene was gruesome. The bottom of the pit was "full of blood and water". He was shocked when he arrived at the bottom of the shaft because it was the worst mine accident he had seen.

● Pictures and reports: Page 6
● Comment: Page 10

To Page 2

Special motion of condolence supported by all parties in the House

Mandela calls for national mourning

Star 12/5/95

(212)

STAFF REPORTERS and SAPA

President Nelson Mandela has described the mine disaster as "deeply shocking to our whole nation" and expressed the Government's support for calls for a national day of mourning.

Many of the miners at Vaal Reefs are Mozambican, and the country's President Joaquim Chissano — who happens to be in Johannesburg for a conference — mourned the loss of life and called for improved safety measures.

"Mozambican miners have been working at the risk of their lives in this country," he said. "They bring lots of profit to the owners of the mines. We ask the responsible people to strengthen security measures in mines."

Political parties and trade unions across the spectrum joined Mandela in expressing dismay at the tragedy.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said at the pithead yesterday. "From my point of view it is a national disaster. It would appear that an independent inquiry needs to be called."

Botha said he had spoken to Cosatu secretary-general Sam Shilowa to invite the unions to nominate representatives to join the inquiry.

He said the recommendations of the Leon Commission of Inquiry into mine safety would have to be implemented soon.

"It is not good enough merely to say it (mining) is a dangerous occupation. We have a duty to

ensure that the maximum safety regulation and implementation must be fulfilled," he said.

The African National Congress said in a statement there was an urgent need for a commission into mine safety and for new, stringent regulations "to bring the sorry train of death and injury to an end."

Cosatu and the NUM later joined the ANC in its call for a day of mourning.

Deputy President F W de Klerk said the accident highlighted the need for all involved to do everything in their power to ensure the safety of miners.

Democratic Party leader Tony Leon expressed shock and deep regret at the accident.

It highlighted the need for Parliament to give urgent and sustained attention to the implementation of the Leon Commission of Inquiry, he said.

The National Party also expressed shock. Mineral Affairs spokesman Melt Hamman said the NP trusted that the cause of the accident would be established swiftly, because the mining industry could not afford such incidents.

In Parliament, the tragedy and the contribution to the country's economy by thousands of miners were recognised during a special motion of condolence.

The motion, moved by the National Party, was supported by all parties in the House.

Pan-Africanist Congress leader Inkosi X said his organisation was deeply saddened by the disaster.



Catastrophe . rescue workers carry the first of the victims' bodies to the surface at the Vaal Reefs mine yesterday. At least 105 are feared to have died in the cage fall

PICTURES PETER MOGAKI

No 2 shaft disaster 'one of the worst'

(212)

Star 12/5/95

With 106 mineworkers reported missing, Wednesday night's disaster at Vaal Reefs' No 2 shaft ranks as one of SA's worst mining accidents this century.

It is estimated that about 69 000 miners have been killed and more than 1-million injured in SA mines between 1911 and 1994.

Vaal Reefs' latest disaster highlights the call

by last year's Leon Commission of Inquiry into Safety and Health in the Mining Industry for the immediate drafting of a law to improve the industry's "unacceptable level of death and injury."

The commission called for the law to be drafted by workers, management and Government — a right for which unions have long fought. The Ministry of Min-

eral and Energy Affairs said yesterday that 485 people were killed in mine accidents last year, compared to 586 in 1993.

Most of the fatalities were in gold mines — 372 in 1994 and 426 in the previous year.

The number of deaths in SA mines has shown a steady decline since 1993 when the industry said between 700 and 900 miners were killed and

15 000 injured in mine accidents every year.

But the commission stated the statistics of mining accidents of the past 10 years as "leaving much to be desired."

Mining analyst Duncan Ingram said shaft accidents, such as that at Orkney, happened rarely as mine managements had worked hard to improve safety standards in those areas.

I'm afraid even to think about it, says miner

BY JUSTICE MALALA

On the surface at Vaal Reefs yesterday, workmates of the dead were in shock, with many of them unable to voice their thoughts about the tragedy.

Samuel Khahhazile, who has worked at the mine for 14 years and was one of the 400 who went down Shaft No 2 before the accident on Wednesday night, knew nothing about it for hours.

"I do not know if I will be going back to work again," he said. "This is one of the worst things that has ever happened in my life. I am afraid to even think about it."

"We did not hear a thing, no noise or anything at all. It was only at about 2.50am when we went to the carriage to get back up that we heard there had been an accident. I was scared because this was the same kind of lift that had killed my colleagues."

Sibusiso Ndaba said he had heard about the accident at midnight.

"It was bad, really. As an official in the mine I am allowed to move around, so we went to Level 70 and walked across to Shaft 2 to see if we could help, but could not see anything. For me it was a bad experience, just knowing that if they could die like that, then it could easily be me very soon," he said.

Bereng Maitheeng could not believe that such a tragedy could happen near him.

"We are bleeding inside," he said.

'SA mining riskiest in the world'

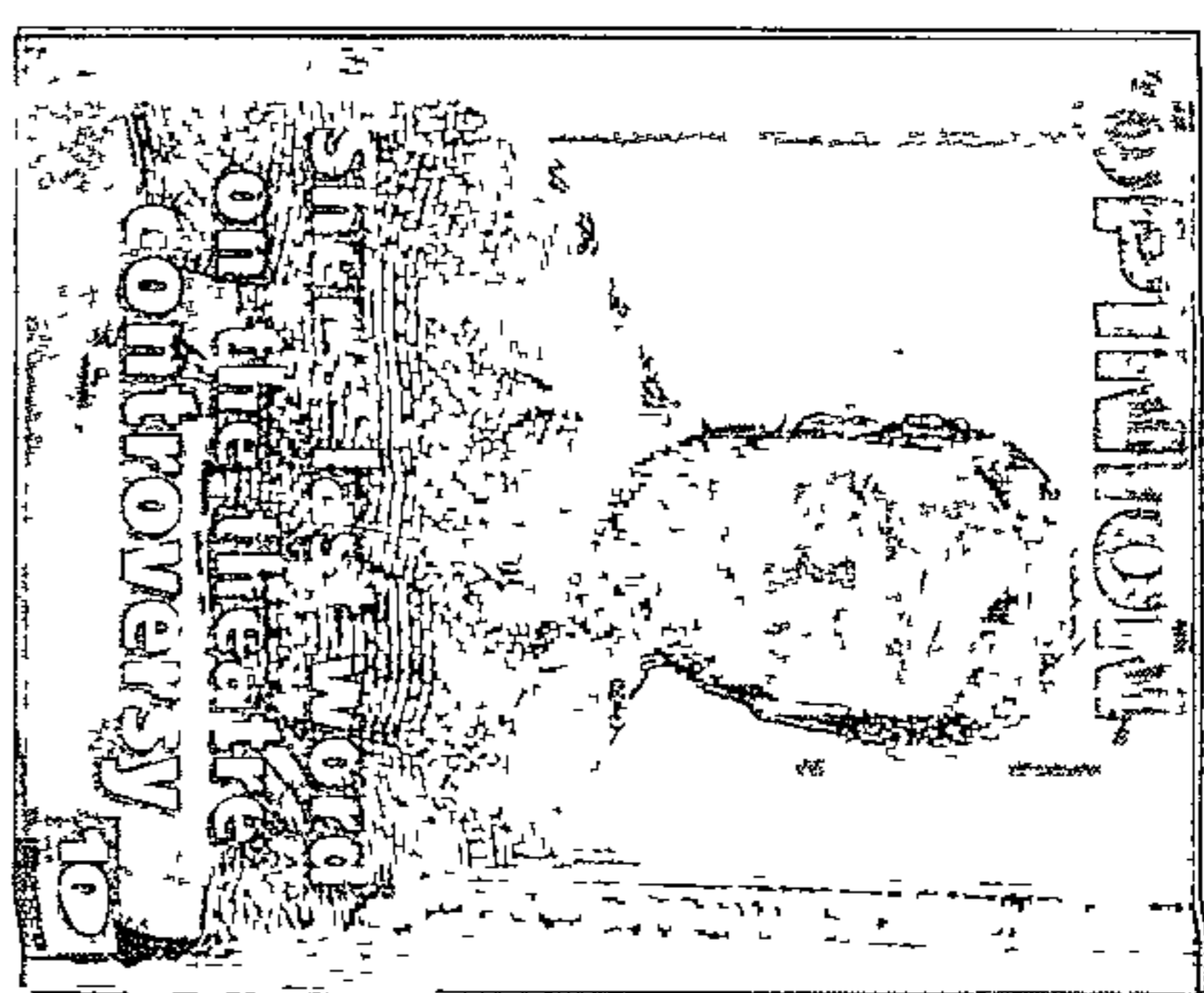
(212)
Mining in South Africa is more dangerous than anywhere else in the world, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), representing most of the country's miners, claimed yesterday.

Laura James, an NUM unit co-ordinator, claimed there were two reasons for this: the country's gold mines are far deeper than anywhere else in the world, and, during the apartheid era, the safety of miners "was considered secondary to profits".

However, the Leon Commission was recently set up to investigate safety in mines and the NUM had made a major input.

While South Africa does not hold the record for the highest death toll — a record 1 549 workers were killed in one accident in China in 1942 — it overshadows other countries in the number of major disasters that have occurred.

Star 12/5/95



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7 night

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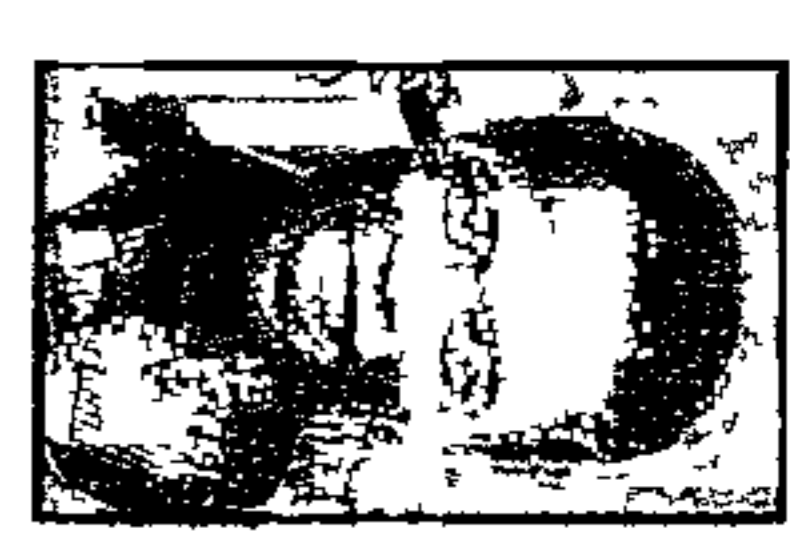
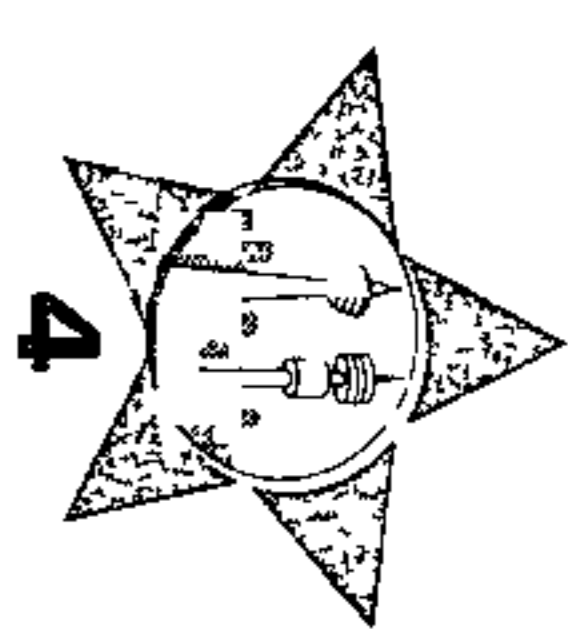
South African Breweries have announced a R100 000 incentive for the South African soccer team should they beat Argentina at Ellis Park in Johannesburg tomorrow. SAB sports sponsorship manager Norman Minnaar said the incentive — believed to be the biggest yet offered to any South African sports team — would be divided 1:1

Star

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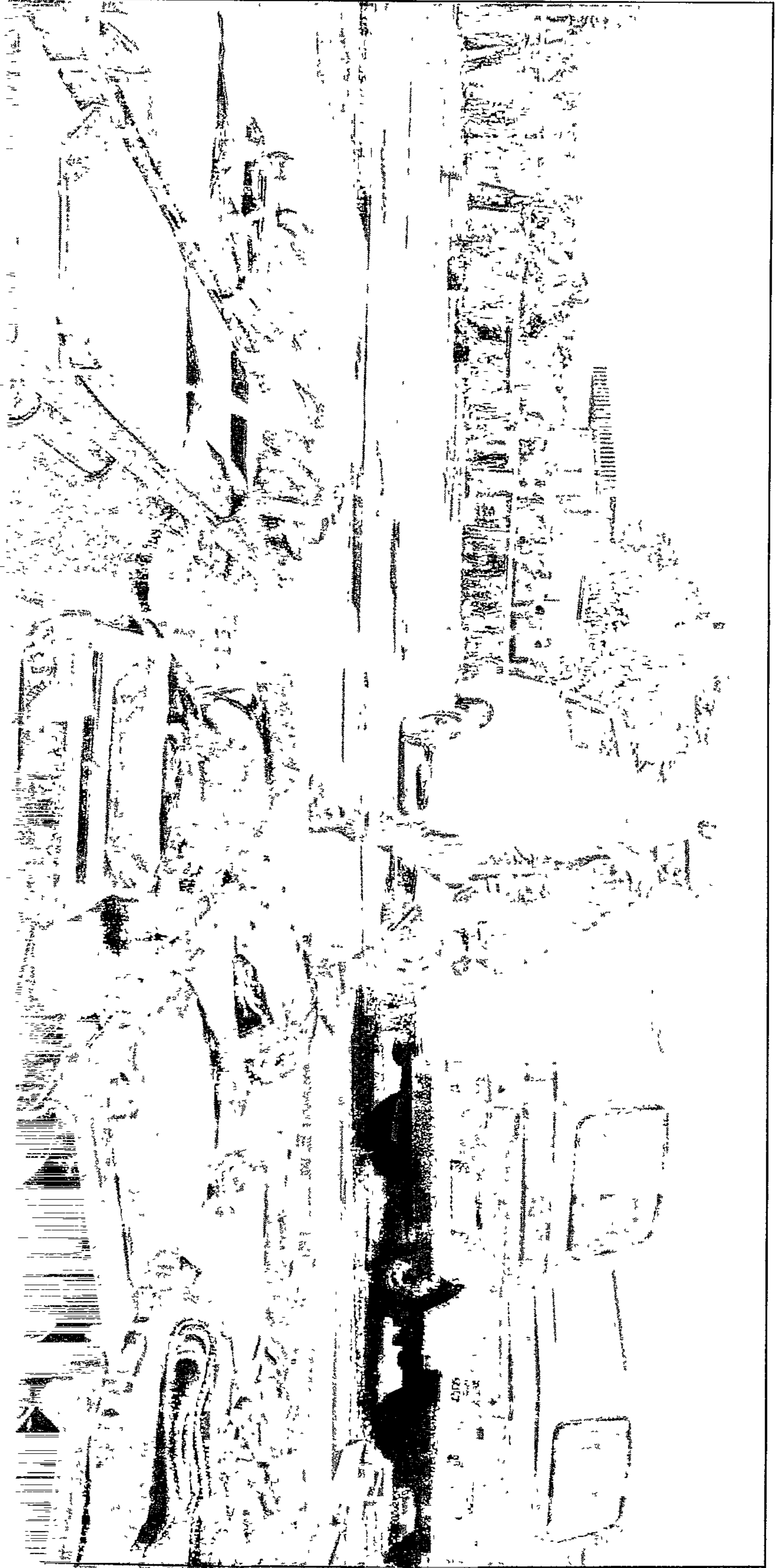
FRIDAY MAY 12 1995

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Another delay rules out Masinga

47 boobies recovered



orous from the Nelson Mandela Inauguration Challenge match. The game, which kicks off at 3pm, is the highlight of SAB's centenary celebrations.

Otto is guilty - State

The State has called for the conviction on all charges of Stephanus Otto who stands accused of rape, indecent assault, assault and neglect of 4-year-old Samantha R. Otto has pleaded not guilty to all charges. Page 6

ANC suspends Rocky

Former North West MEC for agriculture Rocky Malebane-Metsing has been suspended from the ANC for a year, the party said yesterday. Metsing was found to have contravened the ANC's code of conduct and its constitution. — Sapa

The trophy has landed

For the first time ever, the coveted William Webb Ellis Rugby World Cup trophy touched down on South African soil yesterday. The cup arrived on an SAA flight from London. — Sapa. Page 7

Substation blast

Three Kempton Park municipal workers are in a serious condition in burn care units after an electrical substation they were working on apparently exploded. The blast occurred at 10am yesterday. — Pretoria Correspondent

SE overall	5568 (+ 31)
Hong Kong gold	\$383.33 (\$383.41)
Rand/dollar	R3.638 (R3.635)
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Ready to go... a rescue worker walks past a line of stretchers waiting to be taken down to retrieve bodies from No 2 shaft at the mine, where 105 are feared dead.

Grisly work at scene of tragedy

212 Shaw 125195

THE EASY bit is over. Now for the hard part, retrieving bodies from the bottom cage section, jammed against the shaft floor.

REPORTS BY
**NIKKI WHITEFIELD
BRENDAN TEMPLETON
JUSTICE MALALA
JANINE SIMON
AND SARA-REUTER**

Orkney — A team which worked through the night had by this morning pulled 47 bodies from the mangled wreck of the double-decker Vaal Reef's mine lift cage lying 2.103m below the surface near Orkney.

The gold mine's spokesman, James Duncan, said the "easy part" was being done. "The bodies have been brought out of the top half of the cage. Now workers have to get to those in the lower deck which was badly crushed."

He added "Conservatively, it will take about another 24 hours before rescue work is completed."

He said the mutilation state of the bodies was so bad that the grisly job of identifying the dead was almost impossible.

"So far, we know what happened, but we don't know why it happened. The intent of an investigation will be to ensure something like this won't happen again."

A crucial question in the inquiry will be how the 12-ton locomotive which crushed some 105 miners in the double-decker lift cage managed to plough through three safety devices before plunging down Number 2 shaft.

The only eyewitness to the accident is a miner who was standing near the shaft station when he heard a loud noise and then saw the locomotive driver running.

The driver is in hospital under heavy sedation, being treated for shock. Mine officials said he was in "quite a



Anxious moments... a NUM official addresses members of the media at the mine yesterday.

One witness

There is only one witness to the accident, a worker who was standing near the shaft station. He apparently heard a loud noise and then saw the driver running.

THE ORKNEY DISASTER More reports, picture - Page 3

three safety barriers. Vaal Reef's regional general manager Dick Fisher said:

The locomotive, used to ferry men, equipment and ore along the mine's level 56, jumped a rail at 8.20pm on Wednesday before crashing through the safety devices and plunging down the shaft.

Once past the no-go sign, it would have had to smash through two metal stop-blocks. These blocks could not be found when the site was inspected, said Fisher, who added that they had been there when a safety officer made an inspection last week.

The train would then have had to pass through a tank trap — a 0.5m-wide gap in the track — before breaking into the shaft.

The vehicle's three-brake system also failed to stop it

Rescue men tell of death site

212 Shaw 125195

BY ADAM COOKE
AND SELBY BOKABA

Orkney — As the team of 30 rescue workers emerged solemn and exhausted from Vaal Reef's No 5 shaft early this morning, they described the grisly scene of crushed and decomposing bodies they were retrieving from deep underground.

The team had toiled through the night using angle grinders and blow torches to cut out the bodies from the mangle of steel which had once been a double-decker cage that carried miners up and down the shaft.

Carrying body bags, stretchers and food for themselves, the team came to the surface 18 hours after descending to the disaster site.

The impact of its 500m fall caused by the 12-ton locomotive on its roof had crushed the cage carrying about 100 miners from its 7m height to one and a half metres, according to Shaft 5 night chief Alex Henderson.

He said progress was slow, and the team had a long distance to travel from Shaft 5 used for rescue teams to reach Shaft 2.


"It takes about three hours to get from the site of the deaths to the surface up Shaft 5."

Rescue workers came to the surface soon after 7am, clad in plastic from head to foot, with face masks. According to rescuers the bodies are already decomposing in the extreme heat 2km below the surface.

As the team emerged, there was a deadly hush over about 500 miners, waiting to descend for work as normal this morning. Ten stretchers carrying unrecognisable masses buried in plastic and blankets were carried from the lift.

Bodies are being taken by waiting paramedics to Westvaal hospital in Orkney where the process of identifying the bodies has begun.

WEEKEND SPECIALS WEEKEND SPECIALS WEEKEND SPECIALS WEEKEND SPECIALS WEEKEND SPECIALS WEEKEND SPECIALS WEEKEND SPECIALS WEEKEND



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Mine death toll at 424 since January ⁽²¹²⁾

By Joshua Raboroko

A TOTAL of 424 workers have died on the South African mines in the past four months alone

This figure brings to 3 288 the number of mineworkers killed in underground disasters in the country over the last five years

Anglo spokeswoman Charmaine Russel said 53 miners have died in the corporation's gold mines in the period from January 1 to May 11 1995

Disasters on gold mines alone have claimed the lives of 2 265 workers in the past five years, Chamber of Mines

spokesman Mr Louis-Allen Kriel said yesterday *Sowetan*

According to figures released in Parliament earlier this month, 485 people died and 7 899 were injured in 8 039 accidents on the mines last year

Safety on the mines *12/5/95*

The Leon Commission into health and safety on the mines—the first of its kind in more than 30 years — sat for six weeks from July 1994

It took mining houses to task over poor health and safety records and recommended that a new body, drawn from mining houses, the state and unions, draft a new health and safety act

Some of the major disasters

- 1909 — 152 people killed in Zachs Gold Mine
- 1960 — 435 die in Coalbrook in the Free State
- 1969 — 60 die in Buffelsfontein, 160 from south of Johannesburg
- 1980 — 30 killed at Vaal Reefs
- 1983 — 58 die in Hlobane in Kwazulu-Natal
- 1986 — 177 killed in Kinross, in the Eastern Transvaal
- 1987 — 63 die in St Helena
- 1990 — 10 killed at Kloof Gold Mine
- 1991 — 21 killed in Vaal Reefs in Orkney in 1991
- 1991 — 109 killed at Western Deep Levels
- 1993 — 53 die in Middlebelt near Saalburg
- 1995 — 10 killed at Khuthala coal mine

Grisly work carries on

(212)

◀ From Page 1
Star 12/5/95
If necessary, Botha said, he would ask President Nelson Mandela for an independent commission of inquiry

Anglo American Gold Division head Clem Sunter said it was difficult to give a precise body count.

"It's impossible to say at this point because hardly any whole bodies have been recovered. This particular accident has left me devastated."

National Union of Mineworkers president James Motlatsi said after an excursion down the shaft "I am angry. I believe management was negligent in installing safety measures."

In Parliament, MPs passed a special motion of condolence.

We're bleeding inside,

say **ORKNEY** **12/5/95** **(212)** **WORKERS**

The Argus Correspondent

ORKNEY — Colleagues of the miners killed at Vaal Reefs were in shock as they awaited word of their fellow workers Samuel Khathazile, one of 400 miners who had gone down number two shaft before the disaster, said the accident was enough to make him think about quitting the job he has held for 14 years.

I do not know if I will be going back. I'm afraid to even think about it."

Mr. Khathazile said he went down the shaft with the first batch of workers at 8pm on Wednesday, and was dropped at his station on 53 level, three levels above that where the locomotive burst through shaft gates to land on top of the lift carrying the doomed miners.

"We did not hear a thing, no noise or anything. It was only at 2.30am when we went to get on to the carriage to get back up that we heard that there had been an accident. I was scared, because I had to use the same kind of lift that had killed them," he said.

Sibusiso Ndaba, who was working at shaft five — which the 400 miners used to get out of shaft two — said he heard about the accident at midnight, four hours after it happened.

"It was bad, really. As an official I am allowed to move around so we went to Level 70 and walked across to shaft two to see if we could help, but could not see anything. It was a bad experience, knowing that if they could die like that, it could easily be me very soon.

Bereng Matengeng said he was still shocked and could not believe that such a tragedy could happen near him.

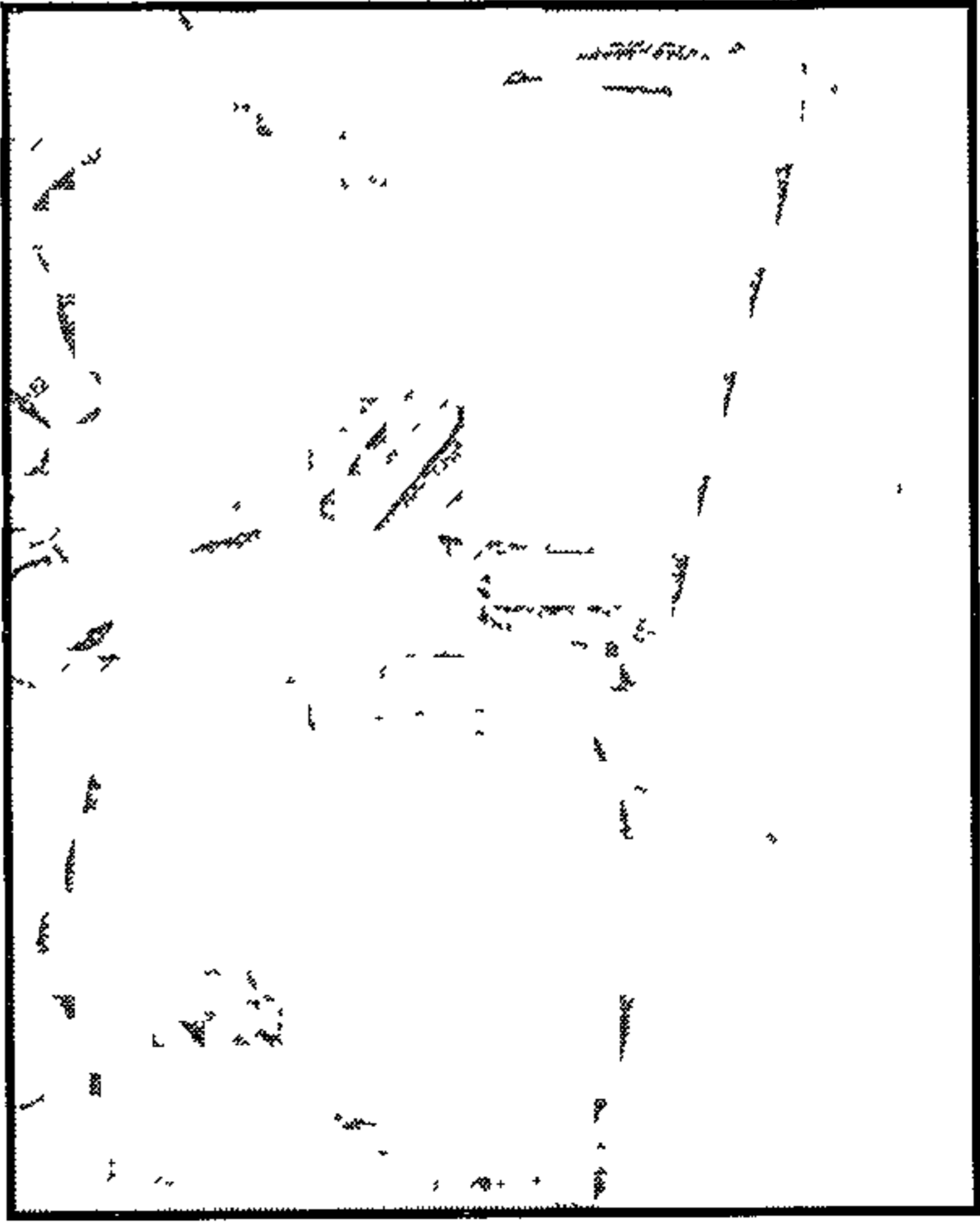
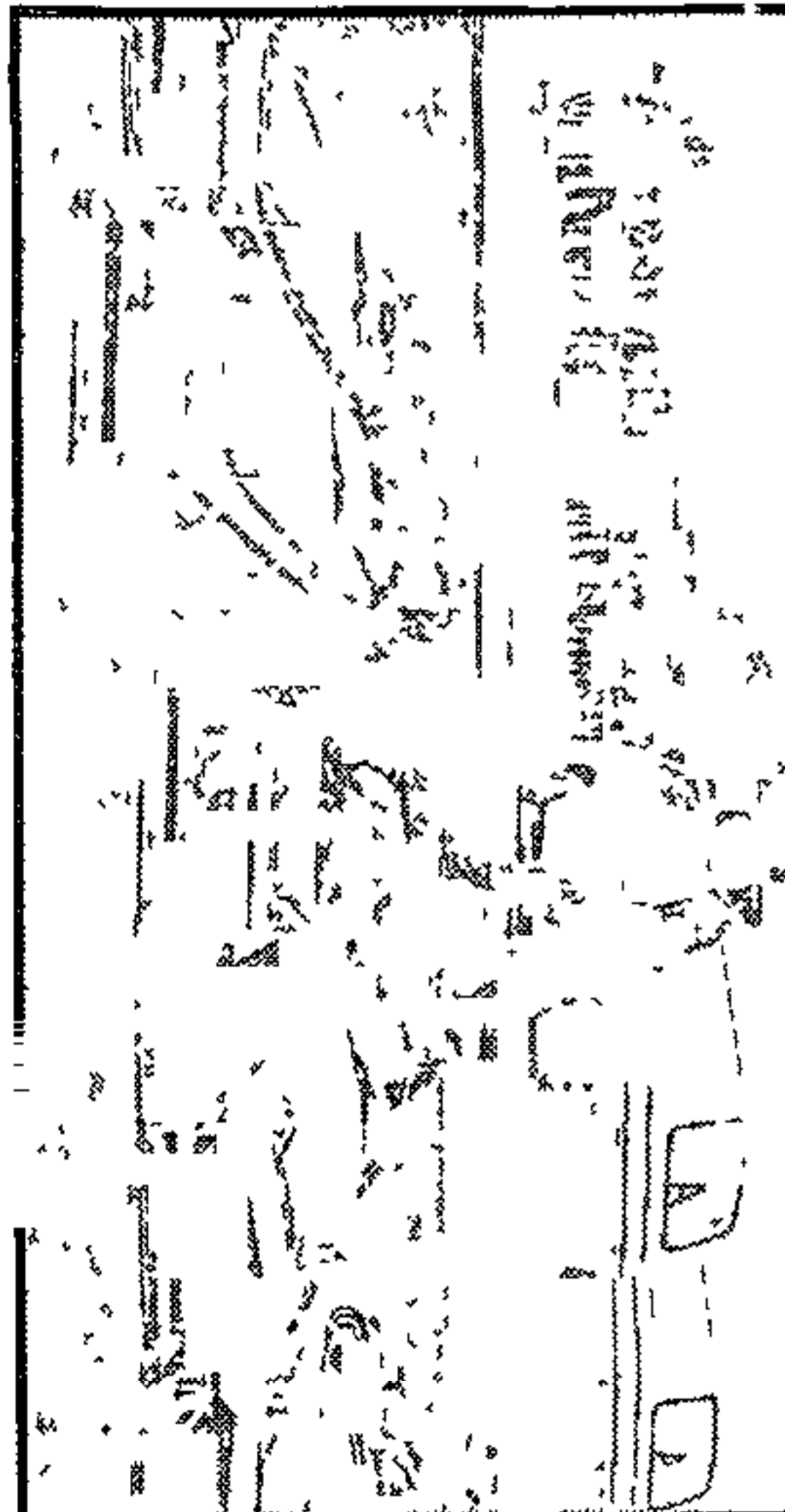
"It is the kind of thing that I thought happened at other mines — but never here."

"We are bleeding inside."



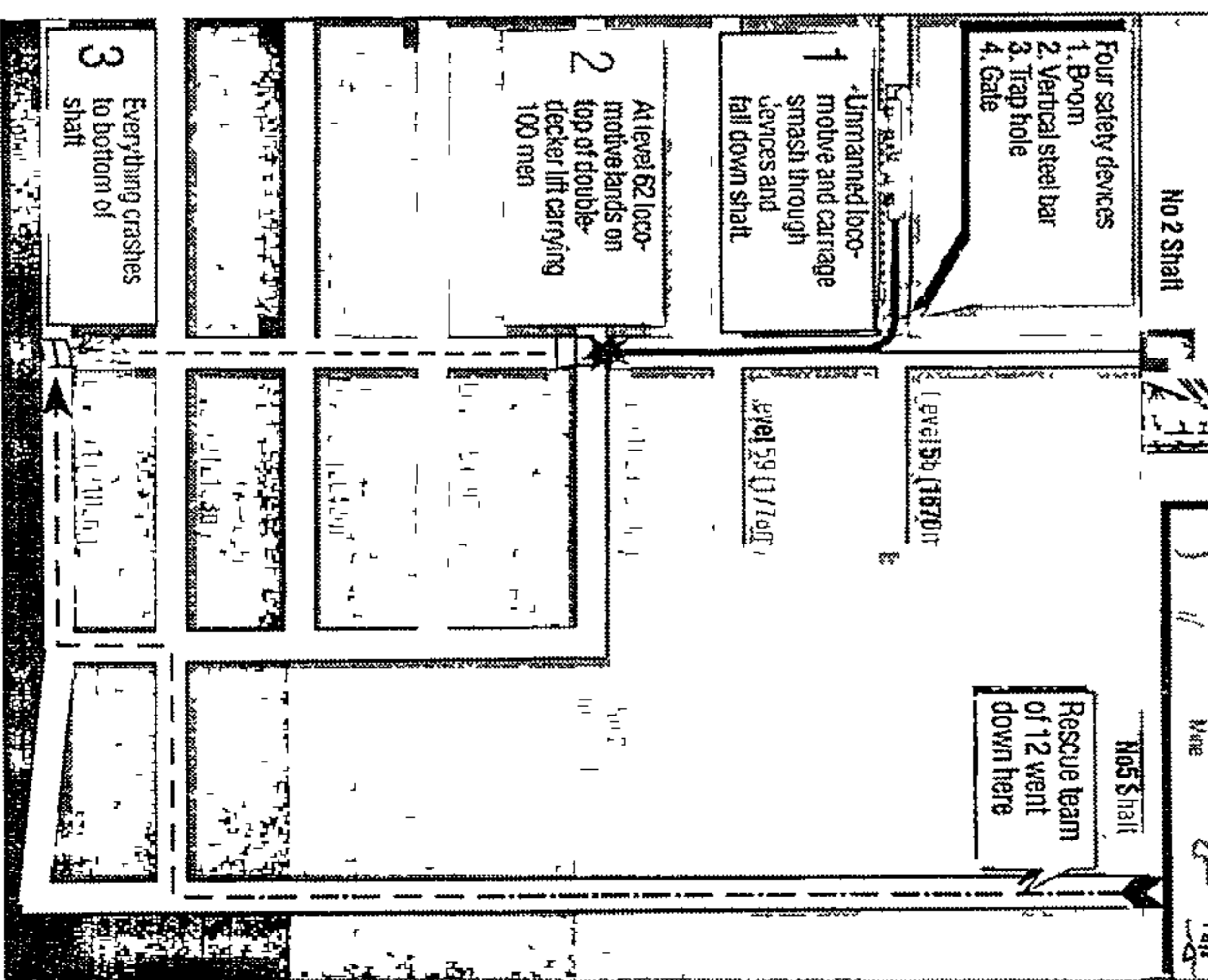
SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

GRIM TASK: Proto team members, above, carry out a stretcher with one of the miners involved in Wednesday night's horrific accident in which more than 100 workers are feared dead. A safety billboard, left, near the entrance to the shaft 2 goldmine near the Western Transvaal town, Orkney. Right, stretchers wait to be taken down the mine.



SILENT GRIEF: Miners watch as rescuers remove bodies from shaft 2 at Vaal Reefs gold mine in Orkney yesterday. More than 100 are feared dead after an elevator cage full of workers plunged to the bottom of the deep shaft in an accident probably caused by human error.

Vaal Reefs disaster



This graphic shows how the accident happened at the Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney in the Western Transvaal.

NEWS Rescue workers bring out mutilated remains of the miners who died underground

Mangled bodies hauled from mine

By Abdul Milazi

BAGS OF THE MUTILATED remains of mineworkers, pieces of human flesh, was all that came to the surface yesterday as rescue workers battled to find survivors of Anglo American's Vaal Reef's mine disaster

Disaster struck when a locomotive and carriage plunged down a shaft and crushed a lift believed to have been carrying about 100 workers on Wednesday night. Four rescue teams toiled into the night yesterday in an attempt to recover the bodies. Thirteen bodies had been recovered by late last night.

The mangled bodies, wrapped in blankets and plastic body bags, were taken from Shaft 2 to a small office at the

(212)

Sowetan 12/5/95

entrance to Shaft 5, about 3km away where they were to be identified.

Mine manager Mr Mike Prinsloo said the cause of the accident was not yet known but an inquiry would be conducted as soon as the rescue operation was completed.

Prinsloo said the locomotive and carriage fell on to the lift about 1 700 metres below the surface, severing its cables and causing it to crash more than 500 metres down the shaft.

A rescue worker at the scene said the damage caused by the accident made it impossible for him and his colleagues to reach the wreckage.

The rescue workers had to gain access to the scene of the accident via shaft no 5 but found that it was not safe to get any closer.

"There was no sign of life down there

I don't think there are any survivors," said the rescue worker. Rescue workers were only able to get to the wreckage late yesterday afternoon after the damage above the lift had been repaired.

About 400 workers, who were working at shaft 2 at the time of the accident, were brought to the surface via shaft 5. Prinsloo said production had been hampered as the locomotive and carriage were still jammed in the shaft.

One of the survivors, Solomon Mkhondwana, said he was working at shaft 2 when he heard a rumbling noise and later saw the hysterical driver of the locomotive running past him in tears.

"Minutes later we were moved out to shaft 5 by supervisors who told us that we had to vacate the shaft."

"It was only when I got to the surface that I learnt about what had happened."

Sympathy for dead miners

Sowetan 12/5/95 (212)

POLITICAL leaders and the mining industry expressed shock at Wednesday night's disaster and extended condolences while trade unions called for an urgent inquiry.

President Nelson Mandela said he was shocked by the news of the disaster. "That is a very shocking affair — but I would like to reserve comment until the facts have become clear," he said. He had discussed the disaster with Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha. In a statement to *Sapa* yesterday, Botha said human error was probably the cause of the accident.

"It is clear in this accident that the human factor must have played a role on the basis of what is known at this stage. The cause cannot be attributed to a natural unforeseen event," Botha said.

The National Union of Mineworkers has blamed the disaster on mine owners Anglo American Corporation.

Deputy President FW de Klerk said the accident highlighted the need for all involved to do everything in their power to ensure the safety of mineworkers.

"I wish you and every staff member or dependant who has lost a colleague, spouse, parent, relative or friend comfort and strength in the days and months to come," De Klerk said in a letter to the mine's general manager Mr RJ Fischer. Democratic Party leader Mr Tony Leon said "Our hopes and prayers are with the trapped and injured miners and we extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those who have been killed."

NUM president Mr James Motlatsi yesterday demanded that Anglo American and mine management compensate workers and their families, saying the accident was inexcusable. The company had been negligent and had not observed safety precautions, Motlatsi said — *Sapa*

SAFETY MECHANISMS FAILED TO STOP 500m DEATH PLUNGE

Govt to probe mine disaster

CT. 12/5/95

(212)

JOHANNESBURG: Rescue teams worked through the night. By early this morning 13 bodies had been brought to the surface.

VAAL REEFS Gold Mine rescue team member Mr Garth Ellis yesterday described the remnants of a man-cage that plunged to the bottom of mine with 105 miners as "a heap of mangled steel".

And as rescuers toiled into the night to remove crushed corpses from the depths of one of South Africa's deepest mines yesterday, the government launched an investigation into one of the worst mining disasters in the country's history.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pk Botha arrived at the mine yesterday afternoon and proposed a full, independent investigation.

The cage plummeted to the bottom of the mine shaft 2 300m below the surface on Wednesday night when it was hit from above by a runaway locomotive and carriage.

Devastated

About 13 bodies had been recovered by early this morning.

Anglo American Corporation Gold Division head Mr Clem Sunter said 105 people had not been accounted for.

He said it was impossible to say how many bodies had been recovered because hardly any were whole.

"This particular accident has left me devastated," he added.

About 69 000 miners have died in South African mining accidents since 1911.

Rumours circulated on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange that the tragedy could have been caused by sabotage, but Anglo American dismissed the rumour as "pure speculation".

The mine's shares ended the



NATIONAL DISASTER: Mine managers at the Vaal Reefs gold mine in Orkney meet after an elevator carrying about 100 miners plunged down a shaft, crushing as many as 100 people to death on Wednesday. Labour leaders called for an independent investigation and review of safety standards.

PICTURE AP

day's trading 6,25% lower.

Anglo spokesman Ms Charmaine Russell said:

"We are investigating the cause of the accident. There is no room for speculation on the tragedy. There is no reason to believe it was sabotage."

Mr Botha said an inquiry would have to explain how the locomotive had smashed through three safety mechanisms.

"My department is responsible for the investigation, but I will certainly involve the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and other unions and, if need be, we will consider approaching the President for a commission of inquiry," he said.

Mr Botha said he had asked Cosatu secretary-general Mr Sam Shilowa to invite the unions to nominate representatives.

Rescue workers said cutting open the cage, squashed to about half its original height by the impact of its fall, would take at

least 24 hours. The shaft is expected to be out of operation for about two weeks.

The locomotive driver, who jumped off seconds before it smashed through a safety barrier and fell down the shaft, was under heavy sedation at a mine hospital and unable to give any account of what happened.

No survivors

NUM president Mr James Motlatsi went down to the area where 50 rescue workers were trying to reach the victims.

"There were 50 mineworkers on each level of the two-deck carriage and no survivors are likely," he said.

Mr Motlatsi blamed the disaster on Anglo American. He demanded the group compensate the families of the victims.

He said the accident was inexcusable and he claimed the company had been negligent and had

not observed safety precautions. Anglo American declined to comment on the allegations, but said "Our safety standards have always been high."

Mr Sunter said "I think we have been doing our best over the years to improve safety. I assure you, in terms of commitment both by management and workers, it is absolutely top priority."

Political leaders and the mining industry expressed shock at the disaster and extended condolences.

President Nelson Mandela described the disaster as "deeply shocking to our whole nation" and expressed the government's support for calls for a national day of mourning. This would be on May 17.

A motion of condolence in Parliament was supported by all parties — Special Correspondent, Sapa.

● See Page 6

'There wasn't even a murmur, let alone a scream from the cage'

Images will always haunt them

VISIONS of death will always haunt the young miners who were down Vaal Reef's Shaft 2 on Wednesday night — just weeks after they had received ties to celebrate 1-million fatality-free shifts.

DEATH is deep-etched in the minds of the men at Vaal Reef's. Teams are working non-stop to retrieve the remains of 104 miners. Putting body parts on stretchers, they try hard to make them resemble human forms. PETA KROST reports.

"I just saw dust and what sounded like popcorn bursting and then a loud bang and something fell at my feet. It was the top half of a body," said Nick, a long-haired young man who was afraid to give his surname for fear of management reprisals. He cannot shut out the images that lay before him at 8.15 on Wednesday night. He was on level 68, just metres from the cage, when a 15-ton locomotive and man carrier hit it, making it plummet 500m to the bottom of the shaft.

"I thought oh shit, there has been a major f-up, so I tried to phone the bankman above but all our lines were down. I immediately ushered all the others on my level away from the falling debris," he said.

"All I could see were body pieces all around."

Nick explained that the cage was meant to stop at his level and unload its 104 passengers.

"I was about to contact the cage driver to say it was level with the station when it went past me at a furious speed," he said.

Mince meat

"There was not even a murmur, let alone a scream emanating from the cage. It was too quick but I can't even describe how horrible," Lombard said. Wheels and debris hit his station and he phoned for help. It is believed that his was the only phone left working after the crash disturbed all the equipment in the shaft.

Having seen the remains of the bodies in the cage, he said, "They are unrecognisable as human beings. The whole thing looks like mince meat."

The smaller, parallel support cage — the Martrane — was also

in mid-air when the locomotive descended, a wheel crashing into the top of it, sending battery acid flying.

While some of the passengers in the support cage suffered superficial acid burns, none was seriously injured.

Another miner said "The whole shaft looked like it was strewn with metal spaghetti".

While these men were recounting their horror tales, others were working around the clock to ferry the remains of the 105 dead men to the surface.

As they were unable to use the damaged Shaft 2, they carried the body parts in plastic refuse bags about 2km to Shaft 5.

They put the parts on stretchers, trying hard to make them resemble human forms, covered them with blankets and look them to the surface.

The faces of the men in the rescue team who spent hours at the bottom of Shaft 2 trying to separate mangled flesh from the cage, cutting bits out with forceps, were ashen masks of horror.

Said Raymond le Roux, a senior miner from Shaft 5, who was helping with the bodies: "In 16 years in this job I have never seen such devastation."

"The *derrins* were squeezed out of the cage."

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha, who went to see the cage on Thursday night, said he would never forget this "grim sight of human beings lying in bits and pieces."

"These men gave their lives in their labour. Ironically those who died will never know what happened, but witnesses survived and will help us piece together this horror puzzle," he said.



DRAINED: An exhausted rescue worker takes a much-needed break after a harrowing night underground at Vaal Reef's

PHOTOGRAPH DEBBIE VAZBEK

Crusade for better safety

BRONWYN LITTLETON

WHEN a methane gas explosion at Hobane Collieries killed 68 miners in 1983, a young unionist by the name of Marcel Golding launched an intensive campaign to establish a commission of inquiry into health and safety in the mining industry.

Yesterday, Golding was in Parliament trying to digest the horror in which a locomotive had smashed through four safety barriers, hurtled down a shaft and landed on top of a lift, killing the 104 men inside.

He commented that the accident — and the deadly delay in getting safety laws on the books — were an awful indictment on the mining industry.

Since he and other officials in the National Union of Mineworkers launched their campaign, an average of 600 mineworkers have been killed each year on South Africa's mines.

Now, as chairman of the mineral and energy affairs select committee, Golding hopes that by early next year, legislation — and a government agency to enforce it — will be in place.

Golding said the commission itself had been hit by delays.

"We should have had the commission and the legislation years ago," Golding said.

Now that there was consensus that there were severe deficiencies in the health and safety regulations affecting the industry, Golding added that government agencies were needed to enforce those rights.

Comfort from the voice



DISTRAUGHT: Pik Botha visited Vaal Reefs this week to inspect the scene of the tragedy in which 104 miners died PHOTOGRAPH: T LEMON

PETA KROST

"THE warm voice on the phone is a comfort to those anxious to hear about the fate of a loved one who could be among the victims of Vaal Reefs disaster"

"I take this horror attack very personally, having worked at this mine for 21 years, and I can empathise, as a mother and wife, with the people who are phoning here," said Margaret Heylen, who has fielded most of over 1 000 calls to the Vaal Reefs hotline for those inquiring about the victims

Tragedy

Since the hotline was established on Thursday, she has been sitting in her office with a list of names of possible victims of the tragedy with a telephone glued to her ear

"My first thought when someone phones and the name they are asking about is on my list, is to make sure it is the same person by checking spelling and all the person's particulars before telling them that their loved one is on the list"

With eight years' experience as a lifeline counsellor, Heylen makes certain before the call is over that they know the list is not yet final "I tell them as gently as possible that if in fact

red parents have contacted me"

Calls that keep Heylen's spirits up are those who just phone to say *vashy! or shertie*

A rigger from Surrey, England, who had worked at Vaal Reefs phoned to find out how his fellow riggers were

As most of the victims were migrant labourers, many calls came from Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana

Many white women phoned in for their worried domestic workers whose husbands worked at the mine

"They were as emotional as their employees," Heylen said

Safe

Two men, who were originally on her list, later phoned in to say they were safe and had been in the shaft but not in the cage They had joined in the rescue team

The kindly woman explained that although there was often a language barrier, there never seemed to be a problem in others understanding her, or vice versa

Heylen, who works in the mine's public relations department, volunteered to handle the 24-hour hotline when her boss, James Duncan, decided there was a need for it

The number is (018) 478-2874

Autumn is here in all its glory

Sunny	Rain	Peterburg	11/21
Partly cloudy	Thunder storms	Paotora	9/22
Cloudy	Snow	Nelspruit	9/20
		Maritzburg	8/23

Kimberley	5/25	Bloemfontein	4/22
Ungutlon	10/20	Maritzburg	8/23
Beaufort West	11/25	East London	13/22
Port Elizabeth	11/22	Durban	13/22
Cape Town	12/23		

Minimum and maximum temperatures

Gauteng: Partly cloudy and mild

Eastern Transvaal: Partly cloudy and mild but warm in the lowveld

Northern Transvaal: Partly cloudy and mild but cloudy in the north Warm in the Limpopo Valley

North-West: Fine and warm but partly cloudy in the north

Free State: Fine and mild

Northern Cape: Fine and warm but hot in the west

Western Cape: Mild along the southern coast. Hot over the interior

Western half of Eastern Cape: Fine and warm but mild along the coast

Eastern half of Eastern Cape: Fine and warm but mild along the coast

KwaZulu Natal: Fine and cool but cold over the Drakensberg where light frost is expected Sunny and mild in the east

Namibia: The coast will be fine and warm It will be hot over the Namib with bergwinds — Sapa

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for the person

The grim secrets of No 2 shaft



STILL STUNNING, Catherine Deneuve in South Africa for the opening of the French Institute PHOTOGRAPH ANTON HAMMERL

Madame Deneuve breaks ice to reveal warmth

MAUREEN ISAACSON

CATHERINE Deneuve is no ice maiden. Sure the famous French movie queen is elegant and composed — with that careful coliffure in that ivory pants suit and those snow-white high heels.

She says she has been described as both ice and fire. But the ice is a shield. It provides privacy. In life, as in the movies, Deneuve appears to have a duality: a vulnerability that lies beneath that disarming exterior. I think every human being has a double

side and as an actress one has a way of expressing both sides.

In Johannesburg for the opening of the French Institute, Deneuve at 51 is as striking as she was in the 1965 Roman Polanski film *Repulsion*, as majestic as in Regis Wargnier's recent *Indochine*.

Ash. *Indochine*, she says. It was not just the role it was the shooting. I discovered another world!

Polanski, Bunuel, Truffaut? How can I say which is the best director? I have worked

with?"

Erstwhile wife of English photographer David Bailey she says. *Lovers?* That is too private a question. It would be very rude and personal to say which one was the best. All I can say is that I respect the people I have loved.

And she likes South Africa. Of course! She had seen the photos and now this. This is reality. And then it is back to Cannes and afterwards a return to the shooting of a small film *Child of the Night*.

212
SHOW 13/5/95
BROWNYN LITTLETON and PETA KROST

ANSWERS to this week's horror accident at the Vaal Reef's gold mine lie with a heavily sedated engine driver called Jack and his locomotive guard — both yet to give full accounts of what happened more than a kilometre underground on Wednesday night.

As the number of mangled bodies brought to the surface rose to 75 last night, the management of the mine, near Orkney, claimed that National Union of Mineworkers officials had refused them access to a locomotive guard who was with the driver of the runaway locomotive.

Half-kilometre fall

The NUM have stopped us from talking to him, so we can't find out exactly what happened, said Piet Louw, the engineering manager of Vaal Reef's East Vlies of which Shaft 2 forms part.

The locomotive engine and man-carriage it was pulling crushed more than 100 miners when they fell down Shaft 2 on to the lift cage that was carrying the men. Both the locomotive and carriage fell more than half a kilometre to the bottom of the shaft where broken bodies and mangled metal lay in a grisly heap.

The driver, known to his colleagues as Jan, leapt off the locomotive before it began its fall. The guardman apparently reached the surface through the nearby Shaft 5 with other members of the shift.

According to mine regulations, no train driver may operate a locomotive underground unless he is in the presence of a guardman. Management believes the guard was on duty on Wednesday night.

The driver would have been waiting to transport miners down the tunnel and should have been moving in the opposite direction.

The union said it had not denied management access to the guard, but claimed it had not been allowed to visit the driver in his hospital bed.

Fellow workers said the driver had complained on Tuesday that there was something wrong with his locomotive and he believed it had been fixed when he arrived for his shift on Wednesday. Many

of them thought there was a technical problem that caused the loco to jolt forward when the driver connected a battery.

A second eyewitness, the locomotive driver from the afternoon shift, was on the other side of the shaft to the approaching locomotive. He told mine management he had heard a noise and all he saw was the man-carrier followed by the loco careering towards the shaft and then disappearing into the darkness.

Seconds later a man ran towards him (the witness) from the same tunnel as the loco clanging he was the driver, saying a terrible accident had happened, said Vaal Reef's manpower resources manager John Kemble.

Mine proto teams were still working from the No 5 shaft last night to retrieve more bodies. They believed they had brought the remains of more than 75 men to the surface. They said they expected to finish bringing bodies to the surface by today.

One lucky miner cheated death by falling to report for the night shift on Wednesday night. It is understood that he bunked work, getting a friend to clock in for him.

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pk Botha, who visited the mine and crash scene on Thursday night, has called for an independent commission of inquiry into the tragedy.

According to the mine management's account, a battery-driven locomotive and man-carriage weighing a combined 15 tons entered the shaft access cross-cut — an area off limits to all except hand-moved vehicles — on level 56. As a general rule, no locomotives are allowed

past the "farm gates" at the entrance to the cross-cut.

Somehow, the impossible happened and all safety features failed. The locomotive and its carriage plunged across a half-metre tank trap — a pit about 30cm deep designed to trap the front wheels of a locomotive. Then it ploughed through two metal stop-blocks, pushed the mesh door to the shaft out of its way and plummeted down the shaft.

The stop-blocks had been there when the shaft was inspected a week ago, but were missing after the accident. They might have been dragged down the shaft with the engine.

A safety boom was found lying neatly against the wall of the tunnel when rescue workers first went to level 56.

The "dead man's handle" — a brake which operates when the driver lets go of the controls — also failed.

The double-decker cage, or jumbly 5m high, was reduced to little more than half a metre.

COSATU general secretary Sam Shlowa has declared a national day of mourning on Wednesday, calling on all employers to give their staff the day off to attend rallies.

President Nelson Mandela has declared the Government's support for a day of mourning, but a spokesman for his office emphasised that no stay-away had been called.

A joint NUM and Anglo American disaster fund has been established. An account for donations has been opened at the Russik Street South branch of First National Bank (branch code 250605). The account number is 3000072230.



Frantic bid to stop death train

ARG 13/5/95 (212)

JOHANNESBURG — A witness to one of South Africa's worst gold-mining disasters said a driver had tried unsuccessfully to take control of the runaway train before it plunged down a mine shaft and crushed more than 100 miners.

Alphonse Motemekwane said he had encountered the driver running hysterically along a mining stope.

"He said: 'I think I have killed a lot of people,'" reported Mr Motemekwane. "The driver was shaking and scared and was crying uncontrollably."

The accident happened on Wednesday night when the driverless locomotive crashed on top of a lift cage filled with workers, sending both plunging 500 metres and killing the miners.

Mine managers are mystified, as the train is not supposed to move unless operated by a driver, and because it managed to avoid three safety barriers designed to avoid such a mishap.

The unnamed driver, who is under heavy sedation after being treated for shock, said he had just switched on the locomotive before starting his night duties when it started moving on its own.

"The driver said he was using all available means to stop it, but it just kept moving. It crashed through the shaft's gate and went plunging down," said Mr Motemekwane.

— Sapa-AFP.

■ See page 5

Disaster min gives up dea

(212)

ARG 13/5/9

Weary rescuers haul 72 bodies from blood



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□ **GRIM TASK:** Rescue workers, wearing air filters because of the stench, remove more bodies from the Vaal Reefs number 2 mine-shaft in Orkney. At least 104 miners died in the tragedy on Wednesday.

I missed the shift, says man who shou

ORKNEY — A miner believed killed in one of South Africa's worst mining disasters turned up alive yesterday, saying he had missed the shift that plunged to its death two days earlier.

The man, whom managers

refused to identify, reported to the mine office saying he missed the night shift at Vaal Reefs Gold Mine on Wednesday.

Lauren Wilson, a spokeswoman for mine owners Anglo American Corporation,

said the why he t

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pit at nur

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ARG 13/5/95

(2/2)

s from blood and water



■ Miners stared in horror as rescuers, their boots spattered in blood, carried the mangled remains of workmates to the surface

ORKNEY — Exhausted rescuers yesterday hauled from a bloody pit most of the bodies of 104 men killed in one of South Africa's worst gold mine disasters

Seventy-four bodies had been recovered from the pit where the men plunged to their deaths on Wednesday night after their double-tier lift was smashed down a shaft by a 12-ton runaway underground train, said Vaal Reefs Gold Mine officials

The toll stands at 104

Miners of all races, waiting to go on shift, stared in horror as rescuers, their boots spattered in blood, carried the mangled remains of friends and workmates to the surface of the mine, 150 km southwest of Johannesburg

All the victims were blacks from South Africa, Lesotho, Mozambique and Botswana, said Vaal Reefs mine officials

Rescuer Garth Ellis told reporters the accident was the worst he had seen. The shaft bottom where the lift came to rest after its death plunge was full of blood and water

Mine officials said the remains recovered from the pit were so badly mangled that

vs man who should be dead

to identify, reported the office saying he was on the night shift at Vaal Reefs Mine on Wednesday

Wilson, a spokesman for mine owners Anglo American Corporation,

said the miner did not explain why he had missed the shift.

The miners' lift cage was struck by a runaway train and plunged to the bottom of the pit at number 2 shaft

Ms Wilson said 104 people were still unaccounted for



□ MUCH-NEEDED REST: A rescue worker takes a break after a harrowing night.

rescuers, working with angle-grinders to cut through a tangle of steel, were unsure exactly how many bodies had been recovered

Grim-faced rescuers worked to clear human flesh and other body parts from the mine lift crushed to a third of its size by the train, which propelled the lift 450 metres to the bottom of the 2 300 m shaft

President Mandela has declared a national day of mourning on May 17

James Duncan, of mine managers Anglo American Corporation, said production at the mine, South Africa's second largest in terms of production, would be affected seriously. The shaft would be closed for at least three weeks

Mining Minister Pik Botha has called for an independent inquiry into the disaster

The government wants quick answers as to how the train, whose driver leapt to safety, swept through safety barriers and other devices which should have halted its progress. Officials said that steel safety blocks, which should have prevented it plunging down the shaft, were missing — Sapa-AP

Warm voice but cold comfort for victims' families

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The warm voice on the telephone is a comfort to those anxious to hear about the fate of a loved one who they fear could be among the victims of the Vaal Reefs mine disaster

"I take this very personally, having worked at the mine for 21 years," said Mrs Margaret Heylen, who has fielded many of the more than a 1 000 calls to the Vaal Reefs hotline "I can empathise, as a mother and wife, with the people who are 'phoning here"

Since the hotline was established she has been sitting in her office with a list of names of possible victims of the tragedy and a telephone

"My first concern when someone 'phones is to make sure it is the right person, by checking spelling and all the person's particulars, before telling them that their loved one is on the list"

Mrs Heylen, who has eight years' experience as a Lifeline counsellor and works in the public relations department of the mine, volunteered to man the 24 hour hotline

"I break the news as gently as possible and tell them that if in fact their husband or brother was in the accident, that someone will contact and visit them"

The hotline number is (018)4782574

GROSEFLOU D. VVILINAKOTO 24:14:14

No 2 main shaft
Surface

How can so many die just like that?

By JACOB DLAMINI

IT HAD been a long and tiring shift and mineworker Mlandeli Quluba was looking forward to a quiet Wednesday evening with his family, away from the noisy hostels at the Vaal Reef's gold mine.

Mr Quluba, 29, finished work at 8pm and joined 10 other workers in a lift that would hoist them to the surface.

The ride began smoothly. But 20 minutes into their ascent, something went horribly wrong.

A free-falling 12-ton locomotive glanced against the lift and pieces of metal smashed through its top, hitting Mr Quluba on the head.

His neck was fractured and one metal piece caused a fast-bleeding wound just above his forehead. Luckily, he survived and the lift made its way to the top.

But 105 other miners were not so lucky. They died when the locomotive and its carriage smashed into their cage on level 56, sending it plummeting to the bottom at 120km/h.

"That went wrong?" "That is a puzzle that will live with me for the rest of my life. How could so many people die just like that?" a weary-looking Mr Quluba asked in the grounds outside the West Vaal hospital, where he is recovering.

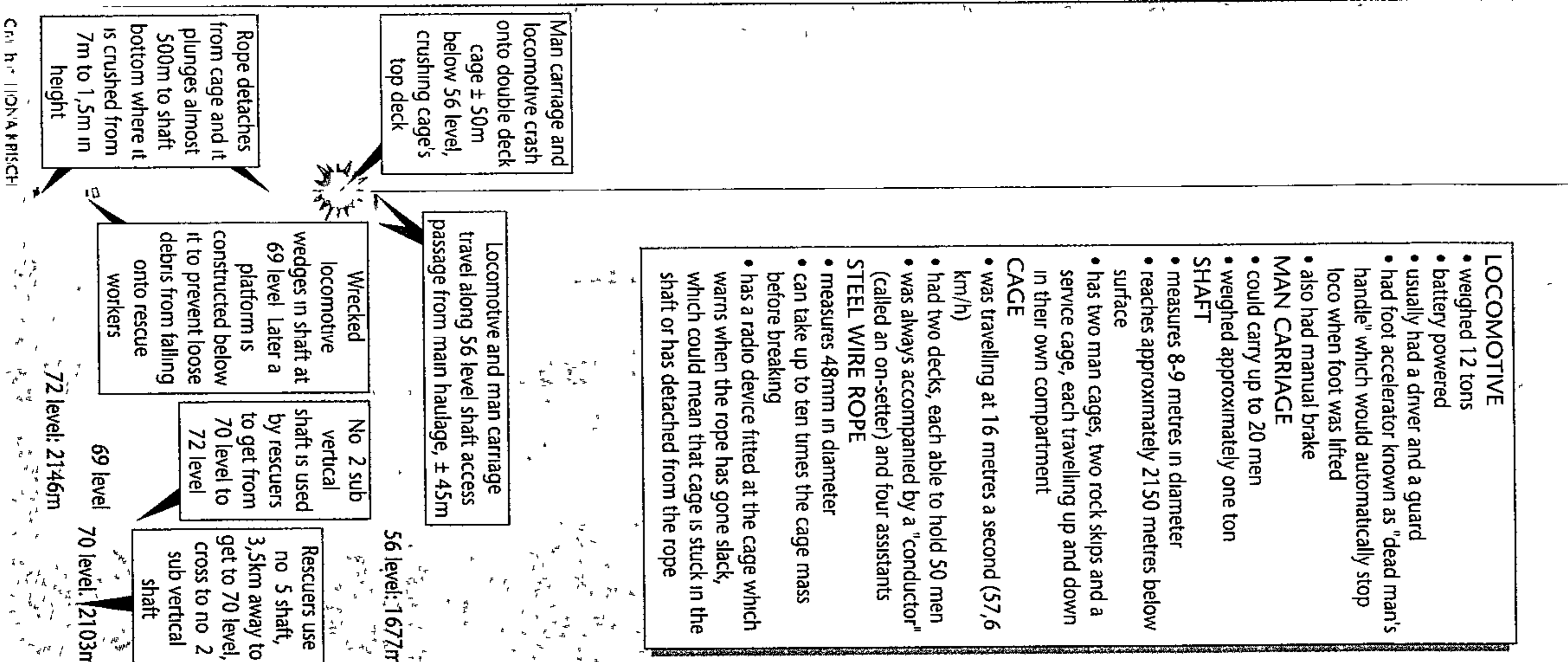
On Friday he was visited by his wife Nomisa and their one-year-old daughter Thandokazi. It was an emotional meeting for the family.

"I refuse to work underground ever again, and the mine bosses will have to discharge me if I'm forced," said Mr Quluba, whose twin brother Mhndeli died at the same mine last year in a rock fall.

Locomotive driver Alphonse Motemeke and his assistant, Tshelo Phene were working at level 56 shortly before accident happened. In terms of mine safety regulations, there must always be two workers operating the locomotive. Mr Phene and Mr Motemeke work as a team and both need to be present during operations.

However, in the case of the runaway locomotive it appears only one driver was present. Mr Motemeke missed the lift which took Mr Phene and Mr Quluba to the surface.

"I was waiting for a small lift we call Mhram when I heard noise and I fell down the shaft"



THEY LIVED, 72 HORROR

Union claims mine managers skimmed on safety checks

By PETER DELONNO

THE National Union of Mineworkers has accused Vaal Reef's mine management of allowing safety shortcuts to become routine working practice.

What may have started out as a means of saving time and effort in the production-driven underworld of mining ended as a short cut to hell this week for a runaway train and lift cage crammed with workers at the mine's No 2 shaft. Evidence will be presented to the disaster inquiry that barriers intended to stop underground trains from approaching the shaft mouth were often removed at the mine to speed up handling of rail carriages.

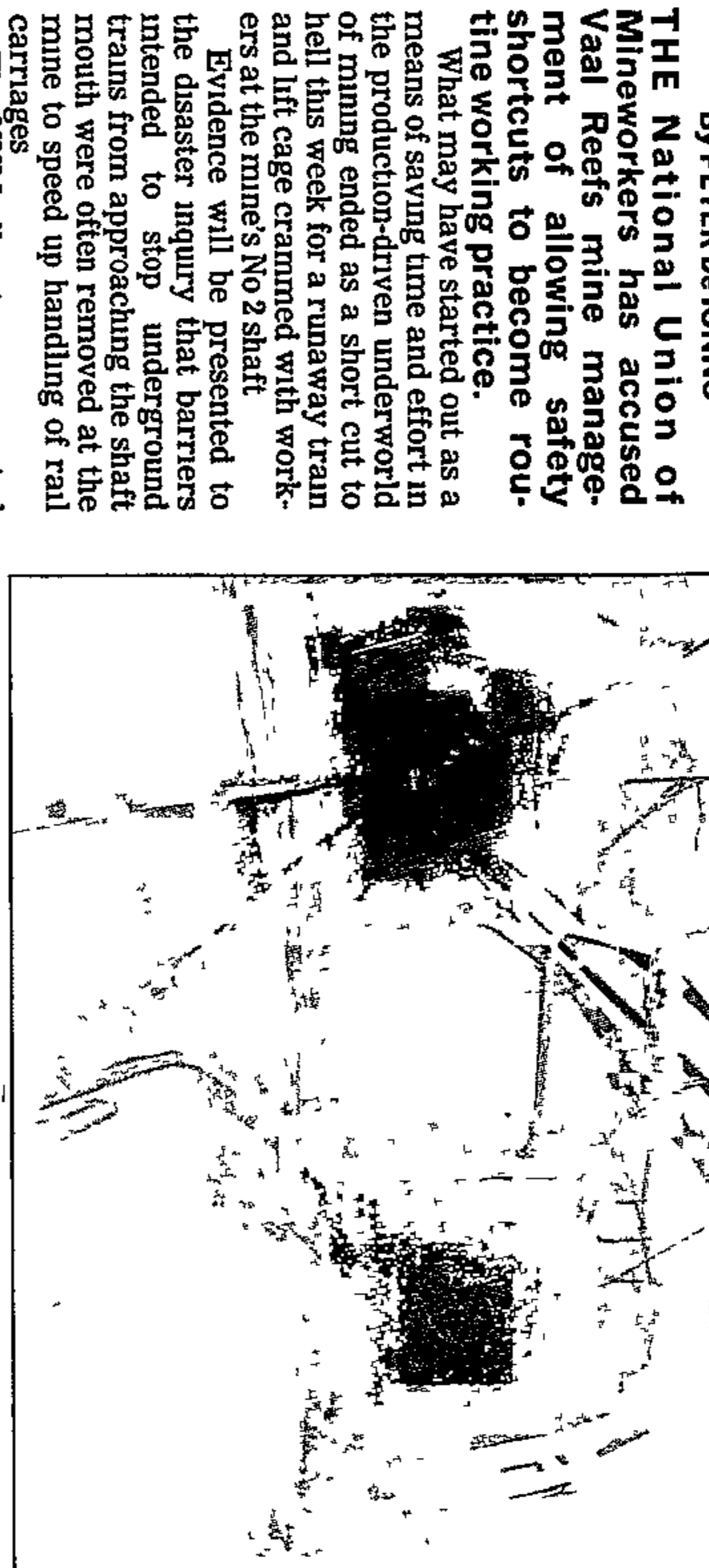
The NUM allegation, supported by mineworkers watching the recovery operations, seemed to be backed up by the evidence found on Level 56 by mine officials. Two crucial safety barriers at Vaal Reef No 2 designed to keep locomotives and trucks at a safe distance from the shaft did not fail on Wednesday night — they were simply not there.

A two-metre steel bar that usually blocks locomotives from entering the shaft station was missing from its posts, and a heavy "stop-block", a metre-long H-shaped steel girder that normally stands between the train rails was not placed either.

Legal responsibility for mine safety rests with management. Anglo American spokesman James Duncan said all safety devices were inspected once every three months by the mine safety officer, twice a month by the mine overseer, once a week by the shift foreman, and all mine officials were expected to continuously conduct running checks.

Mine and union safety officers agree that the barriers, apparently in place during a safety inspection 10 days ago, would have prevented the smash which left at least 105 miners dead, many mangled beyond recognition. It is less clear why a third safety measure — the dead man's handle on the runaway train — failed. The handle is a throttle control which a driver must hold to keep the engine running. If he should let go of it, it automatically stops the train.

But when the



DEATH TRACK . . . locomotive travelled down tunnel on the right

Reef's locomotive leapt off as it approached the shaft, the handle failed to work. Lauren Wilson, a spokesman for Anglo American, would not confirm that the battery-driven locomotive had been reported faulty three days before the accident.

No 2 shaft's engineering manager, Thys Sabbagha, said tests were being conducted on similar engines to see how the train could have run on unmanned and they were also checking why the dead man's handle failed to work. With three rail safety devices rendered useless, the only obstacle in the runaway locomotive's way was a "bank trap", designed to halt hand-pushed wagons, not a locomotive moving at speed.

Mine manager Dick Fisher gave repeated detailed briefings in his office of the events that started at 8:20pm on Wednesday at level 56, 1700m underground.

A son who will never walk the hills of home

By CYRIL MADLALA

IT was any day now that Ma Nhlabe Sangwen had expected to see her miner son walk up the barren hills home to the remote village of KwarPhenyane, bringing presents from the big city. It had been a year since Bhekoko-wake Zaci

travel to Gauteng on Wednesday ... just to make sure. Nhlabe has not been kind to Ma Nhlabe. She lost her husband before Bhekoko-wake went to work in the mines 10 years ago. Only a month ago a mysterious fire ge...

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Safety body needs to be beefed up, says judge

By RAY HARTLEY
Parliamentary Correspondent

THE body set up to inspect mine safety and reduce the chances of accidents is "under-resourced and under-funded", according to the judge tasked with investigating health and safety in the mines

Judge Raymond Leon, whose commission report is currently being finalised, described weaknesses in the Inspectorate of Mines as "a critical factor contributing to the poor performance of the mining industry in health and safety terms"

Among the 70 recommendations on improving safety were several devoted to beefing up the inspectorate, including making it "a separate administrative agency within the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs" and training "to enable inspectors to work in a modern way"

Accidents such as that which killed more than 100 miners at Vaal Reefs on Wednesday night fell into the "hauling and transport underground" category of mine deaths — the second largest cause of deaths after rockfalls and

rockbursts. But little information was provided to the commission on such accidents

"Although this is the second largest category of accidents in mines, second only to falls and strata accidents, the commission was not provided with detailed evidence as to the location or cause of this large group," he said

Just as alarming was the fact that full details of the accident and disease record of the mining industry had not been published since 1983

Statistics provided by the International Labour Organisation and published in the commission's report showed South Africa was second only to Turkey when it came to mine fatalities, with 726 people dying in 1992

Other recommendations made by the commission included

- The publication of all reports of accident inquiries throughout the mining industry, and
- That the National Union of Mineworkers be given "due and proper notice" of the time and place of inspections

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- The publication of all reports of accident inquiries throughout the mining industry, and
- That the National Union of Mineworkers be given "due and proper notice" of the time and place of inspections

ten, the loco came to a halt and a few minutes later the driver appeared. He looked scared and his assistant was nowhere to be seen," Mr Motemekeane said

The driver said he was trying to hook the locomotive into the electricity supply when it shot off without warning, according to Mr Motemekeane

Management and union officials have been puzzling over why three sets of safety mechanisms were not in place and why the "deadman's brakes" were not activated when the train ran off

"I have been a loco driver for more than four years but I have never seen anything like that happen. It seemed to me like there was a serious fault with the loco," said Mr Motemekeane

Maneworkers has declared May 17 a day of mourning and is planning marches to protest against poor safety standards at mines

Congress of South African Trade Unions general secretary, Sam Shilowa blamed Vaal Reefs' management for the disaster and accused it of gross negligence

"They allowed safety standards to deteriorate to a point where it became normal to work without the safety mechanisms in place and they must be held accountable for that," he said

Meanwhile, at the Vaal Reefs mining compound, workers have begun mourning the loss of friends and countrymen. Most of those who died came from Lesotho, Transkei and Swaziland

Body bag number 102 ends grisly rescue operation

ST 14/3/95

(212)

By PETER De IONNO
and JACOB DLAMINI

VAAL REEFS mine officials and proto teams were confident yesterday that they had retrieved all the remains of the disaster victims.

Body bag number 102 was brought to the surface at 130pm yesterday as emergency workers continued to clear the wreckage of the compressed lift cage from a pool of blood and mud at the bottom of the shaft

Deputy President F W de Klerk visited the mine yesterday and President Nelson Mandela and ANC general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa, a former leader of the NUM, will visit this week

A mass memorial service for the victims will be held at Vaal Reefs, near Orkney, in the Western Transvaal, on Wednesday, coinciding with a national day of mourning called by Mr Mandela

Mr de Klerk said the cabinet

would expedite the appointment of an inquiry into the "great tragedy" when it met on Wednesday

Many of the dead will have to be identified by fingerprints. Their bodies were grossly mutilated when their 7m lift was squashed to less than 2m after it plummeted 500m to the bottom of the shaft.

The cage was hit by a 12-ton locomotive and carriage which drove into the shaft on level 56 of No 2 shaft seconds after the lift

had passed downwards

Mine officials have admitted that safety devices to prevent rolling stock falling into the shaft were not in place

Anglo American and the NUM have established a disaster fund to help the families of the victims.

The account details are: First National Bank, Rissik Street South branch, (branch code 250605) account number 3000072230.

● The level 72 horror: Page 9

Need some extra luck? Then smile - it's on its way to you!

IN JUST three weeks, on June 4, extra Lucky Cards will be distributed inside City Press - giving you EXTRA chances to win great prizes in South Africa's greatest game. See Page 30 for the names of the 29 lucky readers who won prizes in last Sunday's game - and for his week's winning numbers!

Join the Club - and win a prize!

TEN readers scooped super cash prizes in last week's Club Card game. Check your winning number - Page 32.

Win a big boost for your school!

GATHER around, pupils, teachers and parents. Today we kick off the City Press/SAB Schools Rehabilitation Competition to give education a boost! See page 28 for details.



Ghostly end of suspected ritches in Tlokoza

WALLY MBHELE

THE LIESBAND of a man lately accused of a rite which was ordered through his screaming year-old daughter in his wife's neck by an old Self Defence Unit member, Iac her in cold blood his horrific revelation disclosed to City Press this week despite its to the community the of Rand

The incident so shocked residents that no one was prepared to speak to an outsider about it for fear of their lives.

According to residents who spoke on condition of anonymity, members of the Self Defence Unit, a National ANC and civic chairman, street committee officials and several women who appeared to have plotted the murders with certain members of

Death shaft: Shock twist

By ELIAS MALULEKE

STRATEGIC protective barriers around the death shaft at Orkney's Vaal Reefs Gold Mine may have been removed ahead of this week's disaster which claimed the lives of 104 miners.

Anglo American spokesman James Duncan could not discount the claim - made to City Press by locomotive operators on the mine - that the crucial barriers had been removed from the ill-fated No 2 shaft. This possibility would be considered by the Commission of Inquiry which sits from Tuesday.

Locomotive operators insisted that the barriers which surrounded the lift shaft had been removed, apparently for maintenance, late last month. On Wednesday night a 12-ton runaway locomotive lunged unimpeded into the shaft and plummeted hundreds of metres down on to the lift "cage" on level 56, squashing it like a concertina and crushing all the trapped miners.

Other miners said had the barriers been in position, the locomotive would have been prevented from falling into the shaft. They told City Press that safety barriers had also been removed from levels 50 and 53 and that tragedies could also have occurred at either of these.

Duncan did not rule out the possibility that the alleged removal of the barriers, known as T-sprouts, could have contributed to the tragedy.

But he told City Press: "The allegation that the barriers had been removed is one of several possibilities that a commission of inquiry will investigate when it sits on Tuesday."

Contributing causes of the accident which will be examined will include possible defects to the locomotive and human error, he said.

Locomotive operators also alleged that the locomotives used at the No 2 shaft were not checked regularly as stipulated in the safety regulations.

"Every time I requested that the Makalanyane be checked I was told that it was in the work because when the locomotives are being checked it stops production," one of the operators alleged.

Began to move

City Press was told that an operator known as

CP 14/5/95 (212)

Vaal Reefs miner Doctor Mathebula narrowly escaped death this week - thanks to his poor memory. See Page 2.



GO FOR IT, CHAPS ... President Nelson Mandela giving Bafana Bafana coach Clive Barker a hug minutes before the historic Nelson Mandela Inauguration Challenge against Argentina played at the Ellis Park stadium yesterday. Steve Khompela (captain), Deputy President FW De Klerk and Sports

Pic: ANDRIES MCINERKA

Rainbow nation SCORES

IT WAS not exactly the greatest football spectacle - this Mandela Inaugural Cup Game played before a near capacity crowd at the Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg yesterday.

But it was a fine hour for South African soccer - and for the new South African nation.

On the field of play our boys showed the grit and determination that makes for potential world beaters.

But it was on the grandstands that South African soccer fans showed the world that our racial miracle, which has confounded many people, is something wonderful to behold.

It was heartwarming to see fans of all colours dancing to the music of Shosholoza. Some may not have understood the lyrics - but all joined in eager support of the squad.

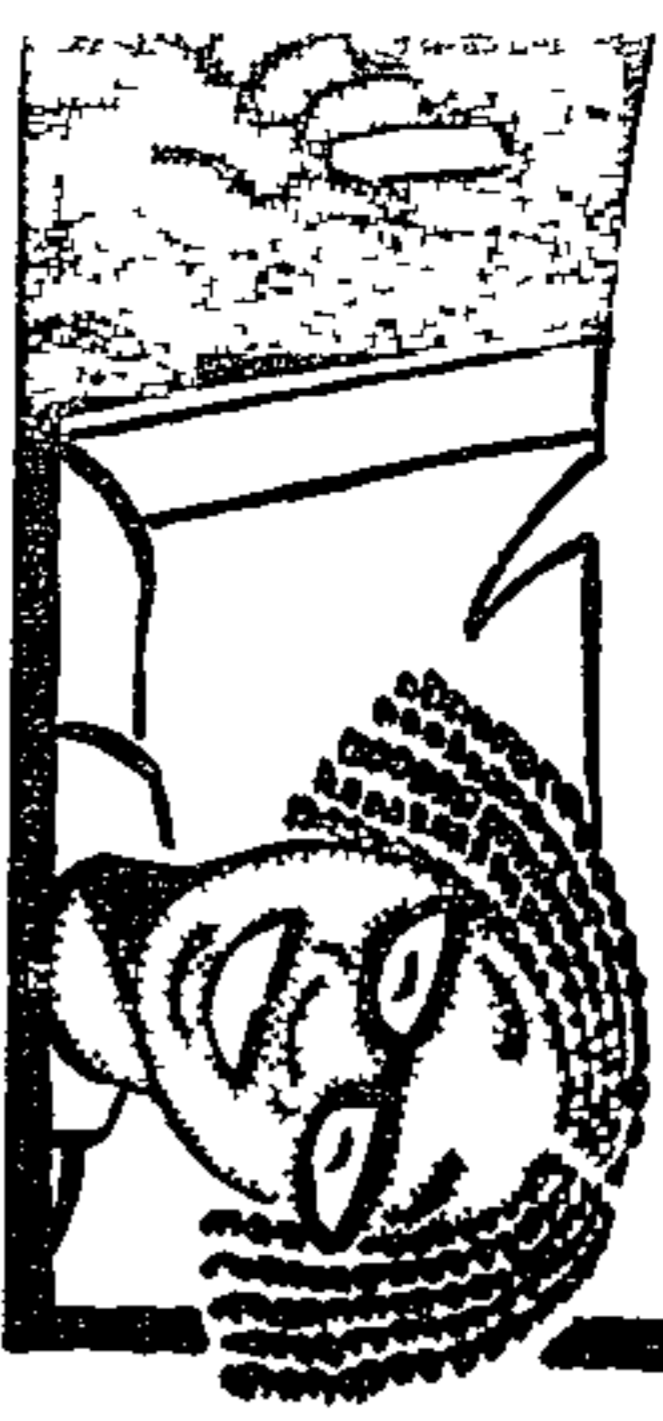
Thunderous cheers resounded when President Nelson Mandela, flanked by his two deputies, Thabo Mbeki and FW de Klerk, were introduced to the players. When a soccer fan seated next to me saw the baldheaded De Klerk, he smiled and said: "I am glad he is here."

Seated where I was, I could not see all the dignitaries. I caught sight of businessman and civic leader Dr Nihato Mofina.

As I left the stadium I could not help feeling that something very beautiful - Archbishop Desmond Tutu's rainbow nation - is indeed in the making.

See Page 9, 12

ecspj members
Provincial safety and security MEC Rev Celam
etwa said he failed to understand why the SPU
I decided to behave in an aggressive fashion



**LEAD ABOUT TEACHER
DEPLOYMENT BY
AFTENG MEC TODAY
V LEARNING PRESS!**

"I still can't believe
that my colleagues have
died. But the memory of
the human body parts I
saw makes me shiver."
Anglo American Cor-
poration said in a state-
ment all bodies from the
crushed lift cages had been
removed by yesterday
morning and the shaft
bottom sealed off.
Mathubula said he and
about 400 others who
were to work at No 2
Shaft on Wednesday
were later taken out via
No 5 Shaft.
"But because I was
numbed by grief and
had heard, I went under-
ground again to help the

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Id s were saw
parts of the mangled bod-
ies as we helped bring
them up to the surface.
Mathubula, like other
shocked miners we inter-
viewed, said unless man-
agement improved safety
measures, he would not
work underground again.
The cause of the disas-
ter at Anglo American's
Vaal Reefs mine remain-
ed a mystery by the week-

live manage to pass four
safety barriers? And
where was the driver?
Some of the shocked
workers we interviewed
on the surface said that
though they had no proof,
they suspected sabotage.
Most said that if safety
measures were not im-
proved, they would not
risk their lives to go
underground again.
The regional general

my pres cent on Com-
mo and secretary Sam
Shlowa and by members
of the North West legis-
lature led by acting pre-
mier Zacharia Tolo and
the MEC for health, Dr
Paul Sefularo.
Shlowa said to suspect
sabotage would be specu-
lative at this stage. A
high-powered, independ-
ent commission of in-
quiry would have to be set

ture to blame the mine
before in-depth investiga-
tions had been held.
Pope John Paul II sent
his condolences to fami-
lies of the victims of the
mine disaster, AP report-
ed yesterday quoting a
Vatican source.
The pope invoked "abu-
ndant divine strength and
comfort" upon all those
affected by the disaster,
the Vatican said.

about eight of his friends
were missing but because
the compound is so big he
could not be sure they
were among the dead.
Deputy President FW
de Klerk who was at the
scene yesterday expressed
his sympathy to the be-
raved families and said
that the government would
make sure the Commis-
sion of Inquiry would be
speeded up.

R12 million under the presidential Reconstruction
and Development Programme initiative, was offi-
cially launched at a rally at the Brakpan Stadium
on the East Rand yesterday **CP14/S195**

Cops kill teenager
POLICE shot dead a 14-year-old who was fleeing
from the scene of a burglary at a shopping centre
West Rand police spokesman Lieutenant-Colo-
nel Henriette Beiser said last night that police,
who arrived at a Roodopooport shopping centre after
a tip-off about the break-in, fired several warning
shots at the fleeing teenager, killing him
Reports by Sapa, Own Reporters

From Page 1

Crime soars after youth releases

Most criticised the gov-
ernment for "being more
worried about protecting
the rights of criminals
than protecting the vic-
tims' rights".
Peter Molotsane, who
last year came close to
death after an attack by

young thugs, described
the releases as "a sad day
for those who are on the
receiving end of these chi-
liden's wave of terror".
He said "They chase
parents away from their
houses and stay with their
friends and girlfriends

making their parents'
houses havens for crim-
inal activities."
Most residents argued
that an impression had
been created that the
youngsters have a licence
to commit crimes "be-
cause they know they'll

be in jail today and to-
morrow they'll be free
again".
A TV journalist who
refused to be named said
the releases were incon-
sistent with the feeling of
people on the ground.
"It shows how much

the legislators have be-
come out of touch with
the masses. Most will skip
bail and never come to
court again," he said.
He said the govern-
ment should have consul-
ted with institutions to
find a better solution

34 Study at Home

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problems as fast as we can,
and we apologise for all the de-
lays due to burglaries at our
premises.

From Page 1
'Witches' brutally
killed in Thokoza

mission from the SDU to
bury their dead.
While permission was
granted, the families were
instructed to report every
mourner from outside the
boundaries of Extension 2
to the SDU commander.
All Extension 2 resi-
dents were banned from
attending the funeral and
the memorial services.
They were also barred
from mourning or send-
ing condolences to the af-
fected families.
The house of one be-
raved family was ran-
sacked by the rampaging
mob, who claimed to be
looking for baboons in-
side the house.

City Press was told the
killings followed allega-
tions on April 8 by a
"drunk" woman - whose
name is also known to this
newspaper - that her
witchdoctor had said the
two women were witches.
An emissary of three
community representa-
tives, together with a
claimant and the accused,
was sent to consult the
witchdoctor in Welkom.
It is reliably under-
stood that the witch-
doctor, who turned out to
be a traditional healer,
confirmed seeing the wo-
man but rejected claims
that he said the women

Another mass meeting
was convened where the
delegation gave the ac-
count of the traditional
healer clearing the wo-
men.
However, it is said the
commander then decided
to switch charges and
press for different allega-
tions in which he accused
the two women of more
acts of witchcraft.
Crying for the women's
blood, SDU members are
said to have started toy-
ing around and firing
a volley of AK-47 fire
into the air.
While people scattered
in different directions, the
two women also tried to
flee the ominous horror.
The first woman was
gunned down in the street
while she made a desper-
ate rush for her life. The
second victim was corner-
ed inside her house after
making a short prayer -
with her 11-year-old
daughter hanging around
her neck - before her hus-
band was ordered to re-
move the child.
After these murders,
the SDU commander is
alleged to have convened
another meeting in which
he urged community me-
mbers to intensify the
witchhunt.

Political comment and scribbles by K. Sliya, headlines and sub-editing by
M. Adams, both of 2 Herb St, New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

In recent weeks, the Oklahoma City bomb disaster in the US touched locals who joined hands to mourn the dead. The unfolding saga was also played around the world and nations wept with the United States government for the victims.

It did not appear so at Vaal Reef's. Except for media interest, it was as if the accident had not happened.

The town centre of Orkney was bustling with shoppers and many people seemed to be in high spirits as they went about without a care in the world.

As photographer Thadi Khuele and I came closer to No 5 shaft we at least expected to meet family members of the victims or friends and roommates who knew them and had come to grieve, but there were none.

Neither was there any weeping as human pieces in plastic bags were brought to the surface.

The few people who milled around the shaft were members of the rescue team, paramedics, mine officials and journalists who had Anglo American spokesman James Duncan at their disposal.

The rescuers who worked two hours on and two hours off in the hellish-hot shaft sinking of the decaying flesh they had to scoop into black plastic bags were so horrified to describe the conditions.

They will be given psychological treatment after they bring the last of the remnants of the 104 bodies from 2.1 km below the surface.

ROYALTY ... The sign at the entrance to Vaal Reef's Gold Mine in Orkney.

Frankenstein

Burns on its master

by SIPHO KHUMALO

DISGRUNTLED Inkatha Self-Protection Unit members fought pitched battles with police in the hunt this week as they blocked the entrance to the KwaZulu/Natal Legislative Assembly, bringing everything into a standstill.

The Internal Stability Division had to be called to assist the outnumbered police.

Teargas and stamboks were used and shots were fired in the air in an attempt to remove the SPU members from the entrance.

They were demanding money apparently owed them and said they wanted to talk to senior officials of the KwaZulu/Natal government.

Launched early in 1994, the SPU is now becoming a hot potato for the Inkatha-led KwaZulu/Natal government, with premier Dr Frank Mdlalose this week calling them a "sinister force" at on destabilising the province.

The Friday incident was the second this week involving members of the SPU, following their forming of the legislature on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the group, Bongani Bukhosini, said the decision to come to Umlundzi was taken after meeting between their commanders and authorities had failed to produce results.

"All we need is our money from Muzi Lombro," said.

Lombro has been described as a former ANC member who defected to Inkatha and apparently is some



GRISLY OPERATION ... Miners unload stretchers to recover the bodies of their colleagues from the bottom of the shaft.

■ Pesi EVANS MBOWENI

At death's door

BY DAN DLAMINI

VAAL Reef's miner Doctor Mathebula owes his life to his absentmindedness on Wednesday.

Had Mathebula remembered his locker key on his way to his shift that day, he would have been dead now — crushed at the bottom of No 2 Shaft with 104 of his workmates.

In an exclusive interview with City Press, 42-year-old Mathebula, a father of two from Nhangano in Swaziland, told how he had escaped the appalling disaster in which a 13-ton locomotive plunged on top of the cage carrying the miners underground.

He was on his way to enter the cage when he suddenly remembered he had forgotten to remove the key from his locker.

He turned back — while his colleagues streamed past him on their journey of no return.

"When I returned, my group had already entered the cage and I had to wait for the next one," said Mathebula.

"While we were waiting, we were told there

Lapse of memory saves miner's life



DEATH MACHINE ... Vaal Reef's yard supervisor Moabi Kgabu shows the type of locomotive that plunged down No 2 Shaft — crushing 104 miners.

Yet another SA miner is killed

WELKOM miner Roedolf Jacobs (49) has died in a rockfall at President Steyn gold mine only four months before his retirement, spokesman for mine owners Anglo American James Duncan said on Friday.

Jacobs worked on the mine for 25 years. He was hit by falling rock while surveying 2 423 m below the surface in the mine's No 4 shaft — Sapa

rescue team

CP 14/5/95 Aftermath of mine horror (212)

BY DAN DLAMINI

up to determine the safety standards at the mine and whether any person was liable.

Tolo sent the North West government's condolences to the families of the deceased, saying the government sympathised with them in their loss.

The minister of mineral and energy affairs, Pik Botha, who was also at the scene, said on the basis of what was known at the moment, human error was probably the cause of the accident.

Negligence

National Union of Mineworkers president James Moflatsi, who had visited the scene earlier, blamed the Anglo American Corporation (AAC) for negligence.

Gomomo said Cosatu and its affiliates would see to it that the dead miners were afforded a befitting burial.

AAC spokesman James Duncan said management would inform the dead miners' next of kin as soon as the mine had identified them.

CP 14/5/95 Aftermath of mine horror (212)

BY DAN DLAMINI

AN EERIE atmosphere with a stench of decaying bodies, grim faced workers and a beehive of activity is the scene that greets one at the Vaal Reef Mines shaft number 2.

According to mine management, the majority of those who died were Lesotho nationals. A Vaal Reef spokesman Phillip Koitze said 94 bodies had been recovered by yesterday afternoon and hoped the rest would have been found by last night.

As the search went ahead many were still uncertain if their brothers, relatives or comrades had died underground.

Accepted reality

Lepota Moloroane said he tried hard to convince himself that his cousin, whom he declined to name, had played truant and not gone to work, but three days later he has accepted reality.

te school in September by a Mrs van Wyk and informed of its dress code.

"She told me the dress was to be worn not more than 8 cm above the knee and that there was no rule dealing with the wearing of a head-scarf."

When she sent her to school with a longer dress and head-scarf on the instructions of her father on January 17, the girl was sent home.

'People's houses' from VW



GERMAN car manufacturer Volkswagen yesterday said it would start producing and selling low-cost, prefabricated houses in South Africa from June, tapping a market in the housing shortage.

The houses — made of 7 cm thick plastic and containing two rooms, a living room, kitchen and bathroom — would first be offered to VW workers in Uitenhage and later on the open market.

The houses will cost about R30 000 and can be erected in three days. CP 14/5/95

Amakhosi want more power

A CONSTITUTIONAL Assembly public hearing aimed at involving traditional authorities in the drafting of South Africa's final constitution ended in Cape Town yesterday with Amakhosi calling for a greater executive and legislative role, especially at local and provincial level.

The critical issue was how to achieve a healthy balance between traditional leaders and elected representatives, the deputy minister of Arts, Science, Culture and Technology, Brigitte Mandala, told delegates.

Miss USA is the one

THE FIRST Miss Universe to be hosted in an African country was won by Miss USA, Cheshi Smith (21), on Friday, after a week of drama in Windhoek, Namibia.

South Africa's representative, Augustine Masilela, made it to the top 10.

The contest fell on the same birthdate of Namibia's president, Sam Nujoma. There was near pandemonium when the Argentinian queen left Namibia before the contest, apparently "dugested" with the organisers.

Tough talk from Inkatha

A RESOLUTION taken yesterday at an Inkatha Freedom Party national council meeting in Umlundzi said the party would "rise and resist" any national government decision it thought undemocratic.

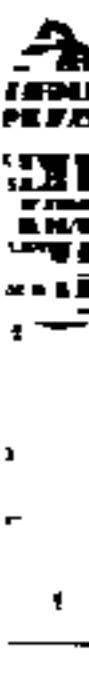
This resolution was passed to support of a recent statement from IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi in which he had called on IFP supporters to "rise and resist to defend the Zulu nation."

Zimbabwe detains editors

THE PUBLISHER and two editors of Zimbabwe's two independent weeklies, the *Financial Gazette* and the *Sunday Gazette*, were picked up by security agents early yesterday morning.

Sources said publisher Elias Rusike, editor Trevor Ncube and deputy editor Simba Makunike were apparently arrested because of a series of articles alleging that Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe had remarried.

Schools to get R12 m



Family members arrive at Vaal Reefs

(212)

RENEE GRAWITZKY

B/D 19/5/82

FAMILY members of the 104 mine workers killed at Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft near Orkney began arriving at the mine yesterday where they received counselling from an employee assistance programme

Representatives of the mine were still attempting to notify the families of mine workers who had been identified Anglo American could not confirm how many bodies had been identified by late yesterday

The majority of workers killed came from Lesotho, the Northwest, Eastern Cape (former Transkei), Botswana, Mozambique and Swaziland

Another mine worker was killed in a rockfall at Anglo's President Steyn mine No 4 shaft on Friday

Sources said yesterday that acting government mining engineer Dick Bukker would table a proposal today for the establishment of a judicial inquest and inquiry with an independent chairman and two assessors, which should be established by Wednesday

The National Union of Mineworkers called on workers countrywide to observe a minute of silence at midday on Wednesday and to participate in lunchtime demonstrations near mines in Vaal Reefs, Welkom, Rustenberg, Randfontein, Highveld, Northern Cape, North Eastern Transvaal, Northern Natal and Western Cape

On Friday, the union and Anglo agreed to the establishment of a joint disaster fund controlled by six trustees, three representatives from each party and an independent chairman

According to Anglo, families of the deceased would have access to three sources of compensation.

These were Rand Mutual Insurance, the Mineworkers Assurance and Benefit Scheme and the Mineworkers Provident Fund Taking into account the various benefits provided, widows would be paid out R4 750 in funeral benefits, close to R60 000 in lump sum payments (based on an average salary of R1 200 per month) and a monthly pension of approximately R420 a month for the widow and a lesser amount for children

Locomotive driver, under guard 'for own safety', answers first questions

Mandela to visit

(212) Swan 15/5/95

mine

IDENTIFYING the crushed bodies is by thumb prints, taken when the men were first employed

STAFF REPORTERS

President Mandela and ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa will visit Vaal Reefs gold mine today to inspect the scene of last week's horror accident in which at least 104 miners lost their lives.

Mandela and Ramaphosa, a former leader of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), will be accompanied by Anglo director Clem Sunter.

A commission of inquiry, headed by a judge and two assessors, is to start this week after details have been finalized by the Cabinet.

The driver of the locomotive which plunged down the mine shaft and onto the lift cage carrying miners is still under guard "for his own safety". He has given an initial statement to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

Representatives from the department and the NUM went down the death shaft yesterday to look at ways of bringing the locomotive and cage to the surface, according to Anglo American spokesperson Lauren Wilson.

But the task will not be easy. The mine's engineering manager Thys Sabagha said it was difficult to get below level 56 from where the locomotive plummeted on to the cage. It is 167m underground and the shaft guides were damaged by the accident.

Wilson said a memorial service was to be held on Wednesday, a week after the accident, at the Oppenheimer Stadium in Orkney.

NUM has called on workers countrywide to observe a minute's silence to be held at midday and to participate in demonstrations at Vaal Reefs and at Welkom, Rustenburg, Randfontein, Highveld, North-eastern and Western Cape, northern Natal.

With the last of the 104 bodies removed at the weekend, the recovery operation now turns to its second phase, salvaging the wreckage of the death cage and the locomotive and carriage which caused the disaster.

This is being described as the "forensic" phase by mine management.

Government officials, NUM officials and the mine's management would attempt to piece together evidence collected from the shaft to reconstruct the accident.

One option being considered is to lower a platform down the shaft so that people on it could recover what was necessary for the reconstruction of the accident on the surface.

Another option was to send absenters down with photographic equipment. Photographs could then be used to reconstruct the accident.

The inspection of the accident site at 56 level by Government officials, union officials and mine management is expected to take place tomorrow, and Sabagha said they hoped to complete the shaft forensics by Wednesday.

Families of the dead mine workers are expected to start arriving in the town this week from all corners of southern Africa.

Wilson said Vaal Reefs mine would pay the transport costs to the mine of these families, who are coming from as far afield as Lesotho, Swaziland, the Eastern Cape, Mozambique and Botswana.

The mine would also provide accommodation and counselling for the families.

The district surgeon was continuing to work on identifying the bodies, with the help of information provided by the mine, Wilson said. This included the thumb print of each worker, taken for security reasons when he was first employed.

Mine deaths must stop

THE Vaal Reefs gold mine disaster near Orkney, in which at least 102 people died last week, highlights the urgent need for the implementation of the recommendations of a recent inquiry into health and safety in the mines

Disaster struck when a runaway locomotive and carriage plunged down a shaft and crushed a lift carrying workers on Wednesday

At least 726 people died in South African mines in 1992 alone, making the country second only to Turkey for mine fatalities

The Leon Commission of Inquiry, whose recommendations are currently being finalised, has criticised the present safety management system on the mines

In its report, the commission says the safety management systems on the mines have become discredited in the eyes of workers and the public, because of the many disasters that have occurred at mines with high star ratings

The commission says rock bursts and falls, underground explosions, track and tramming hazards, dust, noise, heat, and radiation are some of the dangers needing immediate attention

It recommends that tripartite technical committees be established to investigate and monitor these hazards

The commission calls for the drafting of a new health and safety act by representatives of the state, industry and the unions, as a matter of urgency

The act should then be submitted to the tripartite Mine Regulations Advisory Council for debate and approval

The commission says the codes of practice should form part of the legislative framework, as

The recent mine tragedy highlights the urgent need for a new health and safety act as outlined by the Leon

Commission of Inquiry, reports

Isaac Moledi:

(212) Someban 15/5/95

a supplement to the regulations

Codes of practice are defined as codes specified by the manager of the mine as his chosen way of dealing with hazards and mitigating or reducing risks

Guidelines for codes of practice should be published and made available to all concerned

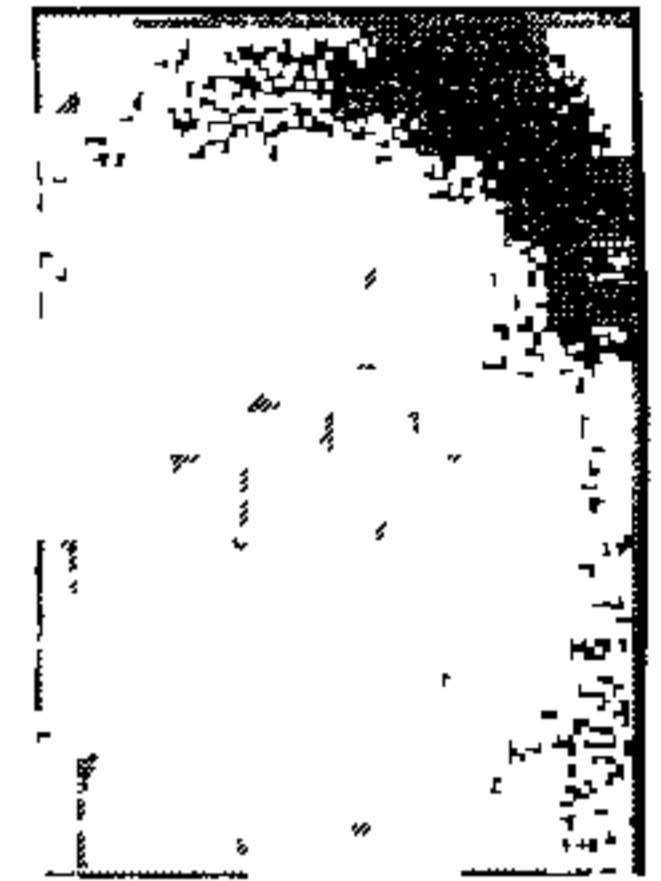
On the basis that upholding workers' rights lays the foundation of good industrial relations, the commission recommends that the right to representation and participation and the right to refuse to do dangerous work should form basic components of health and safety codes

Right to information

The commission also recommends that workers should have the right to information, education and training on health and safety matters relevant to their workplaces

It also finds that inquiries into mine accidents are biased in managements' favour

The commission recommends that the new Act should ensure that all parties involved are given information about any inspections carried out during an inquiry



Management's low rate of detection of occupational diseases is another big health problem in the mining industry, the commission says

The commission recommends that efforts be made to identify cases of occupational disease among former mine workers, so they can be properly compensated

It also advises that workers be given basic adult education training by independent experts

Another recommendation is the formation of a tripartite structure, which will investigate ways of improving workers' lives and look at the whole question of housing and accommodation for workers and their families. Mines currently rely heavily on migrant labour and thereby avoid providing proper housing for its workers

A National Union of Mineworkers Occupational Health and Safety spokesman says "The new Act should be an enabling Act, and be as brief as possible. It should deal with the duties of the main participants in the industry and their respective fields of responsibility"

The NUM says the commission should identify current regulations requiring immediate attention for amendment or repeal

A miner's life is still very cheap

By Ruth Bhengu.

A HANDFUL of weary mineworkers milled around No 5 Shaft, where the crushed bodies of the miners who died at Vaal Reefs on Wednesday were still being recovered

There were no women mourning and no distraught friends and relatives keeping vigil

For African men to have this type of farewell was unusual. It was also eerie

What was even more distressing was the possibility that families in Lesotho, Mozambique and Transkei may not get the chance to bury their dead

The bodies were so mangled that it was difficult to identify them, according to mine employers

"It is possible that we have more than one body in a bag," said regional manager of Vaal

Reefs Mr Dick Fisher

An ambulance driver, who did not want to be identified, said he had seen two heads and three arms in one bag with a pile of flesh that had been rescued from the mass of steel below the ground

"I was curious because the body bag was not in the shape of a human body," said the driver. "It was just an odd pile."

Entire country shocked

This latest mine disaster, which took the lives of at least 100 men, shocked the entire country. But in the small Western Transvaal town of Orkney it looked as if people were going about their business as usual

That was until one spoke to them about No 2 Shaft

"It's a tragic thing that happened at the mine," said one petrol attendant as we filled up

"The thing that is so sad is that the relatives are not here. You would think these men had no families. It's not right," he said, busying himself with the petrol pump to hide eyes that were filling with tears

Vaal Reefs spokesman Mr Dick Fisher said the mine had sent representatives to inform the families of the dead

He could not say if the bodies will be sent to their families, because the mine was still struggling with putting together pieces that belonged together

The miners believed the mine would bury the dead on its property

"They buried 30 miners behind one of the dumps in 1979," said Mr Themba Mzozo, a locomotive driver

"They may also bury these bodies on their property. A miner's life is very cheap," he said. The dead were all black

Sowetan
15/5/95

(212)

Vaal Reefs probe starts tomorrow

Sowetan 15/5/95 (212)

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

■ **HORROR DISASTER** Judge to be named to head commission of inquiry:

THE Ministry of Energy and Mineral Affairs will tomorrow conduct the first on-site inspection at Vaal Reefs gold mine, scene of last week's horror disaster in which 104 people died.

The workers were crushed to death last Wednesday when a locomotive smashed into their lift, sending it plummeting to the bottom of the shaft at 120km/h.

The National Union of Mineworkers has called for a national day of mourning on Wednesday, which will coincide with the mine's memorial service.

Acting Government mining engineer Mr Dick Bakker, who will conduct tomorrow's inspection, said he would be accompanied by experts to gather evidence and look into other technical mat-

ters. He said after the inspection, a judge would be appointed to head a commission of inquiry into the accident.

Spokesman for the Energy and Mineral Affairs Ministry Mr Roland Darrol said yesterday the Cabinet would meet on Wednesday to decide on the type of inquiry to be conducted.

He said the ministry was determined to ensure the inquiry was as thorough as possible and mechanisms to prevent a recurrence were put in place.

Meanwhile, mine officials were yesterday still busy trying to identify victims, using fingerprinting.

Ms Lauren Wilson, spokeswoman for mine owners Anglo American Corporation, said a memorial service would be

held at the mine's Oppenheimer Stadium but details would be finalised at a special meeting between the NUM and management tomorrow.

She said families of the victims in the country, Lesotho, Mozambique and Botswana have already been notified and were expected at the memorial service.

However, Wilson said the names of the victims would not be released until the identification process had been completed and all families were notified.

Although the union and management yesterday still did not know how the funeral would be conducted, they agreed that it was impossible to bury the victims separately as they were so mangled.

Gruelling job at ⁽²¹²⁾ Vaal Reefs *sowetan* *15/5/95*

By Ruth Bhengu.

THERE were no weeping families and friends waiting anxiously as the mutilated bodies were brought out of Vaal Reefs' No 5 Shaft

Only a handful of miners, the rescue team, journalists and mine publicists stood around keeping a tally of the bodies. It was a grim job.

This was Saturday morning and hopefully the day when the rescue operation would be completed.

At least 100 miners on the night shift had been crushed to death when a locomotive hurtled on to their triple deck lift cage on level 56 of No 2 Shaft.

At about 7 45am on Saturday morning four bodies had been brought to the surface by the underground rescuers.

A spokesman for the mine owners Anglo American, Mr James Duncan, had told reporters the rescue team was hoping to finish the job on Saturday.

Plastic bags

Already 92 bodies had been recovered, put into plastic bags, numbered and sent to the morgue. There were 12 more to be found.

It had been a gruelling job with rescue teams working day and night to pull bodies from the mangled wreckage of the lift cage lying 2 103 metres below the surface.

By Friday morning 47 bodies had been recovered. The mine management reported that the "easy" part was done.

The bodies in the top half of the cage had been lifted. Now the challenge facing rescuers was how to pry loose the crushed bodies caught in the badly squashed lower part of the cage.

Throughout the night the team of rescuers toiled in extreme heat, using angle grinders and blow torches to cut bodies free from the mangle of steel that had been the cage.

Collapsed

The cage had collapsed when a 12-ton locomotive had sped through an open barrier and landed on the cage carrying the miners.

Shortly after 10am four more bodies were brought to the surface. An hour later another two

At 12 15 the last two bodies were taken to the morgue at Westvaal Hospital in Orkney.

Meanwhile, Deputy President FW de Klerk, who was to address a conference in Klerksdorp, paid a brief visit to No 2 Shaft.

At 1pm regional manager of the mine, Mr Dick Fisher, told us the operation was complete.

He explained that of the 104 people who were originally on the missing list, four were later located. They had not been part of the night shift.

Mangled

"It is difficult to ascertain exactly the number of bodies recovered because most were mangled.

"So we may have more than one body in a bag," he said.

"But we have 100 body bags. At the moment there is a representative of the Department of Mineral Affairs and a member of the National Union of Mine Workers who have come to satisfy themselves that all bodies have been recovered," he said.

Fisher said the Department of Mineral Affairs would examine the wreckage to piece together information for the commission of inquiry to be held this week.

ILO meeting will focus on mine safety, health

RENEE GRAWITZKY

provided for including the election of safety representatives

Workers would have the obligation of taking "reasonable care for their own safety and health and that of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work"

NUM legal adviser Paul Benjamin, who was involved in drafting the proposed convention, said the convention committed itself to tripartism, basic worker rights, risks assessment approach and appropriate technical regulations

Debate on adoption of a social clause in international trade agreements had caused major polarisation amongst members to the ILO and delegates were "eagerly awaiting positions put forward by the SA delegation, especially since President Mandela had expressed support at the Copenhagen conference", Van Heerden said

A social clause, if agreed, would provide for the protection of core human rights, the freedom to organise and collective bargaining, no use of forced labour, and the abolition of child labour, he said

The ILO conference would continue the debate, and play a major role in implementing, a programme of action to deal with worldwide unemployment, poverty and social exclusion initially discussed at the Social Development Conference in Copenhagen in March



Labour Department representative Auret van Heerden, left, outlines the core issues to be addressed at the International Labour Organisation's 82nd session in Geneva next month. Labour communications manager Francois de Villiers looks on

Picture ROBERT BOTHA

MINE health and safety would be a priority at the 82nd session of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference in Geneva in June, the Labour Department's representative in Geneva, Auret van Heerden said at the weekend

The three-week conference would be attended by a South African delegation comprising representatives from government, labour and business

Delegates would be required to contribute to discussions on a number of other crucial issues including the incorporation of a social clause in international trade agreements, unemployment, poverty and extension of labour inspection to cover both public and private enterprises

Last year, the ILO conference resolved that discussion this year would revolve around the adoption of a convention and recommendations relating to safety and health in mines

The preamble to the proposed convention acknowledged workers' right to "information, genuine consultation on participation and training concerning the hazards and risks they face in the mining industry"

Employer obligations range from taking all necessary measures to eliminate or minimise the risks to safety and health, monitoring inspection of the mine, training programmes for workers and informing and protecting workers in event of exposure to hazardous substances

Fundamental worker rights have been

Mandela appoints commission to investigate Vaal Reefs disaster

ORKNEY — President Nelson Mandela appointed an official commission of inquiry yesterday to investigate the Vaal Reefs mining disaster.

Sapa reports he told a crowd of about 5 000 mine workers at the No 2 shaft — the scene of the accident which killed 104 miners — that this decision followed consultation with mining officials.

"I am tempted to feel that there is something drastically wrong (at the No 2 shaft) but I will suspend judgment until the commission has made its finding."

Referring to the Leon commission probe

of mine safety, Mandela said safety regulations needed to be considered carefully within every industrial sector.

"The (commission's) report must be properly processed — it must be considered from the point of view of workers as a whole in every industry."

He said he would personally donate R10 000 to a national disaster fund for the families of the victims, while the ANC would donate about R100 000. The Vaal Reefs disaster fund account has been opened at the First National Bank's Rissik Street branch in Johannesburg.

Mine officials and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said a memorial service would begin at 2pm tomorrow at the Oppenheimer stadium near Orkney.

Anglo spokesman James Duncan said the human tragedy overshadowed any consideration about potential loss of production. However, the No 2 shaft, which would not be operational for about two weeks, needed urgent attention to avoid rapid deterioration of the shaft's inner structure. At a meeting of mine workers attended by Mandela, Anglo gold and uranium division chairman Clem Sunter said the company

would do all it could to assist families of those who died

"I can only say from the bottom of my heart how sorry I am. Something terrible must have happened in terms of all the safety precautions."

Renee Grawitzky reports that NUM health and safety co-ordinator Fleur Plummer said an initial estimate of the compensation cost to insurers was about R6,6m for 93 workers. The remaining 11 were contract workers and would receive less compensation because they were covered by fewer benefits.

Duncan said the government mining engineer had advised Anglo not to make further comments on the accident as an official investigation was in progress. NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said the union had not yet been advised by the government mining engineer of this development.

The official in loco inspection of the accident site organised by the engineer takes place today and will include management, union and Mineral and Energy Affairs Department representatives.

● See Page 12

Vaal Reefs disaster a challenge to all parties

(212) BD 16/5/95

SA IS not unique in its reaction to national disasters like Vaal Reefs. The disaster has elicited a barrage of attacks over who is responsible, shifting the focus away from the human tragedy of more than 100 lives being lost and the repercussions on surviving family members.

It is counterproductive to try to attribute blame at this point as, ultimately, an independent inquiry will determine this, and those responsible could face criminal proceedings.

Attributing blame in this way will not have the desired effect of establishing a culture where people work together to try create a healthy and safe workplace.

The debate on health and safety should have been resolved by now — and this could have helped avoid some mining accidents.

As select committee for mineral and energy affairs chairman Marcel Golding says, we need to contextualise why parties revert to slanging matches. Calls for a commission of inquiry into mine safety were made repeatedly by the NUM over the years. The Leon commission was appointed only last year after the deaths of thousands, he says. Why was there such a delay?

The commission, says Golding, has made its recommendations, the par-

ties now need "the will to bring about the necessary reform". This reform should spell out clearly the parties' rights and responsibilities, establish an effective mining inspectorate and the means to build confidence in the system, he says.

The government mining engineer in his submission to the commission, said that accidents in the SA mining industry had historically been "appalling high". In the first 93 years of this century more than 69 000 mine workers had died and more than 1-million were injured.

How should we react to the Vaal Reefs disaster and health and safety in general, without reverting to traditional adversarial positions?

One of the reasons for the adversarial nature of the debate over health and safety is the balance of power between the parties. For too long employers in the industry have hidden behind the Chamber of Mines and the excuse that the unique nature of mining operations in SA has lent itself to a more dangerous environment than mining operations in other parts of the world.

As NUM legal adviser Paul Benjamin has pointed out, most of the largest accidents such as Kimross and Vaal Reefs are not related to the unique nature of SA mining oper-

RENEE GRAWITZKY

In addition, "enlightened leaders" have failed to take sufficient responsibility for safety.

On the other hand, one may ask whether the union, although committed to mine safety, has done enough to push for changes. Has the union allocated sufficient resources to address the question of safety?

What of the role of the state? Benjamin says the Vaal Reefs disaster "points to the huge onus the new government has inherited to achieve acceptable safety and health standards on mines". In the past, the system had become discredited in a number of areas, including compensation, inspections and accident inquiries.

Health and safety in the mining industry is regulated by the Minerals Act. The Leon commission said the Act was unsatisfactory in that it failed to address "the need for owner and manager commitments to health and safety expressed in a written policy statement stating the safety organisation of the mine, the failure to empower the inspectorate adequately, the issue of elected safety representatives and safety commit-

tees, the right to information, the need to publish statistics, reports of the inspectorate and disaster reports, the need to extend the issue of tripartite participation beyond the mine safety committee, the provision of safety equipment, the need for adequate health protection and monitoring, the need for adequate training and so on".

Benjamin says the commission "has laid the framework for reform which will require the devotion of resources by the state, a serious change of ways and commitment by all parties and an end to the era of excuses".

Unisa mercantile law lecturer Carl Mischke says "in accommodating both work and the dangers it seems inexorably to bring with it, the law has a crucial role to play, for it is in part through the law that society tries to bring about this accommodation of labour and danger".

What then should be the rights and obligations of the employer and worker?

The Occupational Health and Safety Act goes some way in specifying the rights and obligations of both parties while the International Labour Organisation has drafted a convention and recommendation on

mine safety for adoption at its conference in June

What is crucial in the draft convention is the balancing of these rights and obligations, including the role of the state in the formulation of legislation.

Legislation should "encourage co-operation between employers and workers and their representatives to promote safety and health in mines", it says.

The employer is obliged "to take all necessary measures to eliminate or minimise the risks to safety and health in mines", while workers "shall have the duty, in accordance with their training, to comply with prescribed safety and health measures, and take reasonable care for their own safety and health and that of other persons".

Anglo American spokesman James Duncan says it is ultimately management's responsibility to ensure health and safety in the workplace. With appropriate training employees further down the line should be responsible for adhering to procedures, he says.

The Vaal Reefs accident renews the challenge to all parties to take their responsibilities seriously.

LETTERS

Cost efficiency 'cuts mine lives'

Michael Urquhart

BD 16/5/95 (212)
METHODS used by the SA mining industry to improve cost efficiency were in some cases employed at the cost of shorter mine lives and the depletion of ores that could have supported selective mining, according to a report by AME Mineral Economics.

The AME said that in 1991, 196 tons or 15% of the world's total mine production was produced at a cash cost above the average gold price of \$362. Most of this uneconomic production had come from SA mines.

Last year, only 10 tons out of an identified world mine production of 1 313 tons was produced at a cash cost above the average gold price of \$384.

The AME said improved cost-efficiency had been achieved by raising head grades to improve yields, by labour rationalisation, increased or improved mechanisation or by reducing ore throughput by selective mining and tight grade controls.

It said a number of SA mines were now marginal operations, but with a continuation of current gold prices and the further depreciation of the rand they should survive for a few more years. These included Afrikaner Lease and Blyvoor.

Some had closed, or would close their mining operations, and continued as dump retreatment operations.

EXECUTIVE SUITE

SA faces safety shake-up

■ BY HELEN GRANGE

South African industry will soon have to comply with internationally-accepted health and safety conventions, Johan Olivier, a Johannesburg labour law expert, said yesterday.

Addressing a seminar on Occupational Health and Safety in Midrand, Olivier said the Labour Department and National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) were in the process of making recommendations on labour legislation which would comply with the new Bill of Rights.

Various international conventions on the protection of specific risks such as toxic substances and agents, machinery, maximum weight, air pollution, noise and vibration and the handling of radioactive waste would have to be taken into consideration, he said.

Carl Mischke, senior lecturer at Unisa's Department of Mercantile Law, pointed out that the responsibility for safety in the workplace should not be the prerogative of the state only.

While legislation could play a significant role in accommodating danger in the workplace, it was only employees and their supervisors who could, through their actions, try to balance out work and peril.

The Leon Commission of Inquiry into health and safety in the mines has strongly criticised the present safety management system on the mines.

The Commission has also called for the drafting of a new health and safety act, by representatives of the state, industry and the unions, as a matter of urgency.

Accident called a national disaster

Country to mourn miners tomorrow

BY MICHAEL SPARKS

Orkney — The country will mourn the 104 miners killed at Vaal Reef's gold mine tomorrow, one week after the accident that has been described as a national disaster by President Mandela.

He visited the mine near Orkney yesterday afternoon and called on employers to allow workers time off to attend memorial rallies and church services. He said this would help alter the perception by black workers that whites did not care about the lives of black workers.

A Labour Ministry spokesman said tomorrow was not a public holiday. It was up to employers to allow workers time off.

try as a whole — and the white minority in particular — do on occasions like this”

It would also help if employers contributed to the trust fund established to help the victims' families

The president was accompanied by Labour Minister Tito Mboweni, the ANC secretary-general and former miners' union leader Cyril Ramaphosa, the current NUM chief, James Motlatsi, and ANC deputy secretary-general, Cheryl Carolus.

He told the rally he would make a personal contribution of R10 000 to the trust fund, and the ANC would contribute R100 000. The Government, Co-satu and the SACP would also contribute.

Clem Sunter, head of Anglo American Corporation's Gold and Uranium Division, said Vaal Reef's and Anglo were contributing R2,5-million each. Mandela added, "I know full

well that no amount of money can compensate for the loss of loved ones. But we must do everything we can to show these people we care."

Mandela made an appeal to mine management to address the question of worker safety in conjunction with workers in a forum where both parties were regarded as equal.

He said he regarded last week's accident as a national disaster and that he was appointing a commission of inquiry to find the cause of the accident.

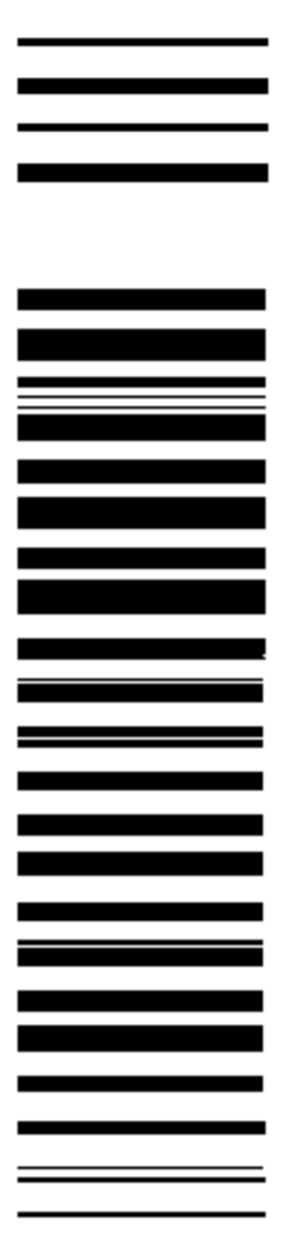
Mine management said it could take up to three weeks before production would resume in No 2 shaft, where the locomotive and carriage dropped on to the lift cage full of miners.

For those wishing to donate to the disaster fund, the account details are First National Bank, Rissik Street South branch, branch code 250605, account number 3000072230

2112
16/5/95



At the scene . . . President Mandela visits No 2 shaft at the Vaal Reef's mine in Orkney, where 104 miners died. He addressed more than 5 000 workers who packed a soccer stadium and received loud applause upon suggesting that white employers should reveal their sympathy by allowing workers time to mourn. PICTURE THYS DULLAART



Day of mourning

at mines

By Bongani Mavuso
and Abdul Mliazi

PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA has declared tomorrow a national day of mourning for the 105 miners killed at Vaal Reef's gold mine in Orkney last week.

Addressing thousands of workers at the mine, he said church services would be held throughout the country at 9am. There will also be rallies at all mines countrywide. Mandela urged employers to allow workers to attend the day's services. He also announced that a trust fund to assist families of the dead miners had been set up. He personally donated R10 000 to the fund, while the African National Congress gave R100 000.

Mandela said the Government would make a "substantial" contribution to the fund.

"There is a perception among Indians, coloureds and blacks that whites do not care about the lives of black people. Employers should help us to remove these perceptions. We appeal to them not to put restrictions on employees who want to attend the day's activities," Mandela said.

He has personally appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate the cause of the disaster. Managing director of Anglo American Corporation's gold division Mr Clem Sunter said the mine management was "upset" that such a terrible accident had occurred in a "safe" shaft area.

"Some terrible mistake occurred in a safe

Southern 16/5/95
(212)

We are going to do everything in our area to help the families, friends and relatives of the workers who died."

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Affairs also vowed to speed up legislation relating to the recommendations of the Leon Commission of Inquiry into health and safety on the mines. Ministry spokesman Mr Roland Darrol said the commission's recommendations, which were made three months ago, had already been approved by Mandela and would be tabled in Parliament next week.

"The ministry regards these recommendations as a matter of urgency. They have already been sent to major stakeholders in the mining industry and the matter will now be handled by the standing committee for energy and mineral affairs," said Darrol.

The National Union of Mineworkers, the Chamber of Mines and the ministry said they were happy with the commission's recommendations.

Meanwhile, Vaal Reef's mine management was yesterday still busy arranging accommodation for the hundreds of families expected to attend the memorial service at Oppenheimer Stadium, near Orkney, tomorrow.

Sapa-AFP reports that mining engineers yesterday began the difficult task of recovering the runaway underground locomotive that caused the accident that killed the miners.

A mine official said sufficient repair work to No 2 Shaft at the mine had been completed for engineers to begin removing the locomotive. An official inquiry into the disaster, one of the worst in South Africa's mining history, is due to begin today.

President Nelson Mandela, followed by mine officials, tours Vaal Reef's mine where 105 miners died last week in one of the worst mine disasters in SA's history
PIC SELLO MOTSEPE

Mandela: Allow workers time off for mourning

□ *'This would help to alter views held by blacks'*

ARG 16/5/95 (212)

The Argus Correspondent

ORKNEY — President Mandela has called on employers to allow workers to attend rallies and church services tomorrow to mourn the 104 miners killed at Vaal Reefs

This would help to alter the perception held by black workers that whites did not care about the lives of black workers, he said to loud applause from workers after visiting number two shaft yesterday, where the accident took place last Wednesday

This perception is not going to be removed by word of mouth, but by what the country as a whole — and the white minority in particular — do on occasions like this, Mr Mandela said

The perception could be changed by employers allowing workers to attend the church services and rallies without restrictions, and by contributing substantially to the trust fund that had been established to help the victims' families

A Labour Ministry spokesman said the Day of Mourning tomorrow was not a public holiday. It was up to employers to allow workers time off to attend rallies or church ceremonies

More than 5 000 workers packed a soccer stadium at the mine to listen to Mr Mandela, who visited the mine together



PRESIDENT'S VISIT: President Mandela yesterday visited the Vaal Reefs Number two shaft, where 104 miners died last week

with Labour Minister Tito Mboweni and other members of the government

Mr Mandela appealed to mine managements to address the question of worker safety in conjunction with workers in a forum where both parties were regarded as equal

Mr Sunter said such structures, in line with Mr Justice Ramon Leon's proposals on mine safety, had been set up at all but two of Anglo's mines

Mr Mandela said he regard-

ed the accident as a national disaster, since workers — and mine workers in particular — played a critical role in producing the wealth that would make the country grow

He was appointing a commission of inquiry to find out what had caused the accident

He said that while he wanted to suspend judgment until the report of the commission was received, he was "tempted to feel there was something drastically wrong"

During his visit to the mine Mr Mandela was accompanied by senior government officials — including Mr Mboweni, Constitutional Assembly head Cyril Ramaphosa, National Union of Mineworkers head James Motlatsi and ANC deputy secretary-general Cheryl Carolus

For those wishing to donate to the disaster fund, the account details are First National Bank, Rissik Street South branch, branch code 250605, account number 3000072230

Mandela says he'll order mine disaster inquiry

(212)

CT 16/5/95

ORKNEY: President Nelson Mandela said yesterday he would appoint a commission of inquiry into last week's mining disaster, in which 104 people were killed

"The commission will go into it and present their report as soon as possible," he told a mass meeting of about 5 000 miners in a soccer stadium at Vaal Reefs mine near here

Media reports had "tempted" him to think something was "drastically wrong", but he wanted to suspend judgment until the commission reported its findings

He said there was a perception among black South Africans that whites did not care about black lives.

That he did not share it did not alter the perception

"I'd like all employers to help us remove that perception," he said, appealing to them to show their concern by allowing workers to attend church services and rallies tomorrow, the national day of

mourning for the miners who died in the accident

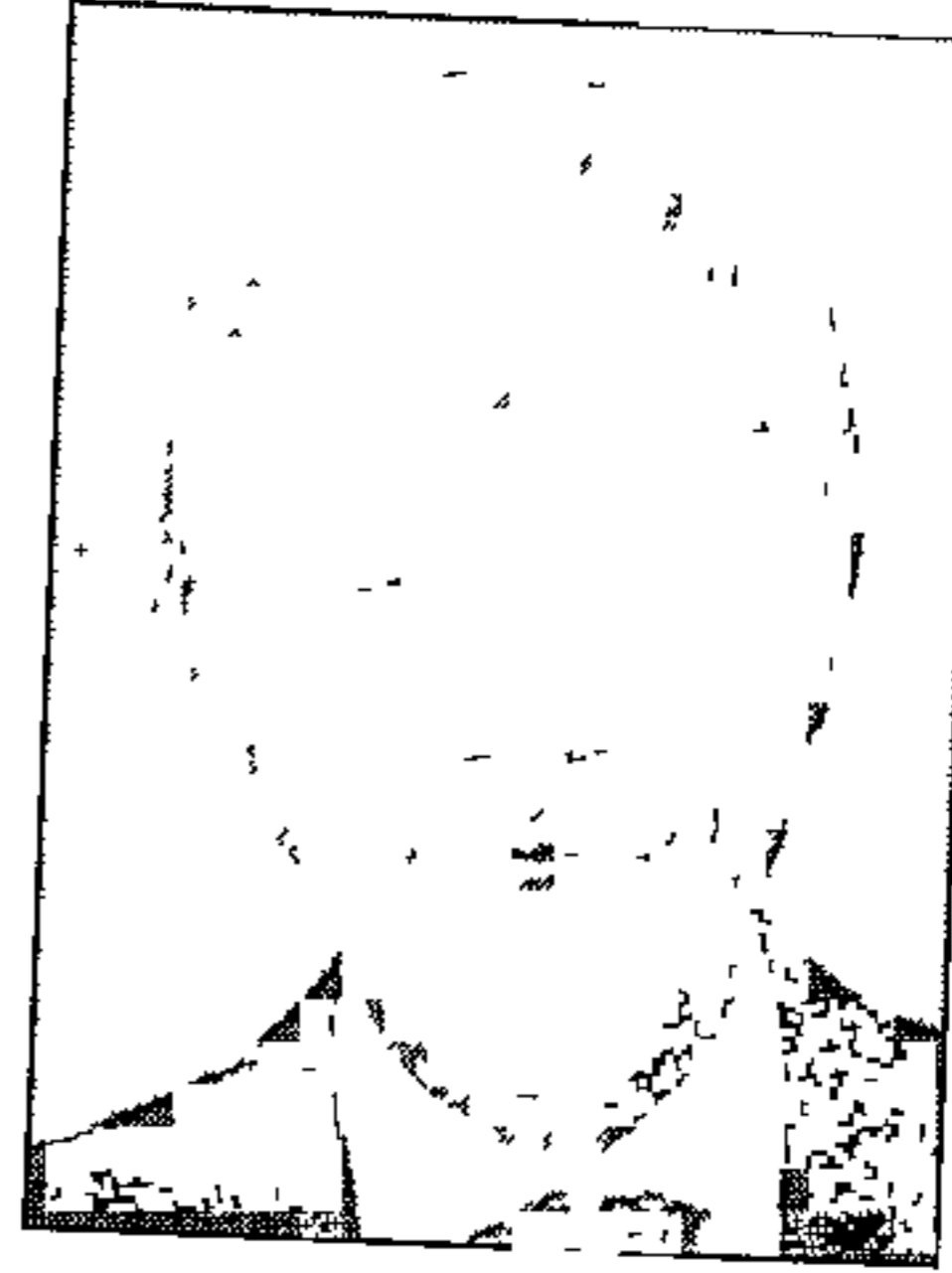
Mr Mandela said the ANC was donating R100 000 to a trust fund set up for the families of the workers and he personally was donating R10 000

Earlier he met rescuers, emergency services and trade union officials at the mine

Anglo American spokesman Mr James Duncan was unable to say how many of the families had been advised of the tragedy

● Mr Mandela last night called on South Africa's business community to help address some of the most urgent needs of communities, such as primary health care, education, welfare, small business and sport development

Speaking to groups of top businessmen and politicians at the opening of the SAB Centenary Centre in Newtown, Johannesburg, Mr Mandela said the South African business community had the



CHANGE: President Nelson Mandela seeks to change perception

resources to contribute more directly to the realisation of the vision of freedom, equality and prosperity that all South Africans shared — Sapa-Reuter

Miners to mourn 104 colleagues

(212) ~~SAW~~ 17/5/95
Many mines across the country have shut down for today's memorial services for the 104 miners who died in what President Mandela has called a national disaster at Vaal Reefs gold mine's No 2 shaft

Workers at Anglo American and Gengold mines have been given the day off on full pay to observe the tragedy.

Relatives of the dead miners started arriving at the mine last night to attend the service. About 350 people, who were ferried in by bus, are being housed at a hostel.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki visited the accident site yesterday and was briefed by Vaal Reefs regional general manager Dick Fisher and Shaft 2 sectional manager Piet Becker

Mbeki inspected the winding house next to the shaft and was then shown a video reconstructing the accident

Mbeki said discussions on members of a commission of inquiry would be completed today. The commission would consist of at least a judge and two assistants, he said

■ Patrick Bulger reports that Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha will ask the Cabinet today to set up a judicial commission of inquiry into the Vaal Reefs disaster

The Government is determined to see to it that the puzzling questions surrounding this disaster are fully investigated, he said. — Staff Reporters

Services for mine dead

sowetan 17/5/95
THOUSANDS of people will attend church services and hold rallies countrywide today to mourn the 104 miners who were crushed to death at Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney last week. (212)

During a visit to the mine yesterday, M1 Gwede Matashe, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Mine-workers said the disaster could have been avoided if the recommendations of the Leon report on mine safety had been

implemented earlier

He said there should be no further delay in upgrading mine safety

Asked if the earlier implementation of the Leon report proposals might have saved the lives of the 104 miners who died in the accident, he said "Yes, because they (the recommendations) make safety procedures a participative issue, not a management issue"

— *Sowetan Reporter and Sapa*

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste Newsbills, sub-editing and headlines by Sy Makaringe and Paul Droszoi All of 61 Commando Road, Industria, Johannesburg Printed by The Newspaper Printing Company for the proprietors and publishers, New Africa Publications Ltd of 61 Commando Road, Industria, Johannesburg The reproduction or broadcast without permission of articles published in this newspaper on any current economic political or religious topic is forbidden and expressly reserved to New Africa Publications under Section 12 (7) of the Copyright Act 1978 Sowetan abides by the Code of Conduct of the Press Council of South Africa and accepts its jurisdiction

Government giving R5-m to mine disaster fund

Political Staff

PRESIDENT Mandela today announced a R5 million government donation to the Vaal Reefs mining disaster fund

The president was speaking at a media briefing at his Tuynhuys offices during a break in the regular fortnightly cabinet meeting at which the disaster — which claimed 104 lives last week — was discussed

Mr Mandela said the Vaal Reefs accident had been a "unique disaster" which had touched the whole country

The R5 million would be made available to the dead miners' next-of-kin and would be jointly administered by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, the Anglo American Corporation

ARG 17/5/95 (212)
and the National Union of Mineworkers

He said the ANC was giving R100 000 and he challenged Anglo to match the government's donation and other political parties to match the ANC's donation

Mr Mandela appealed to individuals and companies to make "generous" contributions to the fund

Deputy President F W de Klerk told the briefing a Supreme Court judge, assisted by two expert assessors, would establish a commission of inquiry to advise government on safety measures to prevent such accidents happening in the future

The judge would also oversee the statutory investigation and the inquests, Mr De Klerk said

NEWS Justice R Leon appointed to head mining disaster commission of inquiry



Subdued pupils, relatives and friends could yesterday not hold their tears during the emotionally charged funeral service of six young boys who were killed when a fire broke out in their bedroom at the Christian Life Haven, Bertrams, Johannesburg, last week.

PIC MBUZENI ZULU

(212) Sowetan 18/5/95

Names of the dead

These are the names of 104 miners who died in the Vaal Reefs mine disaster last Wednesday. In brackets are names of places where they were recruited from.

Vuyeni Moetsheni (Lady Frere) Tsoholo Isdore Pheko (Maseru) Joseph Lephallo Montochi (Maseru) Lookboy Buka Koloko (Ganyasa) Noe Emmanuel Lerema (Qachasnek) Mkhanyane Kholu (Maseru) Motua Jacob Khotsa (Maseru) Phomolo Albert Malisa (Mohareshoek) Itumeleng Majara (Leribe)

Julius Letele (Maseru), Hlomo Letsela (Tevateyaneng) Moses Dlamini (Manzini) Mosimanyana Golcleloang (Klerksdorp) Seela Sebastian Chopho (Leribe) Raoshuma Dilowe (Kgale) Moroke Katiba (Maseru) Rantsoali Khasake (Mohareshoek) Vellem Tshukimisa Gxagxa (Tsolo)

Mbanganyi Jarobane (Palapye) Mbongeni Mbonisane (Cofimvaba) Ninki Modise (Kgale) Letsolo Motsoale (Quthing) Joseph Katiso Maphaka (Malatlela) Msebenzi Philemon Chaka (Ezingolweni)

Moleferefe Maqobikane (Mohareshoek), Eja Moabi (Leribe), Mogorosi Moeketsi (Mohareshoek) Elias Tello Mosala (Quthing)

Mateus Canvo (Malola), Arlindo Manolala (Maputo) Paulo Ndlane (Manjacaz) Bhekokwakhe Sangweni (Nongoma) Samson Mndluli (Barberton) Jackson Nkuna (Bushbuckridge)

Jerry Tsela (Nhlanguano), Jobo Potja (Leribe), Teboho Thabana (Qachasnek) Moeketsi Mafereka (Mafeteng) Teenne Phahlaha (Mafeteng) Matheadira Ransi (Mokhotlong), Joseph Lipo (Maseru) Motlalepula Mohoebob (Maseru), Buta Mohlakoana (Mohareshoek), Ntume Ramolole (Maseru), Molahle Peopa (Tevateyaneng)

Morakeng Maekane (Mokhotlong), Rapanye Motlalan (Maseru), Retsetsitsoe Mokotso (Mafeteng) Lebohodi Molomo (Qachasnek), Moshemane Mfundisi (Mokhotlong), Moseou Ramokhele

(Mohareshoek) Moletsane Seruti (Butha Buthe) Tumelo Gaegege (Taung) Mmboho Kamle (Leribe)

Jongkhaya Jom (Mqanduli) Mokoto Paul Kabei (Mafeteng) Wazir Amade (Ressano Garcia) Moathodi Simon Koolatose (Molepolole) Lethole Ishmael Thokoa (Mafeteng) Betoto Daniel Seapatle (Kgale), David Chanjelane Pacho (Ressano Garcia) Melika Emmanuel Masuku (Nhlanguano)

Mbuzeni Duma (Izingolweni) Simphiwe Bholo (Butterworth), Ramoa Solomon (Ressano Garcia) Alfred Muthusa Masilo (Klerksdorp) Mathelo Phokojoe (Maseru), Bhekisitha Paulos Madlala (Klerksdorp), Jabulani Elphas Dlamini (Manzini) Alberto Fotoe (Ressano Garcia) Khoalane Daniel Masole (Leribe)

Polloki Thantsa (Tevateyaneng), Liphapang Sello (Mohareshoek) Tebalo Ramolala (Kgale) Boitumelo Joseph Mosesane (Mothibstad) Habofane Samuel Mosehi (Maseru) Thabang Mosia (Leribe), Vuyani Romanua Ndlovu (Umzimkulu)

Kemelo Shakane (Mohareshoek), Banki Ogolotse (Kgale) Kutlobothoko Balosang (Kgale), Johannes Leutsoa Motsoan (Maseru)

Ramoallinyane Modise (Tevateyaneng), Semenekane Leleba (Mohareshoek)

Laurenco Lazzao Massingue (Ressano Garcia), Petrose Modise Mabala (Malaleng) Selel Nena (Tevateyaneng), Esau Molebeng Mejuane (Mafeteng), Mosuoa Moabi (Leribe) Esala Mokoka (Quthing) Sicelo Soga (Tabankulu), Moshe Moses Mokotso (Qachasnek), Archibald Mzanamfene Nyamza (King William's Town)

Contractors S Chwaba (Klerksdorp), Antonio Dangane (Inhambane) A Gazu (Umtata) K Godlo (Klerksdorp), LL Lunguza (Klerksdorp), AR Mazibuko (Klerksdorp), Amos Mgibisa (Idutywa), Senzo Msiya (Klerksdorp), Petrus Tsepame (Klerksdorp) Johannes Sechele (Maseru)

70 000 grieve for dead miners

HALF-MAST
Government gives R5 million to relief fund:



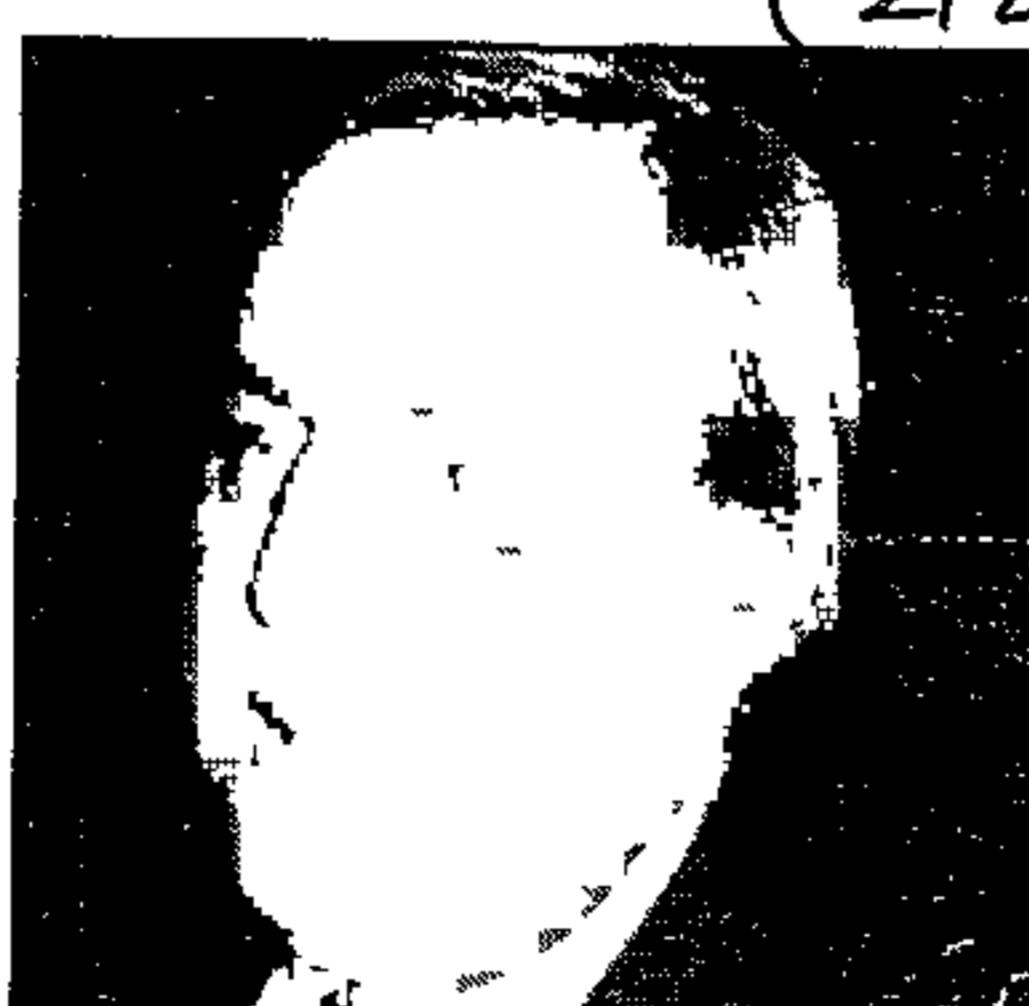
James Motlatsi

expressing condolences to relatives and committing themselves to respect for human life

In Cape Town, as thousands of people throughout the country mourned the victims of the disaster, President Nelson Mandela announced that the Government would contribute R5 million to the President's Disaster Fund

Addressing a Press conference in Cape Town, Mandela urged the mine's owners, Anglo American Corporation, to match the Government's contribution and appealed to the public to donate generously to the fund

Anglo has said it will contribute R2,5 million to the fund as will Vaal



Pik Botha

Reefs

Mandela has personally contributed R10 000 to the fund and the African National Congress R100 000

A committee comprising representatives of the Departments of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Labour, the National Union of Mineworkers, and Anglo would be appointed to administer the allocation of funds to next of kin

Anglo American chairman Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson told mourners at Orkney that although the company could not return life to the victims, it could learn lessons from the accident

"That is why an investigation which reveals every fact and every feature of

the accident is so important. The management of Vaal Reefs and all associated with it in the Anglo group have entirely committed themselves to such an investigation

"We cannot return life to the now lifeless but we can provide support to families and dependents of those who have died"

Speaking at the Orkney memorial service, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr Pik Botha said Mr Justice R Leon would preside over a joint inquiry into the Vaal Reefs mining disaster

He said Justice Leon would be assisted by two assessors — an officer from his department and an independent assessor with extra training in electronics "I wish to pay tribute to the rescue workers who had the unenviable task of removing the remains of the victims from the crushed steel cage

"They did so with dedication and devotion under dangerous conditions. I trust that we in South Africa will put

emphasis on the spiritual and intellectual needs of our mine workers and assist them to a greater extent to enrich their lives with education, training and cultural pursuits," Botha said

Botha said a shrine should be built at the bottom of the mine shaft where the miners died

A large delegation of Lesotho dignitaries attended the service. Many of the disaster victims were citizens of Lesotho. Among the Lesotho delegation was Deputy Prime Minister Professor Pakalicha Mosisi

National Union of Mineworkers president Mr James Motlatsi told the mourners that few mining tragedies had been more devastating than the Vaal Reefs accident

"This is not just a sad occasion, it is a tragic one. One hundred and four lives were lost in a single tragedy that lasted only a matter of seconds," Motlatsi said

Memorial services were held throughout the country — Sapa

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste. Newsbills, sub-editing and headlines by Sy Makarange and Paul Drosdzol. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria, Johannesburg. Printed by The Newspaper Printing Company for the proprietors and publishers: New Africa Publications Ltd of 61 Commando Road, Industria, Johannesburg. The reproduction or broadcast without permission of articles published in this newspaper on any current economic, political or religious topic, is forbidden and expressly reserved to New Africa Publications under Section 12 (7) of the Copyright Act 1978. Sowetan abides by the Code of Conduct of the Press Council of South Africa and accepts its jurisdiction.

Leon appointed as chairman of inquiry into Vaal Reefs disaster

Renee Grawitzky

ERNEST Oppenheimer stadium near Orkney in the Free State was filled to capacity yesterday as close to 100 000 mine workers gathered to pay their respects to their 104 co-workers who died at Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft a week ago

All Anglo American mines were closed for the day and SA marked a national day of mourning for the victims. Flags hung at half mast outside Parliament, the President's office and British High Commission. Addressing the Orkney service, Mineral

and Energy Affairs Minister Pk Botha said Judge Leon, chairman of the commission of inquiry into safety and health in the mining industry, had been appointed to chair the inquiry into the disaster.

However, the start of Botha's speech was interrupted by sections of the crowd who objected to his presence. They quietened down only after they were assured that he had been sent by President Nelson Mandela and did not represent the NP.

Botha said government was determined to ensure the questions around the disaster were fully investigated. Two experts, a

specialist on mine shafts from Mineral and Energy Affairs and an expert in electronic switching, would be appointed jointly by the department and the union.

Botha said the Cabinet had decided to donate R5m to the Vaal Reefs disaster fund. The fund had grown rapidly over the past two days and had well over R8m in its coffers as money from companies had poured in.

Mandela interrupted a Cabinet meeting in Cape Town to announce government's donation to the fund. But he said it should not be seen as a precedent for other acci-

dents. "It is a matter which has touched the whole country."

NUM president James Motlatsi said the tragedy would finally bring out the truth of what was happening in the mining industry. It was unfortunate that safety was in the hands of mine management and not those working underground.

Anglo chairman Julian Ogilvy Thompson said "We can learn from this tragic accident." An investigation would disclose every fact and feature of the accident. "We will dedicate ourselves and through our joint efforts to prevent not only a repeti-

tion of this type of accident but indeed of all accidents in our industry."

Cosatu president John Gomo said he hoped government took health and safety seriously, as the previous government had not. He called on Labour Minister Tito Mboweni to ensure health and safety was a priority in labour legislation.

Farouk Chotha reports that Cosatu southern Natal secretary Paulous Ngcobo, addressed several hundred mourners outside the Durban city hall and called for Botha to be replaced as Minister.

● See Page 2

Stunned mourners come to remember loved ones

RENEE GRAWITZKY (212) 601-8151/95

MORE than 400 dependants, who were left behind a week ago when 104 mineworkers entered the cage to go underground for the night shift never to return to the surface alive, gathered in Orkney to mourn their loss.

Family members from neighbouring states and from within SA were bused in yesterday to the Ernest Oppenheimer stadium near Orkney for the memorial service for those who died in the tragic accident on May 10.

During the minute silence, crying and wailing could be heard throughout the stadium.

Family members rejected the notion of a mass funeral and called on mine management to make sure the remains of the deceased mineworkers were transported to their respective homes for burial.

The majority of family members at the memorial service were too stunned to ask what had happened to their loved ones. They merely sat and tried to comfort each other as the formal proceedings continued endlessly around them.

Old women sat wrapped in Lesotho blankets and tried to make sense of it all.

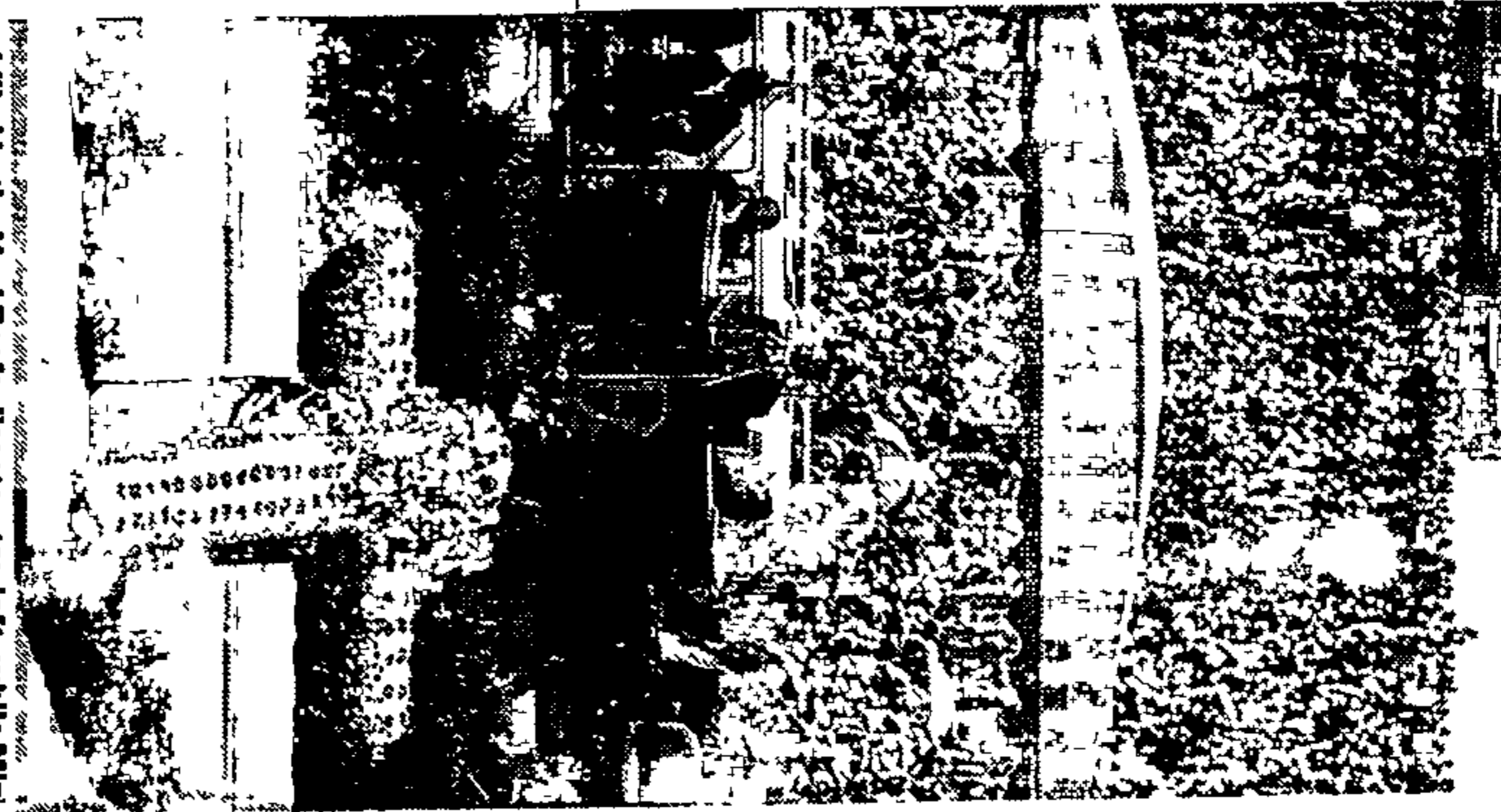
Some people wanted to question the locomotive driver while others asked why they were brought to the mine without being told exactly what had happened. Many families wondered how they were going to keep "the fire burning at home".

Noel Emmanuel Leema, 24, from Lesotho, left behind a two-year-old child. His unemployed wife Marena Leema, 21, accompanied by her aunt for comfort, said "my heart is broken". She said she did not blame mine management. She did not know who to blame.

A father who had worked at Vaal Reefs when No 1 shaft opened said when he left the mine his son started working at No 2 shaft in 1992 and became the only breadwinner in the family. His son was 20 when he died in the accident.



A mourner grieves at an Orkney memorial service yesterday for those killed in the Vaal Reefs disaster, top left, while Minister Pfk Botha addresses the thousands who gathered.



The Vaal Reefs disaster, top left, while Minister Pfk Botha addresses the thousands who gathered.

Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

Mines come under fire

■ BY THABO LESHILO

South Africa's mining houses have been harshly criticised for the high rate of mine accidents in which almost 600 workers die each year.

MEC for economic affairs Jabu Moleketi said at a function in Johannesburg to mark the 25th anniversary of the formation of Nafcoc's Gauteng region, that profits gen-

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erated by the mines did not "justify the death of even one of our people".

He said mining houses had a grave responsibility to ensure that the industry guaranteed the lives of everybody who works for them.

He said the high death toll on SA's mines would not occur in countries such as Britain and Australia without resulting in a public outrage.

STAN 1815195

Nation mourns miners

Star 18/5/95 (212)

■ STAFF REPORTERS

Orkney — Loud grief from anguished relatives was heard from among the 70 000 people who gathered in a stadium near the Vaal Reefs mine yesterday when the country mourned 104 miners killed in last week's disaster near Orkney.

The horror of the underground accident was also remembered at memorial services held in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, where speakers called for improved safety measures on mines.

At the moving service in the stadium near the gold mine, church, political, union and business officials paid tribute to those who had died.

Anglican Archbishop Des-

mond Tutu said God had not abandoned the mourners or the dead. But he added that prosperity for the country was being bought at a high price.

As the mining community mourned in Orkney, President Mandela announced in Cape Town that a R5-million donation to the disaster fund from the Government. This increased the fund to more than R11-million in pledges, with R2,5-million each from the mine owner, Anglo American Corporation, and personal pledges of R10 000 from the president and Anglo's chairman.

In Parliament flags fluttered at half-mast as they had in Orkney while MPs' messages expressed the national grief.

The mourners who packed

Orkney's Ernest Oppenheimer Stadium were told by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha that a commission of inquiry had been established to investigate the incident.

Botha announced that Mr Justice Ramon Leon, who headed the recent commission of inquiry into mine safety, would head the probe.

The judge would be assisted by an engineer from Botha's department and an independent expert appointed by the department in collaboration with the National Union of Mineworkers.

■ For those wishing to donate to the disaster fund, the account details are First National Bank, Rissik Street, South branch, branch code 250605, account number 3000072230.



ATTENTIVE: Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel and deputy presidents Thabo Mbeki and F W de Klerk, in front, with Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe and Defence Minister Joe Modise, behind, listen attentively during a memorial service at St George's Cathedral for the victims of the Orkney mine disaster.

Mourners told of 63 000 miners' deaths

Staff Reporter

MORE than 63 000 miners have died and more than a million have been seriously injured in accidents since the start of the century, mourners were told at a St George's Cathedral memorial service for victims of the Orkney mine disaster

"These mines have voracious appetites they devour our workers. The carnage must end. Health and safety measures should be set up with the co-operation of workers," Philip Dexter, the regional secretary of the SACP, said

Hundreds of people, includ-

ing the two deputy presidents, Thabo Mbeki and F W de Klerk, attended the service yesterday to mourn the deaths of the 104 mineworkers killed a week ago when a runaway underground train fell down Number 2 shaft at the Vaal Reefs gold mine

Delivering a message on behalf of the National Union of Mineworkers, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Trevor Manuel said new legislation to ensure the safety of mineworkers should be drafted immediately and passed by parliament this year

He said Vaal Reef Mines had made a R863 million profit last year, but only paid out a total of R6 million compensation to the families of the Orkney mine disaster

"Their lives are cheap," he said

● There were tears and clenched fists at the Oppenheimer Stadium near Orkney, where about 70 000 people gathered to pay their respects to the victims of the disaster

Political and business leaders attending the service unanimously called for wide-ranging

reform, including the speedy implementation of the Leon Commission's recommendations for improved safety on mines

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha announced details of a joint inquiry into the mine accident at Vaal Reefs and pledged government support for proposed worker participation in mine safety procedures

He said the inquiry would be presided over by Judge R Leon together with two assessors — a government officer and an independent assessor



MINERS MOURNED: (From left) Minister of Safety and Security Mr Sydney Mufamadi, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Home Affairs Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Minister of Housing Ms Sankie Mthembi-Nikondo, and Minister of Sport Mr Steve Tshwete, were among a host of parliamentarians who attended a memorial service at St George's Cathedral yesterday for the 104 Vaal Reefs gold miners who died last week

Mine victims' lives 'cheap'
CT 18/5/95 (212)

STAFF REPORTER

A HOST of 800 mourners in Johannesburg yesterday paid tribute to the 104 Vaal Reefs gold miners who died in the Vaal Reefs Gold Mine tragedy last week. Mr Trevor Muel said that the death toll was a "cheap price" for the lives of the miners.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) president Mr James Motlatsi, who said the former foreign minister was representing President Nelson Mandela. Mr Botha announced an inquiry into the disaster to be led by Supreme Court judge Mr Justice Ramon Leon.

Mine memorial crowd jeers Pik
CT 18/5/95 (212)

ORKNEY Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha was shouted down by the crowd at a memorial service at Vaal Reefs gold mine yesterday for the 104 men killed last week in one of the country's worst mining disasters. Relatives, mineworkers and managers stood side by side at the mass service, while political and business leaders offered messages of hope and condolences.

Anglo American chairman Mr Julian Ogilvy-Thompson said "We cannot return life to our colleagues but we can learn from this tragic accident."

Unionists replied that management had "better learn quickly" or face possible mass action.

The most chilling moment of the day occurred when the wails of mourning women echoed across the stadium during the minute's silence for the victims — Sapa

Mr Botha was only able to speak to the 60 000-strong crowd after an appeal by National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) president Mr James Motlatsi, who said the former foreign minister was representing President Nelson Mandela.

Mr Botha announced an inquiry into the disaster to be led by Supreme Court judge Mr Justice Ramon Leon.

"President Mandela has asked me to assure you that the government is determined to see to it that questions around this disaster are fully investigated," Mr Botha said.

Apartheid's mines need overhaul

FOUR events this year should leave SA in no doubt as to the character of the mining industry it has inherited from apartheid

Two of these have been tragedies at Vaal Reefs gold mine — the accident of May 10 and the hostel fighting in March that left 11 miners dead. The other two are judicial pronouncements severely critical of the way in which the industry has discharged its duties to ensure the health and safety of its employees and neighbouring communities. These are the Leon commission of inquiry and Judge Kotze's inquiry into the Merriespruit disaster

Surprisingly, no commentator has linked the two Vaal Reefs disasters. Hostels are the true metaphor of the inequality produced by our mines. They are the institutions that allowed urban SA to develop at the expense of rural areas, homelands and neighbouring countries. This argument, made by Prof Francis Wilson, was accepted by the Leon commission.

The migrant labour system is also the root cause of the neglect of health and safety. It has promoted an attitude that is careless to the consequences of industrial injury, disease and death. Careless because the disabled or diseased miners are easily replaced. Careless because our legal system has allowed life to become cheap — neither encouraging safety in the workplace nor deterring conduct that endangers life and health. So careless that the in-

dustry has no idea of how much disease it has exported to the homelands and other labour reservoirs

The pattern of labour migrancy has changed. Miners no longer work on the mines for a short period and return to the rural economy. The miners who died at Vaal Reefs were career miners with plans to spend a full working life in SA's mines. Yet, as the Leon commission noted, the industry has not used this opportunity to improve, strengthen and invest in miners' health and safety training. They remain replaceable migrants inadequately trained to combat the risks they face every day.

The Leon commission (which included the Chamber of Mines' former research adviser) rejected two of the central tenets of the mining industry's approach to health and safety.

The first was that the mines' high accident rate was attributable to human and technical factors beyond the industry's control. This state of mind has allowed the industry to conceal from itself the true cause of its poor accident record — the lack of proper management systems. The second was that the industry should be trusted to regulate itself. As the commission pointed out, self-regulation produced the Kinross disaster and the epidemic of work-re-

lated lung diseases among miners and ex-miners. Self-regulation is the result of the puny funding allocated by government to the enforcement of health and safety standards.

Even more damaging is the finding by Kotze that mine management has systematically covered up the cause of the Merriespruit disaster. The significance of this finding goes beyond establishing the deceit of one management team — it reflects an arrogant industry unwilling to learn from its mistakes. The result is an industry that produces a disaster of major proportions (30 or more deaths) at least once every two years.

Government's dignified response has placed the focus on the enormity of tragedy, not, as in previous disasters, on the defence (by government and employers) of the industry's safety standards. But the test is still to come. Implementing the Leon commission recommendations will require the mine health and safety inspectorate budget to be increased more than threefold. Government will have to override bureaucratic dictates (particularly in the area of remuneration) if it is to create effective systems of enforcement and prosecution. Government and President Nelson Mandela have personally contributed to a trust fund for the dead workers' families. The test will come when trade unions call for an overhaul of our inadequate workers' compensation system

Anglo American gold division chairman Clem Sunter has been eloquent in his expressions of grief. The test will be whether his corporation implements the type of management systems recommended by the commission that make senior managers and directors personally responsible for health and safety performance. Will we see accident and disease figures in the annual reports of Vaal Reefs and its sister mines, as recommended? Will the corporation continue to resist improvements to the compensation system?

The unions will also be tested. Tripartism at industry level and worker participation, essential parts of the Leon proposals, will place unprecedented pressures on their limited resources. And there is a test for the public and the media. Can we maintain our interest in these topics beyond the disasters and the headlines and apply pressure to ensure something is done?

Last year Vaal Reefs had an operating profit of R900m. In the same period government spent R19m on enforcing health and safety standards in the entire mining industry. The NUM estimates that the families will receive between R6m and R7m in worker's compensation. The enormity of these disparities tells a tale of privilege and neglect but also holds the promise for real change.

□ Benjamin is a labour lawyer and NUM adviser on mine safety.

Move towards a safer working environment

SAW 1916195



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Before the world we find ourselves living in became littered with factories, mines, construction sites and other places of human misery, when men and women worked the land, a life of work was by no means the danger it is now.

"But those days are gone and the task facing us is how to accommodate work with the dangers that work involves."

This comment, by mercantile law lecturer Carl Mischke at a seminar on occupational health and safety this week, illustrates the inherent dilemma of all industry and one which the South African mining industry has failed to address.

Although the common law stipulates that the employer has a duty to provide employees with safe working conditions, our courts have endorsed the view that the employer is not an insurer, that he is not bound to furnish the safest machinery, and so on.

Of significance to the mining industry, though, is the effectiveness of the legislation gov-

STINGING from the Vaal Reefs disaster, the SA mining industry will soon be subjected to a new health and safety code. Helen Grange looks at the legislative loopholes and how these will be redressed

erning health and safety, contained mainly in the regulations of the Minerals Act.

This Act provides for the establishment of mine safety committees, and places a broad responsibility for occupational health and safety on certain persons.

The bulk of day-to-day safety falls on the regional mining engineer, followed by the mine owner, who has to appoint a health and safety manager. Thereafter, the burden is shared by the subordinate managers, engineers, shift bosses and so on.

A failing in the Minerals Act, says labour lawyer Professor Willem le Roux, is that, unlike the Occupational Health and Safety Act which governs safe-

ty in other industries, there are no general principles dealing with health and safety obligations.

"The regulations are too prescriptive in some respects, which means individuals concerned do only what is prescribed in the specific situations outlined."

The recently released report of the Leon Commission of Inquiry has highlighted the fact that such loopholes effectively allow a lack of day-to-day safety management on mines, and that individual responsibilities have been further eroded.

The commission has recommended that a body drawn from the mining houses, the State and the unions draft a stand-alone Health and Safe-

ty Act containing higher provisions to govern the industry.

The emphasis in the commission's recommendations for the new Act lies in affording workers a say in the structure of mine safety, thus broadening responsibility for safety to the employee.

The National Union of Mineworkers, which made submissions on the report to the parliamentary standing committee on mineral and energy affairs early this week, has singled out some issues which it says must be addressed urgently.

One is the condition of the mining inspectorate, which, it says, is inadequate. Another is the workers' right to information about safety.

Mischke, in his seminar address, focused on the need for safety awareness, saying legislation was no guarantee.

In the drafting of the new Health and Safety Act, a number of considerations will have to be taken into account.

It is expected that South Africa will ratify the International Labour Organisation

(ILO) draft convention which will be adopted at the next ILC, and, if so, the new legislation will have to conform to the principles contained in the ILO convention.

Also, new labour legislation must comply with the Bill of Rights, which guarantees that every person shall have a right to life, and every person shall have the right to an environment which is not detrimental to his or her health or wellbeing.

In interpreting the Bill of Rights, the courts will probably have regard to international treaties such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Social Charter in terms of safety for the worker.

South Africa is not party to the majority of these conventions, but the Labour Department and the National Economic Development and Labour Council is looking into this situation and are expected to make recommendations soon.

Row over bodies

By Abdul Mlazi
Labour Reporter

FAMILIES OF THE 104 victims of last week's Vaal Reef's mine disaster were yesterday sharply divided over a proposal to arrange a mass burial for the mutilated remains of the dead miners

The idea of a mass funeral was proposed to the families because most of the bodies salvaged from the wreckage were so mangled that they were unidentifiable

Very sensitive issue

Mine spokesman Mr James Duncan said management was still negotiating with the families, adding that the talks would continue "for as long as it takes to reach a decision acceptable to all parties"



Mr Minenzima Sophase at a memorial service this week. His relative Mr Hlathi Nyanza was among the dead miners.

Sowetan 19/5/95
"We understand this is a very sensitive issue and we are treating it as such." Duncan said efforts to identify the remaining bodies were still continuing

The 104 mine workers were crushed to death last week when a lift cage they were in was hit by a runaway locomotive, which sent it plummeting to the bottom of the shaft

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The predicament first surfaced on Tuesday night when members of the first group of relatives who came to the mine rejected the idea of a mass funeral.

The National Union of Mineworkers yesterday did not want to commit itself, saying it would support any agreement reached between the families and management.

Plans for a mass burial

Mr Minenzima Sophase (46), whose cousin Mr Hlathi Nyanza was killed in the disaster, rejected plans for a mass burial, saying his family wanted to bury their relative back home in the former Ciskei homeland

Sophase, who himself worked at the Vaal Reef's mine, had decided to resign at

the end of the month following the death of his cousin

Mrs Marena Leema (21), who lost her husband Neo after only two years of marriage, said her family would also like to bury him at her Qacha's Nek home in Lesotho

Fear and anxiety

Leema wept uncontrollably during an interview with *Sowetan*. She said her heart almost stopped when told about the accident. From the moment she received the news, Leema carried the fear and anxiety like an invisible cross

"Until we were officially told that Neo was among the deceased, I had been praying and hoping that he was not," said Leema

Last week's Vaal Reefs disaster signals a

And the latest

BLAST, lash, haul and crush. The words that describe the essential stages of gold production on South African mines are drawn from the imagery of battle. When Sotho miners go underground to do these tasks, they sometimes sing a song with a chorus line that says *liphoro tsa mali, liphoro* — floods of blood, floods.

The Vaal Reefs disaster and the publication this week of a new report on health and safety in South Africa's mines are grim reminders of the truth of this miners' lexicon. Each of the 600-odd tons of gold they produce a year costs, on average, one corpse and 12 seriously injured men.

The report from a commission of inquiry into health on the mines, chaired by Justice Ramon Leon, says more than 69 000 miners have been killed and more than a million seriously injured in the first 93 years of this century. In the last ten years, the average annual number of deaths on all mines was 680.

Judge Leon's inquiry, the most extensive ever conducted on health and safety on the mines, was released on Monday. Its hard-hitting findings have been welcomed by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which represents most

nation of three geographic features which make mining in South Africa such a deadly industry: great mining depth, brittle and abrasive rocks, and the often narrow width of the ore-bearing rock underground.

South African gold mines are the deepest in the world — some reach depths of 3km, where the pressure is the same as that of a submarine 3km under water — and their subterranean shafts are subject to sudden and unpredictable rockbursts.

"Frequent, sudden rock failures, as with underground explosions, are the most insidious hazards that miners have to face. There is an obvious correlation between the great depth of mining and the shockingly high accident rate in gold mines." Six out of every 10 deaths underground are caused by rockbursts and rock falls.

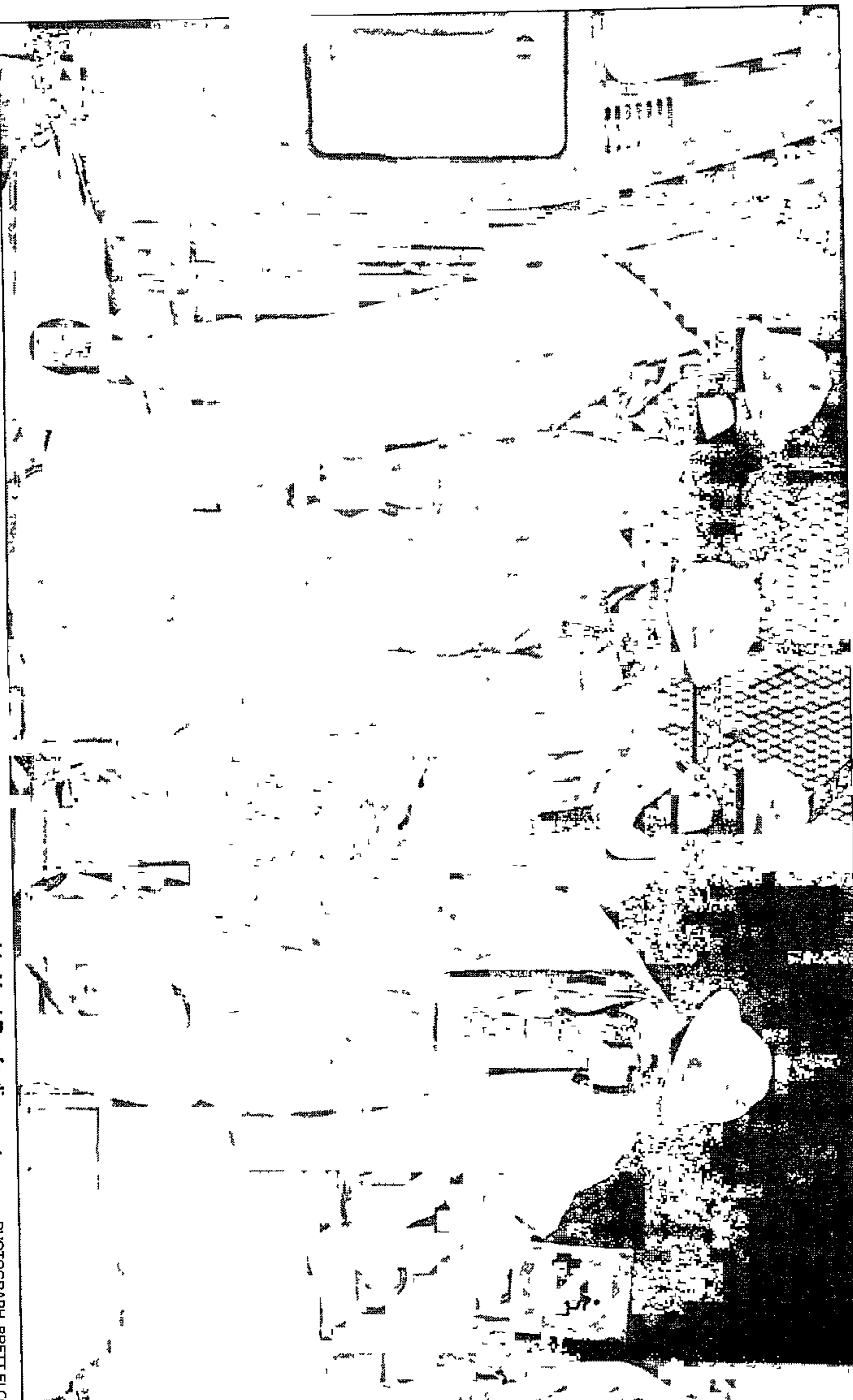
The problem of rock fractures is compounded by the hard and brittle nature of the quartzite that surrounds gold-bearing ore. This kind of ground demands that heavy explosives be used in mining operations and contributes greatly to the violent nature of underground seismic shocks.

The extremely narrow gold-bearing reefs compound the problem. Shafts that lead to the rockface are extremely narrow, sometimes less than a metre high, making it impossible to use machines that have

historic watershed in South African mine safety. Eddie Koch reports

gold price — floods of blood

(212) WMM 19-25/5/95



Too much blood. Rescue workers move the body of one of

in last week's Vaal Reefs di

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRETT ELCOE

Apartheid is alive and well and living on the mines

WHAT did only black workers die in last week's tragedy? The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) says it is because racial segregation is still rife on the mines. The charge is denied by the owners of the Vaal Reefs Gold Mine.

Union officials say black and white mineworkers are hoisted separately on many mines. "The result is that lift cages, especially for unskilled underground workers, seldom have white miners in them."

"Management usually explains this on the grounds of skill," says Fleur Plummer, the NUM's national health and safety co-ordinator. "But the reality is that there are no very few skilled mineworkers and very few skilled black miners at this stage."

She added that other areas of the industry were also still segregated along racial lines. This includes the ... where there are only black

The commission's report, and its far-reaching proposals, are likely to have a revolutionary impact on the industry.

At current accident levels it is estimated that a worker who spends 20 years underground faces a one in 30 chance of being injured or killed on gold mines. In 1993, 578 mineworkers died in accidents — more than one per 1 000 of the workforce. In the same year, 8 532 mineworkers were seriously injured, that is more than 15 per 1 000," it says.

On top of this come the dangers of contracting fatal lung diseases. The report notes 4 000 miners develop tuberculosis every year and quotes a survey from the 1930s that indicates 60 percent of these people may die in two years. "An 18-year-old man who starts a career in mining at the slope face will have a one in two to one in three chance of being disabled from accident or disease," it says.

"Tuberculosis rates were about 58 per thousand after 15 years of exposure. After 10 years' exposure, between 40 and 80 percent of workers involved in drilling operations would have hearing problems. A study of shaft sinkers, developers, stoppers and shift bosses had shown that if a man were to work 8 000 shifts, the probability of developing silicosis was over 30 percent." Silicosis can develop into a fatal form of lung fibrosis.

Statistics obtained from the International Labour Organisation, and published in the report, suggest South African mines have among the highest global fatality rates — and the worst safety conditions in the developed world. Only Turkey, the former Yugoslavia, Papua New Guinea and Pakistan appear to have worse rates. "Unquestionably, a similar number of deaths and serious injuries would be unacceptable today in most advanced mining countries." The report says there is a combi-

The low grade nature of the ore often requires that massive amounts of rock need to be blasted and hauled to the surface. In order to produce an average of 600 tons of gold each year, an underground reef covering between 20 and 30 square kilometres has to be physically moved from under the ground.

"Each mine is forced to maintain excessively long slope faces, and long, often tortuous, communication lines. It is difficult to control, supervise and inspect such widespread operations. In short, men working in such mines tend to be in a perilous situation." And the report notes that mines are going deeper into the earth every year — without having devised measures that are capable of effectively predicting and preventing rockbursts.

On the notice board of the Vaal Reef's Gold Mine, there is a yellowed piece of paper which highlights another feature of death underground, one that tends to be obscured by the dramatic and grisly nature of big disasters like that which happened last week. The note says "On 17 June 1994, the deceased (a development team leader) was operating a mechanical loader. The loader tilted and pinned him against the wall."

These are everyday events on the mines and they account for by far the greatest number of deaths. Most fatal accidents involve less than 10 workers. They go unreported in the media. Many do not even make a mention on the mine's notice board.

Disasters only account for between five and 15 percent of annual deaths, says sociologist Jean Leger in a recent edition of *Labour, Capital and Society*. "They are merely the tip of the iceberg, serious injuries would be unacceptable today in most advanced mining countries." The report says there is a combi-

cannot continue?

2133 WIN 19-25 578

AL indications are that the history of death on the mines will refer to the times before and after this month's disaster at Gold Reef's. The 104 men plunged to their deaths at a time when a number of factors have coalesced to place the industry under unprecedented pressure to clean up its act.

It is a macabre irony that the disaster happened just days before the Leon Commission's report was to be published and it will now add urgency to sweeping changes suggested in the document.

The status quo cannot continue," wrote the judge. "The claim of special difficulties, which undoubtedly exist in some instances (in mining), does not absolve the boards of companies, the shareholders and the management from the responsibility of caring, and the need to make a special effort to overcome these problems."

The commission recommends that a new Health and Safety Act be drafted as a matter of urgency. And, in a break from previous traditions, it stresses this should be done in a spirit of 'tripartism' by a committee consisting of representatives from the state, industry and the unions.

It also suggests that comprehensive codes of practice, a blueprint for safety on each individual mine, should be drafted as part of the new legal framework. Judge Leon urges that high-powered tripartite committees with wide powers to advise the state, commission and facilitate research into health and safety and to promote improved training in the industry.

This report endorses long-held union demands that health and safety officials be elected at every mine

and that every mine should have a joint health and safety committee to discuss policy regarding prevention of disease and accidents.

The commission also accepts that any worker has the right to "withdraw his labour and remove himself from any place where there is reasonable cause to think that his health and safety is in danger."

It says a new law and a system to implement these changes should be negotiated voluntarily by management and organised labour before being submitted for ratification to parliament — which is where the industry will find a second sea-change in conditions that affect its operations.

Unlike its predecessor, this parliament is now made up of numerous men and women who have a background in struggles for improved worker rights, especially on the mines. This shift in the class make-up of the state was symbolised when President Nelson Mandela and a high-powered coterie of cabinet ministers and political heavyweights gathered under a patch of bluegum trees to address 5000 workers at Vaal Reef's and pay tribute to their fallen colleagues.

At his side was Cyril Ramaphosa, chair of the Constitutional Assembly and general secretary of the African National Congress, Tito Mboweni, minister of labour, Cheryl Carolus, assistant general secretary of the ANC, Charles Ngqakula, general secretary of the Communist Party, James Motlatsi, president of the NUM, and Clem Sunter, executive director of Anglo American's Gold and Uranium Division, who looked decidedly out of place in this company of



PHOTOGRAPH: HENNER FRANKENFIELD

Contracting out of safety rules

ELEVEN of the 104 men who died last week at Vaal Reef's were contract workers employed by outside companies and not covered by the standard compensation provisions that apply in the industry.

Fleur Plimmer, national health and safety co-ordinator for the National Union of Mineworkers, says the union is worried about the growing use of subcontractors by mine management to do a number of tasks underground.

"This is much cheaper for the mining houses. The subcontractors are not bound by wage agreements in the industry and can, therefore, do the work much more cheaply. The mining companies are also not responsible for the housing and....."

labour stalwarts Mandela, himself an honorary president of the NUM, could have been speaking to Sunter when he told the rally, to great applause: "There is a widespread perception among Africans, Indians and coloureds that

areas like canteens. We have experienced a number of sit-ins underground because of white workers jumping the rows waiting for the lifts, and we don't know of white workers who wait in long lines for food."

Viv du Plessis, senior manpower consultant for the Anglo American Corporation, responded by saying the only area of "de facto" segregation was in mine hostels. "This is not, however, determined by mine policy, but is rather due to traditional employment and recruiting practices.

"Other areas which you mention, such as hospitals, hoisting arrangements and accommodation other than mine hostels, are integrated. All our mines have formal or informal arrangements to ensure that the lowering or raising of men is not racially segregated." The Gold and Uranium Division would like to believe that we are making progress in the area of employment equity in general. We have a lot of work to do but are pleased with the training of black miners, artisans, metallurgists, surveyors and human resource management staff.

"We do, however, in some cases host people doing different tasks at different times. For example, artisans have different underground working hours to miners, who are again different to, say, middle managers. It is possible that a shaft conveyance (lift) which is busy lowering slope workers might well contain only black employees, while a conveyance lowering a group of middle managers might contain only white employees."

The Leon Commission's report also looks at the issue of segregation on the mines. "For many years the Chamber of Mines expressed its opposition to the apartheid system but, even today, with apartheid ended, there exists a hangover from that system in the mining industry, where, by and large, black workers are at the bottom of the organisational pyramid, while white workers are further up."

MAIL & GUARDIAN

Vol 11 No 21, May 19 to 25 1995

The terrible cost of gold

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela added to the discomfort of mine owners when he announced on Monday that he was giving R10 000 of his own money to the fund for the victims of the Vaal Reefs mine disaster. He was showing extraordinary generosity and a fine sense of public relations, and he was signalling that this government viewed such incidents in a way that no South African government has done before.

Mandela is honorary life president of the National Union of Mineworkers, ANC general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa made his name as general secretary of the union, his deputy in the union, Marcel Golding, is chairman of the parliamentary committee on mineral affairs, that union is a major force in Cosatu, an alliance partner with the ANC and the Communist Party. But the links are not just per-

sonal and historical, mineworkers are now voters — and a sizeable block of them. They are, for the first time, people who can claim their rights as citizens. And Mandela was demonstrating his government's willingness to hear those claims.

The mining industry will never be the same again after last week's incident. It was going to have to change anyway with this week's publication of the hard-hitting Leon inquiry into mine safety. The facts alone are startling: every ton of gold costs roughly one life and 12 serious injuries, since the turn of the century, the mines have claimed the lives of 69 000 miners and seriously injured a million more. The vast bulk of this damage happens not in high-profile accidents but in relatively small routine incidents that barely merit a media report.

Judge Ramon Leon's conclusion was

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unequivocal: "The status quo cannot continue." You can be certain, after this week's events, it won't.

Gone are the days when the mine owners will be able to get away with a few words of sympathy and a little cash for the funeral. Nor will it rest with their contribution of R2,5-million to the victims' fund. The way the mines work, the attitude to workers who risk their lives every day for very little money, the resources the mines put into safety — all this is going to have to change. Expect a revolution in the world's cruellest industry.

The industry knows this, which is why Vaal Reefs shares fell significantly within hours of the accident. It wasn't only because production would be affected. The market had spoken. And so had the president.

Floods of blood, PAGE 12 & 13

SEVEN DAYS 3

Welcome to the Mail & Guardian

WE have changed our newspaper this week as part of a concerted drive to ensure we are a truly modern paper designed for the late 1990s.

This is an era when you may get flashes of news more quickly from television, radio or the Internet — but we aim to give you information, depth, reading pleasure, stimulation and entertainment not available in other media.

The paper has simplified its name to the *Mail & Guardian*, but it keeps its basic mission: the provision of thought-provoking, high-quality, entertaining and independent journalism.

Other changes to look out for include:
● This double page of briefs, called *Seven Days*, providing a variety of interesting snippets of information;

● A new column, called *Man/Woman Friday*, a lighthearted look at people in the news (page 4);

● More news from our subcontinent, to add to the fullest world coverage of any South African newspaper (page 30);

● A fuller section of opinion and analysis, called *Context* (pages 32 to 34). This includes *Cutting Edge*, a feature dedicated to new ideas and trends around the world.

● A new-look arts and books section, called *Review*, with improved entertainment listings.

Some of our regular features have moved around. The new index opposite should help you find them.

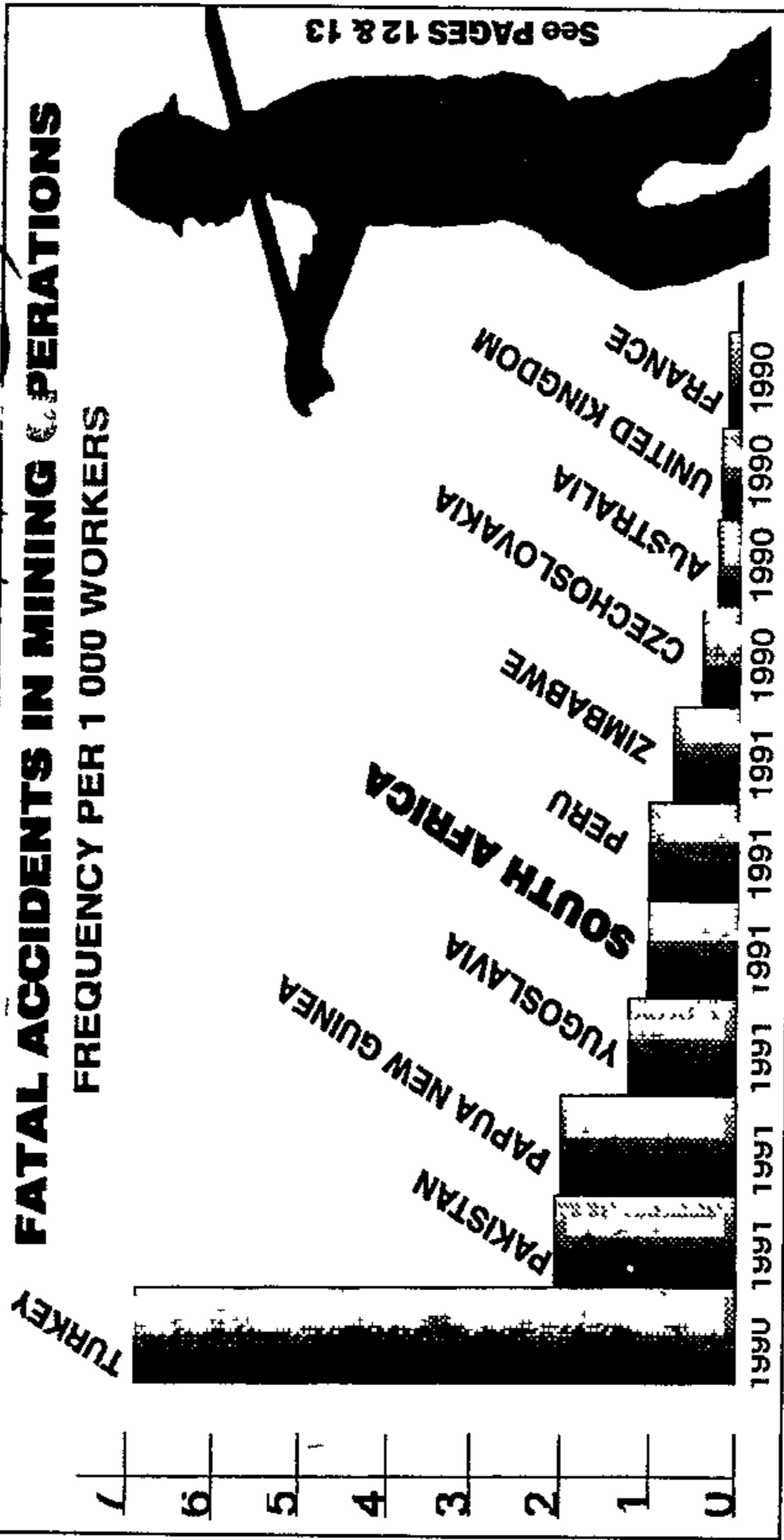
We hope you enjoy the changes. We will be refining and improving them over the next few months, so suggestions are welcome. Write to The Editor, Box 32362, Braamfontein 2017, fax (011) 403-1025, or contact us via the Internet at newsdesk@wmail.misanet.org.

Anton Harber, editor

review system and a call for... From the talk show

LUM 19-25/5/95 (2/2)

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MINING OPERATIONS FREQUENCY PER 1 000 WORKERS



See PAGES 12 & 13

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FM19/5/95

A time to mourn

After the appalling loss of 104 lives at Vaal Reefs' No 2 shaft in the most distressing of circumstances, intense anger — however irrationally it may be focused — is a natural part of catharsis. It will in time give way to a more rational assessment and appreciation of the widespread sorrow and spontaneous gestures of material generosity being made by so many who join the bereaved in their grief and wish to express their solicitude.

This is a time to pause and mourn — and to support in their sorrow with unqualified sympathy those who have to bear the loss of loved ones.

The men died in terrible circumstances, the like of which is hard to imagine. To compare this with other disasters serves no purpose. It certainly wouldn't diminish the loss nor explain the circumstances. And respect for those who undertake such dangerous work far underground suggests that we owe it to them to see to the material needs of their

wives and dependants when disasters occur. It is worth noting that charity still has a place in most religions.

Whatever a commission may find, one thing seems perfectly clear — this accident had little, if anything, to do with the peculiar figuration and danger of mining endeavours in this country. It could have happened in many sectors of the heavy manufacturing industry. It was patently not deliberate. To assume that it is an extension of a long history of neglect and insensitivity would be at best premature and at worst to suggest political opportunism of the most callous kind.

A commission will establish whether the correct safety procedures were followed and, if there was negligence, who should bear the responsibility. Once that has happened, political and moral judgment (or recrimination) will be appropriate and unavoidable. Until then, the bereaved deserve the dignity of unqualified lamentation. ■

Another miner dies at Vaal Reefs

(212)

ARG 19/5/95

□ *Minister calls for urgent revision of safety*

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The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The news of two more mine deaths comes as families battle to decide on funeral arrangements for the mangled bodies of the 104 mineworkers killed in the disaster at Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft last week

The deaths, at Vaal Reefs and Hartebeesfontein yesterday, a week after a runaway locomotive plunged on to a lift cage full of nightshift mineworkers, have prompted Mineral and Energy Minister Pik Botha to call for "a speedy and thorough revision" of mine safety.

They came as families of the mineworkers crushed to death when the lift cage plummeted to the bottom of the shaft argued about a mass funeral

The idea was suggested because most of the bodies were too mutilated to be identified

But many families want relatives buried near their homes

Mine spokesman James Duncan said management realised this was a sensitive issue, and would negotiate to reach an acceptable decision

Efforts to identify the bodies were continuing

Management had been working flat out on the human aspect of the disaster, Mr Duncan said, but was yesterday also trying to calculate how many millions of rands had been lost by the mine in the six working days since the accident.

The extensively damaged No 2 shaft has been out of operation since last Wednesday, and it is likely to take between two and three weeks before repairs are complete

It may also be some weeks before the inquiry into the Vaal Reefs disaster gets under way, Mr Justice Ramon Leon said

yesterday

Judge Leon, who headed the recent commission of inquiry into safety and health in mining, was appointed by the cabinet to preside over the joint Vaal Reefs inquiry.

Investigators would examine the disaster scene in minute detail.

The judge will be assisted by two assessors — a government official, and an independent assessor to be decided upon jointly by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs and the National Union of Mineworkers.

Judge Leon said the inquiry would be a vital tool in uncovering the truth about the Vaal Reefs accident

A spokesman for the office of government mining engineer Les Kugel said a separate investigation was being carried out in terms of the Minerals Act

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(212)
R70 000 donation to miners' disaster fund

CT(BR)19/5/95

Sanlam has donated R 20 000 to the Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund to assist relatives of the victims. Chairman Marinus Daling said the company shared the nation's sense of shock and bereavement and its heart went out to the families of the victims of the tragedy.

And Syfrets will donate R50 000 to the Vaal Reefs Disaster Relief Trust set up by the National Union of Mineworkers, its chief executive, Christopher Beatty, announced.

Charter Consolidated listing: Charter Consolidated said it would issue and list 318 998 new shares on the London and Johannesburg stock exchanges on May 26, it said in a statement. The company said it would pay a cash dividend totalling £7 million.

Portuguese trade mission: A Portuguese trade mission led by Secretary of State Louis Palha will host a promotional tour aimed at sharing commercial opportunities with South African businessmen at the Sandton Sun Hotel on Monday and Tuesday.

Namibia gas reserves: Gas reserves in the Kudu offshore field 200km west of Luderitz on Namibia's coast have been confirmed as being at least 5 trillion cubic feet, Shell Exploration Namibia spokesman Ger Kegger said. He said Namibia was on the verge of commercial exploitation of the reserves and the development is expected to exceed N\$4 billion.

(258)
Telkom wage agreement: Telkom said the Post Office and Telecommunications Workers Association had signed a wage agreement for an 11,1 percent annual across-the-board wage increase, backdated to April 1. The minimum wage of R1 236 a month would be raised to R1 500, it said.

CT(BR)19/5/95

before next week's opening (Tshwete) that this is the last practical terms in world spot. Chairman, paid an impromptu

Mine eyewitness recounts instants of horror

Star 20/6/95 (212)

By NEWTON KANHEMA

The only known eyewitness to the Vaal Reefs locomotive death plunge has described the horror accident for the first time.

Located this week, Lesotho citizen Alfonso Mohalla said that only moments before the tragedy which claimed the lives of 104 miners, he was chatting to the driver of the locomotive deep underground.

Shortly afterwards the locomotive and the man-carriage it was pulling plunged more than half a kilometre down Shaft 2 on to a lift cage carrying the doomed miners. The driver - identified to date only as Jack -



Shattered: Alfonso Mohalla

is in hospital.

Speaking haltingly in his hospital, Mohalla - also a driver on the mine - described how the

locomotive (known as a *makalanyani* by the miners) had suddenly swept past.

"And then Jack came running and screaming so loud, telling me the locomotive had fallen into the shaft."

"He ran back and forth screaming. He was running to the shaft opening where the locomotive had gone down. I thought he wanted to follow the *makalanyani* into the shaft."

When Mohalla asked his hysterical colleague what had happened, Jack replied that he had plugged in a cable attaching a battery to the locomotive.

Mohalla said: "I was just finishing my shift and I met Jack at

level 56. I wanted a cage to take me to the surface. Then he just went round the other side of the station. Suddenly I heard some abnormal sound," said Mohalla. The miner said the scale of the tragedy became evident to other miners who gathered on level 56 after the incident.

For more than an hour they stood around in complete silence waiting for a lift-cage to take them to another shaft and to the surface.

Jabu Maphalala, a spokesman for Anglo American, said the mine owners were awaiting the findings of the commission of inquiry. "No one knows (yet) what happened," he said.

Two miners die in rock burst

TWO miners died after a rock burst at Freegold's Western Holdings Number One shaft in Welkom early yesterday morning, Anglo American Corporation spokesman James Duncan said.

He said the rock burst 1 100m below the surface followed a seismic event measuring 0,7 on the Richter scale.

(212) ST 21/5/95

Truth commission for the mining industry

(212) 2215/195

What went wrong at Vaal Reefs? At least four safety mechanisms failed to prevent a runaway locomotive from falling down the mine shaft. How could such a thing happen?

Employers and industry sources are quoted blaming "human error" and lack of training. These factors may well have contributed but for them to have had such appalling consequences points to a breakdown of safety regulations as a whole.

The recently released report of the Leon commission on health and safety in the mining industry comes to the same conclusion. The report presents a thorough account of the failure of employers and the state to protect the health and safety of mine workers.

Since 1900, over 69 000 mine workers have died and more than a million have been injured underground. In 1993, 578 men died in accidents and 8 532 were seriously injured. On average, 1,5 workers per thousand exposed to risk underground die every year, and 26 per thousand are injured.

The commission "observed with disgust" the tendency of many senior mining officials to blame physical and human factors beyond the industry's control, and to claim that the systems in place are fine and the accidents are due to human error.

It quotes the first British medical inspector of factories, Thomas Legge "Unless and until the employer has done everything — and everything means a good deal — the workman can do next to nothing to protect himself".

The commission found that management systems to ensure safety are completely inadequate. In addition, mining strategies and support systems that could reduce rock falls are not implemented widely enough, "insufficient vigilance is applied by management and the inspectorate" to ensure satisfactory ventilation in coal mines, and too little attention is paid to the hazard of coal dust.

The commission concluded that, "management must engineer the systems to minimise the opportunity for human error, and

and data, the mineral and energy affairs department has failed dismally to police regulations because its inspectorate is desperately under-resourced.

Most shocking is the department's failure to launch serious investigations into accidents, since "there is a clear link between accident investigation and accident prevention", the commission said.

It heard evidence of bias in favour of employers and white witnesses on the part of presiding officers, of their casual attitude, of employers' control over evidence, and of the exclusion of the National Union of Mine workers from proceedings at hearings and inspections.

It is no wonder that a union official likened the commission to a "truth commission for the mining industry".

It is clear that the current system of health and safety regulation on the mines fails completely to protect workers from death, injury and disease.

What does the commission recommend to remedy this?

Self-regulation

The Chamber of Mines argued before the commission for a system of "self regulation", in which the mine manager would retain the discretion to decide the details of health and safety in a manner best suited to the particular mine.

The union and the department opposed this. The commission itself concluded that self-regulation had "failed" and was "unacceptable", and cited among many examples that the industry became aware 26 years ago of the dangers of using inflammable polyurethane underground.

Yet despite repeated tragedies, including the Kimross fire which killed 177 workers in 1986, it is still in use underground.

"This is a stark illustration of the danger of allowing even a well-resourced industry to get on with its own regulation," commented

the commission report. The commission recommended state regulation via improved legislation and a strengthened inspectorate to police health and safety regulations, as well as play a more active role in improving health and safety.

It also recommended establishing statutory tripartite structures representing employers, labour and the state to govern research, advise the minister and consider legislation and regulations.

This is a dramatic shift from the current system, in which the department and employers exclude the union from participating in health and safety governance.

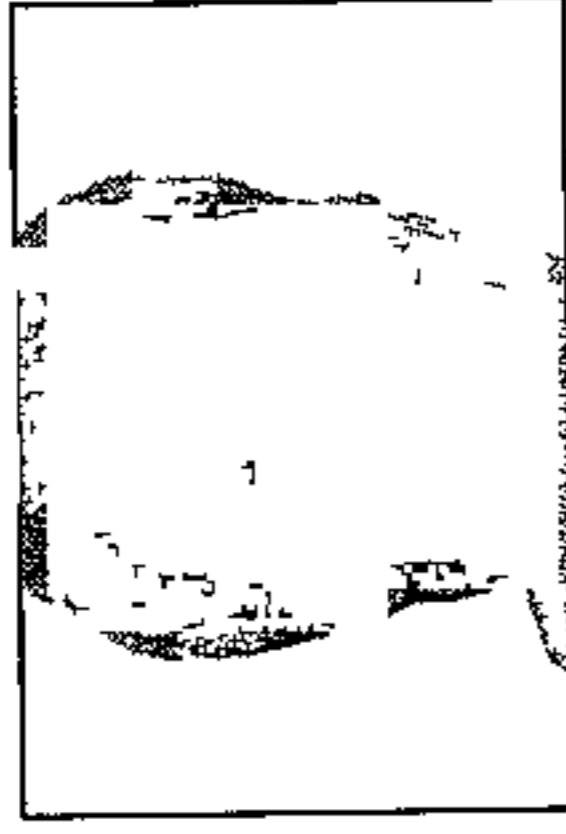
In the work place, the commission also advocates a departure from the current unilateral and hierarchical management control of health and safety, and recommends empowering workers with rights to training, information, to refuse dangerous work, and to participate.

The right to participate entails electing safety representatives who can inspect the work place, and take part in drawing up codes and reviewing health and safety management. It is a matter of urgency that the government replace the current completely inadequate health and safety system with the new system recommended by the commission. The commission "hopes" that management's attitudes are not a sign that life is a little cheaper in South Africa than elsewhere. "It is important to remain optimistic, as the current problems cannot be overcome without the support of the top leadership of the industry."

Perhaps now that the hundreds of thousands of workers who toil underground are citizens and voters, the industry will be compelled to pay attention to their health and safety. We owe it to the memory of the latest victims of the current scandalous state of affairs — 104 dead miners at Vaal Reefs — to ensure that this happens.

The writer is consulting editor at the SA Labour Bulletin.

SHOP FLOOR



By KARL VON HOLDT

Leon paints damning picture of state regulation

train all ranks of the work place to act in accordance with sound procedures."

The occupational health record of the industry is, if anything, worse than the accident record. The commission noted a lack of adequate data to assess trends in occupational diseases such as tuberculosis, pneumoconiosis and noise-induced hearing loss.

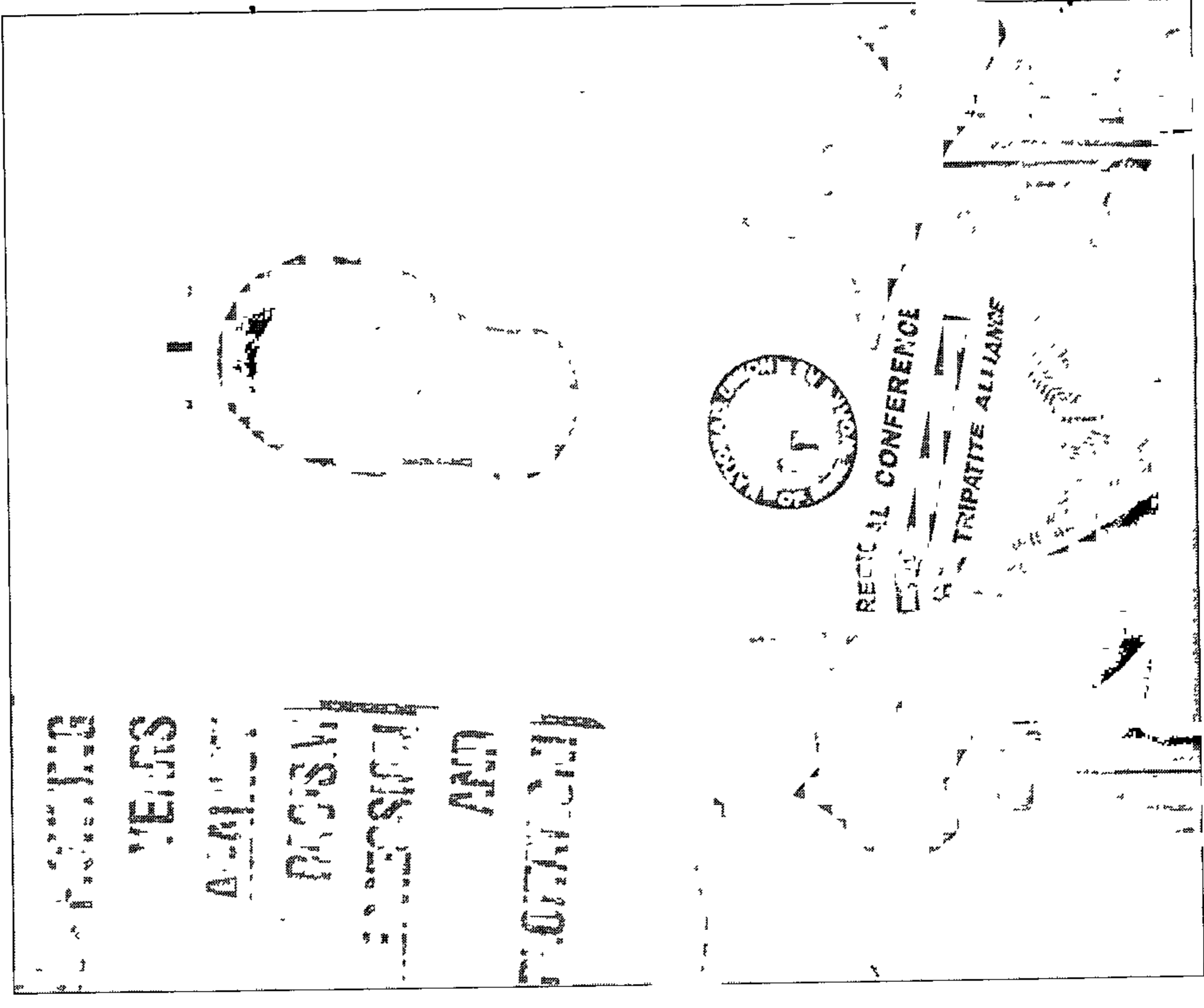
About 6 000 mine workers a year are certified as having acquired such occupational diseases, "but the figure is certainly higher".

The commission noted that the Chamber of Mines' submission on health was restricted to two and a half pages, and remarked dryly that "argument by assertion is unlikely to prove very persuasive".

By contrast, the trade unions presented "a number of expert commentaries" based on scientific evidence.

The commission concluded that there was no evidence of a decline in occupational disease over the past 20 years, or that current legislation or enforcement agencies offer any prospect of control.

The commission report paints a damning picture of the role of state regulation. Apart from weak legislation and a lack of research



UNSAFE JOB Since 1900 more than a million mineworkers have been injured underground

PHOTO WILLIAM MATJALA

Mine disaster fund already R10-m up

(212)

SPW 24/5/98

■ BY PRISCILLA SINGH

The Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund stands at well over R10-million, with people and organisations throughout SA opening their hearts — and purses — in a show of support for the families of the 104 mining disaster victims

The fund is a joint effort of the Anglo American Corporation and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)

The latest pledge of goodwill was made by the Taiwanese Embassy, which handed a cheque for R100 000 to the fund yesterday

According to Lauren Wilson of Anglo American it is the intention of

the parties that every cent donated be made available to the fund's beneficiaries

The following pledges have been made thus far: Anglo American Corporation R2,5-million; Vaal Reefs R2,5-million; SA Government R5-million; President Mandela R10 000 (personal), Clem Sunter R10 000 (personal), De Beers Consolidated Mines R200 000, Marinus Daling (chairman of Sanlam) R20 000 (personal chairman's fund), ANC R100 000, SA public R883 933,67

Donations can be paid into the fund's bank account Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund, First National Bank, Rissik Street South branch, account number 3000072230

Mine disaster Sowetan 24/5/95 (212) dead unburied

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

THE bodies of the 104 mineworkers, who were crushed to death at the Vaal Reefs mine near Orkney two weeks ago, are still lying at West Vaal Hospital mortuary

It is not yet known when or how the bodies will be buried because the families of the victims were yesterday still divided over management's proposal to arrange a mass funeral.

Meanwhile, the families and mine management were yesterday still locked in discussions to try and reach an agreement on the funeral arrangements

Anglo American spokesman Ms Lauren Wilson said while some families had agreed to a mass funeral, others were still insisting on taking the bodies of their kin to be buried in Lesotho

Wilson said there was nothing the mine could do because the bodies belonged to the families and it was for them to decide how they were to be buried. Of the 104 people who died, more than 70 bodies have been identi-

fied, and a further 24 could be identified before the end of the week

Even if the mine management and the families reach an agreement soon, the bodies could still remain at the mortuary because they have to be cleared with South African border officials. The Mineral Act also demands that post-mortems be conducted on all victims of mine accidents

Meanwhile, President Nelson Mandela is still to officially proclaim a commission of inquiry into the disaster, which happened when a runaway locomotive plunged into a lift carrying the miners underground on May 10

Mr Justice R Leon, who has been appointed to head the Vaal Reefs Commission of Inquiry, said Mandela could proclaim the investigation as early as next week

Leon said he was still waiting for preliminary reports before he could begin his work

"I was told the Government was still busy with preliminary formalities and will report to the commission as soon as these have been completed

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id about clinic
LEN KUMALO

R10m in mine disaster fund

ET 24/5/95 (212)

JOHANNESBURG: The Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund stands at well over R10 million, with people and organisations throughout South Africa opening their hearts — and purses — in support of families of the mine disaster victims.

The embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) yesterday handed over a cheque for R100 000 to the fund

Gold mines' capital productivity drops

Michael Urquhart

212
BA 25/5/95

THE productivity of capital in the SA gold mining industry had declined substantially over the past 20 years, a Chamber of Mines analysis shows.

The chamber said in its latest newsletter that despite productivity drives and substantial increases in capital injections during that period, the industry's capital stock

was 2,6 times greater than in 1975 although it was now producing 128 tons a year less.

Increases in the level of fixed capital stock had averaged 5,5% a year over the period. The study, by chamber economist William Houtman, showed that over the same period real growth in the sector's GDP averaged 0,5%. For most of the years covered, the capital productivity had been declining, with the trend showing signs of a correction after 1991.

Mining safety laws to be drafted

Renee Grawitzky

(212) 602515195
THE mining regulations advisory committee would meet for the first time at the end of the month to begin drafting new health and safety legislation for the mining industry.

This development is in line with the Leon commission's recommendation that the committee be established as a matter of urgency to "start immediately on the drafting of the Health and Safety in Mines Act".

A task group mandated by a mining summit meeting and headed up by government mining engineer Dick Bakker was requested to draft the committee's terms of reference. The task group included representatives of labour and business.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary standing committee on Mineral and Energy Affairs has received comments from interested parties on the Leon commission recommendations.

Public hearings will be held within two weeks for parties who wished to present additional comment.

Committee chairman Marcel Golding said thereafter a report outlining the committee's views and recommendations would be presented to the Minister.

Cuban miners get NUM donation

Rene Grawitzky

BD 26/5/75 (212)

IN A move to show solidarity with Cuban mineworkers who have been adversely affected by the US economic blockade, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) yesterday presented Cuban ambassador Angel Dalmau with a wide array of mining equipment, some of which had been donated by mineworkers.

NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said that during the years of apartheid, Cuba granted bursaries and opportunities for further education of black miners with no access to SA training opportunities. NUM's donation was a token of appreciation for Cuba's support.

The union had purchased about 500 min-

ing lamps, boots, safety helmets and overalls, with workers donating some of their own safety equipment, he said.

Jeremy Cronin of the SACP said the donation of protective gear by the union was a small contribution to a "new way of doing internationalism".

Dalmau said the solidarity shown by the NUM was concrete and clear. He said a number of SA companies had visited Cuba, to investigate creating trade links. To date, two Durban-based companies had agreed to supply Cuba with herbicides and anthracite, he said.

While Cuba would encourage foreign investors, "it would not sell its soul to foreign investment", nor would it give up on socialism or promote privatisation, he said.

DEATH BENEFITS (212)
FM 26/5/95
Mining payouts

The R5m contribution by Anglo American and Vaal Reefs to a fund for the dependants of 104 victims in a recent disaster was made, says a spokesman, to recognise it as a national tragedy and to indicate that Anglo does not regard it as "part of normal casualties."

The R11m committed to the fund by these groups as well as De Beers, government and others would, if wisely invested in equities, bolster long-term financial security for the dead mineworkers' next of kin.

Without this benefit, the various forms of insurance cover now provided by the mining industry would, after a few years of double-digit inflation, leave the families of the deceased financially pressed.

Benefits accruing to them consist of various cash payments and a monthly pension.

There is, first, a funeral benefit of R6 000 (financed partly by the mining industry's assurance arm, Rand Mutual, and partly by a scheme underwritten by Old Mutual). Another cash payment is equal to 75% of two months of basic pay, bonuses and fringe benefits.

Employers' and employees' contributions to the Mineworkers Provident Fund, plus their assessed profits and interest, are paid over to dependants. The average employee's benefit in the fund, which was created only in 1989, stands at about R6 000.

The largest single payment comes from the Old Mutual scheme and is equal to three years of basic pay, food and quarters. For the dependants of a typical mineworker who had been earning a basic monthly wage of R1 150, that would work out to R51 000.

A widow with three children would, in addition to this, receive a monthly pension of R1 061, of which R424 would be for her, and the rest (in equal parts) for the children.

As each turns 18, he or she is no longer supported by the pension, which is thereby reduced. Inflation also erodes the pension, since the scheme (like most) tracks it to the extent of only about 75%

ECONOMY & FINANCE

The specially created fund, which has yet to be registered, will be administered by seven trustees — three each from Anglo and the NUM, and an outsider as chairman (the NUM wants Walter Sisulu)

No decisions have been made on how the monies will be deployed for the benefit of dependants (half of those who died came from Lesotho), let alone whether it will manage on their behalf the substantial death payout from Old Mutual

NUM assistant general secretary Gwede Mantashe says it is possible some of the fund will be spent on facilities for the deceased's communities — "but not if it disadvantages the dependants. Children must not face obstacles to developing their full potential through education opportunities. We don't want to rush this, but do it properly. The normal insurance cover from Rand Mutual will meet beneficiaries' interim needs"

Some observers are sceptical of Deputy President F W de Klerk's assurance that the R5m of State monies that have been committed to the fund will not set a precedent should similar tragedies occur ■

Star 29/5/95
(212)

Mine safety to get immediate overhaul

■ BY BRUCE CAMERON

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs is to implement new mining safety measures immediately in an attempt to improve South Africa's poor safety record.

Speaking at a meeting of the Association of Mine Managers on Friday, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said serious charges had been levelled against the industry in the recent report of the Leon Commission of Inquiry into the industry.

The charges ranged from the industry not keeping adequate records of accidents to indications that the records which were kept pointed to the fact that South Africa, and particularly the gold mines, reflected an "appallingly high" accident rate.

Botha revealed that the way in which mine accident statistics had been kept since 1983 would have resulted in the type of accident

which claimed 104 lives at Vaal Reefs on May 10, not being included in the statistics.

Botha said "These are serious charges and ones that must be remedied — and at speed

"Those who try to justify high accident rates on the basis of our unique geology or the great depths at which we mine, cannot use their arguments to justify inadequate statistics

"If we are to overcome this sad record, the first step is to document it well so that we know what it is we need to overcome it"

Botha said he had instructed his department to implement those recommendations (of the Leon Commission), which "we are capable of implementing and not to wait for a Cabinet decision to give us the go-ahead"

"It was not enough to be appalled by the Vaal Reefs tragedy. We will have to take steps to ensure it never happens again".

Botha said the prob-

lems in mine safety lay with the big four — gold, coal, platinum and diamonds.

Of these by far the most effective killer and maimer was gold mining, which was responsible for 95,6% of all injuries and 72,7% of all fatalities "Coal comes in a far but still significant second"

The Leon Commission said the recurring management apology, when paraphrased, was that the systems in place "are fine and the accidents are due to human errors" Botha agreed with the commission that this was an accusation which was directed back against the industry

He accepted much had been done, but he wanted to encourage an expansion of existing programmes. He also said he accepted there were high costs involved. However the reduction in accidents would save millions of rands in lost production and in human suffering — which could not be measured in financial costs.

78 of dead gold miners identified

(212) SKW 29/5/95

■ STAFF REPORTER

At least 78 of the 104 mine-workers killed in the disaster at Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft this month have been identified, according to Anglo American spokesman James Duncan.

Their funerals would be finalised once identification and post-mortem procedures had been completed.

The National Union of Mine-workers (NUM), Vaal Reefs management, representatives of the governments of Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa, the South African Police Service and families of the dead were involved in organising the funerals, Duncan said.

All parties were working extremely well together, and understood the very complex situation. They hoped to swing into action later this week.

Duncan added that the calculation of mine pension payments and compensation to the families was well under way.

The mine disaster fund now stood at more than R10-million. Anglo and NUM officials were in the process of setting up a board of trustees to decide how the money should be disbursed.

The workers were killed when a runaway locomotive plunged into a shaft, crushing a double-decker cage in which they were ascending on May 11.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha has announced that a commission of inquiry has been established.

It is to be headed by Judge Ramon Leon, who headed the recently completed commission of inquiry into mine safety.

He will be assisted by an engineer from Botha's department and an independent expert appointed by the department and the National Union of Mine-workers.

■ ■ Donations should be paid into First National Bank, Rissik Street, South branch, branch code 250605, account number 3000072230

Education 'vital to mining safety'

29/5/95 (212)

Michael Urquhart

MINERAL and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha had instructed his department to implement those recommendations of the Leon commission which it was able to implement without Cabinet approval, he said in a speech to the Association of Mine Managers on Friday.

Botha said the number of deaths and accidents in the SA mining industry was high "by any standards".

He said the commission's findings that the general level of education amongst miners was very low should be taken seriously. The answer would seem to be to offer stepped up adult education courses and training beyond the needs of functioning in a mine.

He said if mineworkers

had a chance to broaden their horizons, this had to have a positive effect on productivity and safety.

Training was often limited because of costs. But mining accidents had a cost of their own, like the millions of rands a day lost in production while a shaft was being repaired.

There was also the cost of human suffering, against which financial costs could not be measured.

He said the involvement of workers and unions as equal partners with management in the search for improved mine safety was the only way forward.

The industry also needed to work at developing a culture of safety awareness, using conditioning programmes which automatically guided people into performing procedures

which promoted safety.

Management had to take the necessary steps to improve health, safety and the general working and living conditions of miners if they did not want to add impetus to nationalisation.

Workers had to realise that a drive toward unrealistic wages without improving productivity would weaken the mines' competitive position against mines in the rest of the world which would result in the closure of SA mines.

Sapa reports Botha also announced a programme to encourage economically viable small-scale mining.

Talks had been held with mining houses on creating opportunities for smaller entrepreneurs using mineral rights currently held by the larger companies.

He urged the mining industry to set up a small miners' bureau to help aspirant and practising small miners. This could be a joint public and private sector venture.

"The mining houses also need to consider ways to make black economic empowerment a reality," he said. The appointment of new leaders in the industry would reassure labourers they had "a real stake" in the industry.

By Charles Schulz



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New mine safety rules aim to stop deaths

BRUCE CAMERON

POLITICAL EDITOR

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs is to implement new mining safety measures immediately in an attempt to improve South Africa's poor safety record.

Speaking at a meeting of the Association of Mine Managers on Friday, Minister Pk Botha said serious charges had been levelled against the industry in the recent report of the Leon commission of inquiry

into safety in the industry.

The charges ranged from the industry not keeping adequate records of accidents, while the records had been kept indicated that South Africa, and particularly the gold mines, reflected an "appalling high" accident rate.

Botha said that the way in which mine accident statistics had been kept since 1983 would have resulted in the type of accident, which claimed 104 lives at Vaal Reef on May 10, not being included in the statistics.

Botha said "These are serious charges and ones that must be remedied — and at speed."

"Those who try to justify high accident rates on the basis of our unique geology or the great depths at which we mine cannot use their arguments to justify inadequate statistics."

"If we are to overcome this sad record, the first step is to document it well so that we know what it is we need to overcome."

Botha said he had instructed his department to "implement those

recommendations (of the Leon commission), which we are capable of implementing and not to wait for a Cabinet decision to give us the go-ahead."

It was not enough to be appalled by the Vaal Reef tragedy "We will have to take steps to ensure it never happens again."

Botha said the problems in mine safety lay with the big four — gold, coal, platinum and diamonds.

"Of these, by far the most effective killer and manner is gold mining, which is responsible for

95,6 percent of all injuries and 72,7 percent of all fatalities. Coal comes in at a far but still significant second."

Botha agreed that the enormous depths from which gold ore was extracted created dangerous conditions, but more had to be done by the industry to improve safety.

The Leon commission said the recurring management apology, when paraphrased, was that "the systems in place are fine and the accidents are due to human error." Botha agreed with the commis-

sion that this was an accusation which was directed at the mining industry.

He said the industry should be offering stepped-up adult education courses and training, "beyond the mere needs of functioning in a mine."

He said he accepted that there were high costs involved. However, the reduction in accidents would save millions of rands in lost production and in human suffering, for which the financial costs could not be measured.

CT(BR) 29/5/95

(2/2)

Miners killed in rockfall

Three miners were killed in a rockfall caused by an underground tremor at Kloof gold mine yesterday. The accident occurred 2 700m underground at Kloof Gold Mining Company's No 3 shaft, 50km from Johannesburg

(212) SA 31/5/95

Mass funeral for miners

JOHANNESBURG: The 104 victims of the May 10 Vaal Reefs mine disaster at the No 2 shaft of the gold mine at Orkney will be buried on June 11, the National Union of Mineworkers announced yesterday — Sapa

(212)
CT 31/5/95

Warning of dire future if mine safety is ignored

(212) BD 31/5/95
Renee Grawitzky

MANAGEMENT accepted full responsibility for workers not being totally committed to safety on mines as a result of a previous lack of training and understanding, Association of Mine Managers of SA president David Smith said

Speaking after the association's conference last week, Smith said it had been agreed that workers on mines must participate and "gain ownership of the whole process of safety on mines".

He said engineering solutions and procedures were insufficient in endeavours to improve mine safety

The association supported the principles of the Leon Commission, he said, and was fully committed to the tripartite alliance between employers, employees and the state to improve mine safety

Acting Government Mining Engineer Dick Bakker said at the conference it was government's responsibility to ensure its citizens and all those employed under its jurisdiction were working in a reasonably safe and healthy environment.

This responsibility should override

its "fiscal interest" and "it must create the appropriate legislation and the mechanism through which it can enforce legislation", he said

Bakker said an independent report submitted to the Leon Commission on an analysis of safety performance in SA mines revealed that the attitude and behaviour of many managers was that safety was common sense, unsafe workers were the problem and the number of fatalities and reportables was the "measure of the effectiveness of the safety effort"

The report also found that

- Safety was not perceived as important to the survival of the industry, "therefore it is not managed as are other key business processes",
- No specific written safety policies existed at corporate level,
- Decision-making powers regarding safety rested solely with general managers;
- The only defined safety responsibilities were those of the general managers and safety officers,
- Managers for the most part did not possess sufficient knowledge of the issues that should be addressed or the most effective manner in which to address them, and

Line supervision did not rigorously implement the safety-related aspects of the technical programmes in place

Numerous interviews with workers to assess their perceptions of managements' dedication to safety revealed they did not believe management was truly concerned for them or their safety

Workers felt their safety was regarded as secondary to production and that they did not have an active role to play. They did not trust the organisation, Bakker said

He said management tended to rely on safety management systems rather than actively managing safety

He said managers should establish specific safety performance expectations and ensure those responsible for safety understood clearly what they should be doing. They should provide the information and tools necessary to carry out their functions and hold those individuals accountable for meeting performance expectations.

He concluded that the ball was in managements' court and "if we try to continue in the old way, we will face a dire future"

MINING - ACCIDENTS

1995

JUNE - DECEMBER

Warning on 'hasty' mine laws

BD 11/6/95

(212)

Adrian Hadland

CAPE TOWN — Certain Leon commission recommendations on improving health and safety in the mining sector were overly prescriptive and could have unintended, unwanted and costly consequences, according to both the mining industry and the mineral and energy affairs department

Addressing the National Assembly's mineral and energy affairs committee yesterday, representatives of both groups and the National Union of Mineworkers called for the urgent finalisation and promulgation of a new Health and Safety in Mines Act

But consultant Jurie Geldenhuys, speaking on behalf of the mining industry, said while there was pressure following the recent Vaal Reefs tragedy to improve mine safety, hastily formulated legislation could prove inappropriate

Certain of the commission's rec-

ommendations, including its opinion that health and safety research levies should be imposed on mines, were prescriptive and could incur "unwarranted costs", Geldenhuys said

They could also have a domino effect that would put mines out of business without a commensurate effect on health and safety levels

Other "prescriptive" recommendations included the use of hydraulic props in all gold mines, the ventilation of headings in coal mines, methods for preventing flame extension in conveyor roadways, the recommended use of English in all mines in all regions and the commission's view on mine supervisory levels

Acting government mining engineer Dick Bakker said although the commission's report was valuable, some recommendations fell outside its terms of reference, others were vague regarding who should implement them and many were also considered prescriptive by the department

These included recommendations on the restructuring of inspectors' grades and on the need for at least one health and safety representative for every 100 non-managerial employees

The imposition of research levies contradicted acceptable principles of mining taxation and could lead to cost increases that would particularly affect marginal mines and lead to the sterilisation of SA's ore resources, Geldenhuys said

He said funds should be raised through taxation

If levies could not be avoided, the ministers of finance and mineral and energy affairs should jointly approve them

NUM national treasurer Paul Nkuma told the committee mine owners were more concerned with costs than with the lives of miners

The NUM, together with the industry and the department, urged the committee to finalise and legislate a new Act before the end of the year

NUM appeals for safety laws

(212) ET/16/95

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) appealed to the government yesterday for stricter occupational safety laws by the end of this year.

It accused mining houses of being more concerned about costs than lives.

"The mining industry tells us before you consider lives that are lost in the mining industry, you need to consider the cost," NUM national treasurer Mr Paul Nkuma told Parliament's mineral and energy affairs committee.

New task group set up to monitor mine accidents

(212) CF(ER) 2/6/95

By Bruce Cameron

POLITICAL EDITOR

Government has formed a tripartite committee to draft accurate mining accident statistics following criticisms in the recently published Leon commission report on mining safety

In a speech at the weekend Pk Botha, the mineral and energy minister said the commission had com-

plained that its task was made more difficult "because of the dearth of accurate mine accident records"

He said the commission indicated that there were no details available on gold mine accidents attributed to the fall or manual handling of material, rolling rock and slipping and falling

Later in his speech Botha said the recent Vaal Reefs accident, in

which 104 people were killed, fell into the category of what the commission referred to as accidents from haulage and transport underground

The commission also said proper records had not been kept since 1983

Botha said notwithstanding the danger of this kind of accident, the commission "was not provided with detailed evidence as to the

location or cause of this large group", presumably, he said, "because it was not available"

Giving an explanation of the position yesterday, Dick Bakker, the acting mining engineer, said it had been decided in 1983 to centralise all statistics of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs at the Minerals Bureau

Bakker said administrative problems were encountered as the sta-

tistical tables included a wide range of information, with the result that, although they were available, they were not automatically released to the public

The statistics were supplied to the unions or the Chamber of Mines every year

In 1986, the statistics were computerised and as a matter of routine were made available to the National Union of Mineworkers,

the chamber and other interested parties

Bakker said all the details of the statistics, apart from rockbursts and rockfalls, were not made available to the commission because "it never asked for them"

He said following the criticism by the commission, a tripartite committee had been formed, on which his department, the mines and unions were represented

NEWS NUM says whether families agree or not, mineworkers

Mass funeral for 104 mine victims

(212) 216 195

By Abdul Mlazi

■ DESPERATE PLEA Young widow still wants her husband buried separately:

THE 104 VAAL REEBERS MINeworkers WHO were crushed to death underground last month will be given a mass funeral on June 11 despite objections from relatives. The mangled bodies of the victims are still at the Orkney Mortuary. The mineworkers were killed on May 10 when a lift cage they were travelling in was hit by a falling locomotive, sending it plummeting to the bottom of the shaft.

National Union of Mineworkers spokesman Mr Gregory Mcaishelwa said the union and mine management decided to hold a mass funeral in Orkney because the bodies, which were salvaged from the wrecked lift cage, were so mangled they were beyond recognition. After weeks of negotiations between NUM and the families, only relatives from Botswana and Swaziland agreed to a mass funeral. The group from Lesotho was still adamant that their loved ones be buried back home.

Mcaishelwa said the mass funeral would take place on the planned date, whether families agreed or not. He said the condition of the corpses made it impossible to separate them. Details of the funeral were still being finalised. But 21-year-old Mrs Marena Leema, who lost her husband Neo after only two years of marriage, is one of the family members who want to claim bodies of their next of kin. Leema, dressed in black, stood out in the crowd of mostly elderly women and men who attended the memorial service at Oppenheimer Stadium last month. She wept openly for her husband, whose body she won't be able to see. Like all the families, she will one day lay flowers next to a tombstone with 104 names on it, taking comfort from the fact that her husband was part of the remains that went into the grave below.

(212)
(212)
Mines
facing
squeeze
ARD 7/6/95

JOHANNESBURG — Bruising pay talks start this week for South Africa's volatile gold mining industry, which last year accounted for 21,6 percent of the country's exports. But opinion is divided on whether a strike is likely.

"Neither managements, nor the unions, have much leeway," Duncan Ingram of stockbrokers Edey, Rogers & Co Inc said on Tuesday.

Pay, covering about 50 percent of a local gold mine's costs, is only one of a number of bargaining issues at the talks starting on Thursday between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the employer body, the Chamber of Mines.

The annual negotiations were delayed by a disaster on May 10 at Anglo-American's Vaal Reefs gold mine southwest of Johannesburg in which 104 people died.

NUM, which represents about 300 000 mainly black workers in the mining industry, is demanding wage rises of 20 to 70 percent and a restructuring of the complex job grading system.

The average industry wage rise last year was 11 percent.

The mines say they are caught in a margin squeeze.

Clem Sunter, chairman of gold operations at Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Ltd, reiterated last week that jobs were at stake if productivity problems, rising costs, and an uninspiring gold price continued. Gold was quoted at around \$384 an ounce in Europe on Tuesday. Sapa-R

(212)
Miners back in
fatal shaft

CT 7/6/95

JOHANNESBURG: Miners have returned to work in the gold shaft where 104 workers were killed last month when a runaway underground locomotive plunged down the shaft and landed on top of their lift.

A mass burial for victims will take place in Orkney on June 11.

Mining talks focus on seven-day week

(212) BD 8/6/95
Renee Grawitzky

THE more effective use of capital resources and continuous operations was the focus of the first round of wage negotiations between the Chamber of Mines and the Council of Mining Unions this week.

The unions affiliated to the council include the Federation of Mining Unions, representing artisans and engineering workers, and the Mineworkers' Union representing mainly white miners.

Mineworkers' Union spokesman Fred Bond said the chamber had not tabled any wage offer in response to the union's demand for a 20% increase.

Other union demands include a five-day working week, that annual leave be increased by seven days, a 10% shift allowance, standby allowances and

that overtime be increased from 6% to 8%. The union also wants bonuses for locomotive drivers and pumpmen to be negotiated at mine level, and profit sharing schemes to be negotiated separately from annual wage negotiations.

Bond said the chamber had advised the unions that the wage offer tabled would depend on the unions' response to the removal of Sunday work restrictions, which could ultimately lead to a seven-day working week.

Chamber negotiator Andre Geldenhuys said discussions had revolved around the effective use of capital resources and the state of the industry.

Negotiations start today between the chamber and the National Union of Mineworkers and the chamber and officials' associations next week.

Gold mine to
retrench 1 900

JOHANNESBURG: About 1 900 employees of Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company in Gauteng are to be retrenched, the company said yesterday.

An "over-complement" of about 1 900 employees was found when a revised labour plan was commissioned as a result of depleted ore reserves

(212) CT8/6/95
Political Staff, Municipal Reporter, Sapa

Mine safety examined

(212) CT (82) 8/10/95

The deaths of 104 miners at Vaal Reefs brought the question of mine safety out of the shadows.

The tragedy, and the Leon commission report, thrust many grim statistics to the fore — a miner has a one-in-30 chance of dying in a career underground, more than 1 million have been seriously injured this century. Such statistics have, unfortunately, reduced the issue of mine health and safety to an overly simple question of victim and blame.

Business Report today publishes the first in a series on mining health and safety. The goal of the series, written by staff writer Ross Herbert, is to examine in a balanced way an issue that will affect thousands of South Africans for decades.

Part One on the Mining Health & Safety page, focuses on health. For Labour Minister Tito Mboweni's view, turn to the Forum page.

Non-stop mining shifts could see rise in low gold share prices

By DEREK TOMMEY

MINING EDITOR

Gold shares, whose prices have halved in the past nine months, are clearly out of favour with investors — but the possibility of a resurgence in gold share prices in the coming months cannot be ruled out, say analysts

The gold mining industry is engaged in critical negotiations with the unions and also the government on the introduction of continuous mining. A favourable outcome for the mining industry could have a major impact on mining profits

Clem Sunter, chairman of Anglo American's gold and uranu-

um division, pointed out recently that the South African gold mining industry is working on only 270 days of the 365 days in a year

It doesn't work on Sundays, it doesn't work on public holidays and works only half the Saturdays. No other major capital-intensive industry anywhere in the world works in this way, said Sunter

He added that negotiations were still at an early stage. However, there is no doubt that the industry must be hoping for a favourable outcome

Tom Dale, general manager of Gengold, said the industry could derive very substantial benefits from the introduction of continuous mining. But it would be sim-

plistic to think that if the industry worked every day it would boost its output by a third

Mines with limited hoisting capacity would not benefit to any great extent

But the introduction of continuous mining was only half the story. The industry had been going for 100 years and was still following many of the practices started then.

What the industry required was the freedom to negotiate conditions of work with its people so as to be able to work in a more flexible way

He said the age of the industry meant that in many mines it took a considerable time for workers to reach the stope face. He estimated that as a result, some spent as little

as six hours and possibly even as little as four hours in productive work. But introducing longer but fewer shifts could overcome this problem. This had been done successfully at St Helena

Dale pointed out that introducing more flexible working conditions did not lead to less employment, but to more employment. It enabled the mines to expand operations into more lower grade areas, which required employing a larger work force. This had also happened at St Helena and had resulted in more jobs

There was no industry in South Africa which came anywhere near matching the potential for large-scale job creation, he said

ET(Re) 8/6/95 (212)

Labour bill should be passed this year

2/12

CT(BR)8/6/15

Significant progress has been made in South Africa towards creating a democracy, but challenges remain that need to be tackled before we can achieve our goals.

Our friends and colleagues internationally should not be alarmed when differences of opinion are expressed — sometimes fairly forcefully — by the various political, social and business forces in our country.

On May 10, 1995, we received news of an accident at Vaal Reefs gold mine. A 12 ton carriage and locomotive plunged into a shaft and fell on to a cage, killing all 104 mine workers inside.

This shameful and tragic accident raised awareness of health and safety in the workplace, especially on the mines. A commission of enquiry has been appointed to investigate this accident.

South Africa has a history of mining accidents. For example, in 1960, 437 mine workers were killed in a coal mine disaster when a roof collapsed. In 1986, 177 were killed in a polyurethane fire at the Knross Gold Mine.

Commission of Enquiry, headed by the Supreme Court judge Mr Justice Leon, found that our mining legislation was inadequate.

The commission recommended the overhaul of our mine legislation. Special emphasis was placed on the education of mine workers and the importance of implementing internationally accepted worker rights. Health and safety will only improve once a culture of occupational health and safety awareness is created in South Africa.



MY TURN

Labour minister Tito Mbweni addressed yesterday's 82nd International Labour Conference on labour safety standards

It is against this tragic background that we will support the regulation of safety and health in mines internationally.

On February 18 this year, we launched a statutory body called the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) aimed at building social partnership in South Africa. The development of this council will ensure that the spirit of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is alive in our country.

One of the key issues before Nedlac is a draft Labour Relations Bill submitted by the department of labour for negotiation and finalisation. Sparks have flown on some of the more important issues such as centralised bargaining, the closed shop and workplace forums.

Business and labour have tabled their opening negotiating positions and, despite what may look like a breakdown in negotiations, the process is on track.

It appears that all the parties are determined to reach agreement for the bill to become law this year. It has been

We believe that the ILO should play a decisive role in achieving and maintaining civilised international labour standards.

We support the director-general's initiative in urging member states to ratify core ILO conventions and encourage the office to engage in more promotional activities and technical co-operation. These conventions are designed to enable states to ratify and respect key conventions.

ILO membership requires respect for rights of association and collective bargaining. We believe it is time to expand the net of axiomatic rights to include forced and child labour, as well as blatant forms of discrimination.

Our Cabinet has approved ratification of the conventions which deal with freedom of association and collective bargaining. These have been submitted to Parliament.

A group of "human rights" conventions may warrant a supervisory mechanism that is both more specific and more agile than the existing structures.

Tighter budgetary planning and implementation should be a permanent feature of all our organisations. However, this cannot be attained by indiscriminate budget cuts.

Last year's conference adopted a resolution committing the ILO to a programme of technical co-operation in South Africa. The office has met all their obligations. Although, not all the items contained in last year's resolution have been dealt with. That is largely because the technical co-operation actually delivered reflected our South African priorities.

Co-operation was in the areas of

There are other areas of technical co-operation that are being elaborated, namely in the sphere of capacity building for the department of labour and the establishment of a Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration.

Our concern now is to ensure that the joint activities started are sustained. The policy advice that has enabled us to implement our plans must be consolidated.

This demands the training of new personnel and re-training of the old, the development of new structures and programmes.

Ultimately, the policy will involve the systematic implementation of a qualitatively new system of labour relations — employment policy in South Africa.

Effectiveness of ILO technical co-operation was complicated by the absence of an ILO office in South Africa as well as inadequate international experience of the labour department. However, structures will soon be in place to overcome these problems.

Negotiations on the establishment of an ILO area office in southern Africa have been completed and an agreement to establish such an office has been signed.

These are exciting and challenging times in South Africa and we are determined to succeed in creating a new and healthy world of work.

□ Also see Background and Analysis page

Chamber, NUM focus on Sunday work

Renee Grawitzky

~~355~~ (212) BD 9/6/95
THE scrapping of the statutory prohibition on Sunday work was the focus on the first day of negotiations yesterday between the Chamber of Mines and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)

NUM said the chamber had refused to put an offer on the table until the union had agreed to this demand, which could hinder "the start of meaningful negotiations"

NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said the union was "not prepared to discuss Sunday work as a mere legal requirement, as there is more to it". It would not save the industry on its own and had to be assessed holistically. The industry could

not retain international competitiveness if it continued to rely on an unstable workforce and migrant labour

The chamber said the industry faced serious problems, including reduced gold production which had to be viewed against the background of rising production costs. Against this backdrop the union was demanding increases exceeding 100% in some cases. It said Sunday work would allow greater flexibility to negotiate rostered shifts for production sections.

The union wants a minimum wage of R905 for certain marginal mines and up to R1 325 for others. The chamber has proposed to extend two-tier bargaining to help solve some problems at mine level.

NUM says no Sunday work

(212) Star 9/6/95

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA
LABOUR REPORTER

The National Union of Mineworkers has rejected a Chamber of Mines demand for support in approaching the Government to scrap legislation prohibiting Sunday work.

Speaking after the first round of annual wage negotiations yesterday, NUM secretary-general Kgalema Motlanthe said Sunday work would not save the mining industry and his union wanted to discuss a more holistic approach to problems, including job grading and training, the migrant labour system, contracting, overall productivity and a scrapping of the eight lowest pay grades.

Chamber chief negotiator Andre Geldenhuys said the union was "effectively demanding increases of some 20% to 126% on gold mines and some 20% to 133% on collieries".

Sad journey from Qoaling to Orkney cemetery



LIFE GOES ON The lonely ring of an axe through the death of a miner Mathole Phokojoe's uncle Lebohang Phokojoe prepares for the vigil
PHOTOGRAPH TJ LEMON

Mathole Phokojoe leaves a shattered family in a Lesotho village, wondering why he had to die in the Vaal Reefs disaster, reports
TEFO MOTHIBELI

From a distance, Gauteng's mineshafts look like crucifixes planted on mmedump hills. Beneath these steel monoliths, deep within the bowels of the earth, migrant labourers dig, nailed there by simple economics they need jobs

Mathole Phokojoe was one such worker. He left his starving family snuggled in mountain-crowded Lesotho and travelled to South Africa to work underground at Vaal Reefs

But Phokojoe is no more. He has become a statistic one of the 104 workers who plunged to their deaths in the Vaal Reefs disaster. But it is in Qoaling village, Lesotho, that one realises the magnitude of the catastrophe

The surviving eight members of the Phokojoe family not only have to bear the grief and pain of losing a son, a father and a husband — they have also lost the sole breadwinner

His family members, huddled in the two-roomed house Mathole built with money skimped and saved, stare at a future as bare and hard as the mountains around Qoaling

"He was the only hope I had left. He was the pillar of this family. I have been left with the burden of keeping this family

(212) Star 10/6/95
Mourners pay their last respects

Hundreds of mourners braved the chilly weather yesterday morning and gathered at the Setsoo stadium in Maseru where a memorial service for the Vaal Reefs gold mine disaster victims was held

The bodies of 16 Lesotho nationals, crushed to death at Vaal Reefs, were returned to the mountain kingdom for bur-

al by their families

Most of the bodies were taken to the stadium for the service, three were taken directly to their respective villages

Deputy Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisi, Queen Mma-Motho and members of the Lesotho government attended the hour-long service
— Staff Reporter

going," says Mampaleng. Mathole's inconsolable mother

She sits hunched on a mattress, cheeks tear-stained and eyes puffed. In a corner sits Mathole's wife clutching his 4-month-old son. Mama Phokojoe says it is almost as though her daughter-in-law has gone into trance

"My son was brought up under difficult circumstances and had grown to love me deeply after seeing the trouble I had to bring him, his brothers and sisters up single-handed

"Mathole felt he could not continue with his education after completing Std 7 because his father had left us. Mathole started hunting for piece jobs to help make ends meet

"Before his death, he told me he did not like the way we were

suffering and offered to build some rooms which could be rented to generate income while he was in Johannesburg"

Mampaleng says her son would not have opted to go to the mines if he had had a choice. "I told him I did not like the idea of him going to the mines because of the high risks involved, but he insisted because of the bad conditions in the family"

His uncle Lebohang says "He was a quiet, compassionate person. He helped educate his siblings on the meagre salary he was getting. That tells how loving this young man was"

Mathole is to be part of the mass burial of unrecognisable bodies tomorrow at Orkney cemetery in a service to be led by famous anti-apartheid activist the Rev Beyers Naude

(212) Star 10/6/95
Mines still a pull for the jobless

The Vaal Reefs gold mine disaster has not stopped job-hungry Lesotho men from queuing up for employment in the mines

Despite the horror accounts of the Vaal Reefs disaster, these men continue to camp outside the offices of the Employment Bureau of Africa in Maseru in the hope that their names will be among the chosen few re-

cruted to take up jobs

Asked why they were still prepared to go to the mines despite the risks involved, they said it was preferable to facing starvation with their families

"We really have no choice but to sacrifice rather than starve," said Lefu Mokone to the approval of his colleagues
— Staff Reporter

Miners buried en masse

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE PRELIMINARY inquiry, instituted in terms of the Minerals Act following the death of 104 Vaal Reef's Mine disaster victims has been completed.

A spokesman for the Mineral and Energy Affairs Ministry, Henry van Straten, told City Press on Friday that statements made by witnesses would be handed over to the Attorney General tomorrow.

Van Straten said the documents would enable the Attorney General to decide whether to prosecute directly or to set up an inquest.

Meanwhile, at least 60 of the 104 Vaal Reef's mine disaster victims who died last month will be given a mass funeral today after a service at Oppenheimer Stadium.

According to NUM's Health and Safety regional secretary Colleen Manzana, 19 bodies have been claimed by their next of kin in Lesotho and three

have been taken to the former Transkei and buried. Manzana said the governments of Botswana and Mozambique have also demanded that their nationals, numbering eight and six respectively, be buried on home soil.

NUM's Klerksdorp regional organiser, Howard Yawa, told City Press that most of the families had agreed on a mass funeral to be held at Orkney cemetery because the bodies were mangled beyond recognition.

He was not sure of the exact number of bodies that would be buried.

Yawa said some of the families were confused and had mistaken the memorial service on May 17 for a mass funeral.

According to a joint statement by Anglo American Corporation (AAC) and NUM, speakers at the funeral - which will be conducted by Reverend Beyers Naudé - include North West Premier Popo Molefe, NUM

president James Mottlati, AAC's Bobby Godsell, South African Communist Party's Charles Ngakula and Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pk Botha.

Another three mine workers were killed in a single rock burst at the Goldfields Kloof mine two weeks ago, and another two died in separate incidents last week, writes JEFFERSON LENGANE.

Of the last two, one died from heart exhaustion and one from a fall of ground. ~~212~~ (212) Health and Safety officer of NUM's Gauteng region Charles Freedman accused Goldfields of refusing to take the deaths of miners seriously by refusing the local NUM branch committee time off to discuss safety issues with management.

Meanwhile another miner died at Kimberley's Loxton Exploration shaft after a skip shoot (iron rings holding skip ropes) hit him on the head. An enquiry into the accident will be held on June 21 at the Loxton offices. CP 11/6/95

15 000 at miners' funeral

Renee Grawitzky

(212)

MORE than 15 000 workers, heads of state, political leaders and Anglo American representatives gathered in Orkney in the Free State yesterday for the funeral service for 47 of the 104 mineworkers killed at Vaal Reefs gold mine a month ago

The sound of wailing women accompanied a procession of 47 hearses bearing the remains of mineworkers to Ernest Oppenheimer Stadium

At the behest of family members, the bodies of the remaining mineworkers were sent home for private burial. Three bodies have yet to be identified and family members have been asked to assist in identification

NUM president James Motlatsi set the scene with his call that it was not the "day

to deliver speeches blaming each other"

He said "The tragedy has happened and we are only here to deal with the consequences."

SACP secretary-general Charles Nqakula, however, accused Vaal Reefs management of gross negligence and although the accident was still being investigated, it was clear that major negligence had led to the locomotive plunging down Shaft No 2

He said "Management carries the responsibility for safety on the mines, they must carry full responsibility for what will go into the annals of SA history as the Vaal Reefs disaster."

Motlatsi announced that Walter Sisulu and Helen Suzman would be responsible for overseeing the Vaal Reefs disaster fund

Continued on Page 2

Funeral

Continued from Page 1

which has raised nearly R11m.

The fund would initially assist the families and communities of the mineworkers killed, but in the long term could assist other dependents and communities

Motlatsi called on Anglo American to provide substantially more for those who had died.

Anglo director Bobby Godsell said management would seek to discover all the facts of the accident and would give total support and assistance to the inquiry.

He said, "We commit ourselves to learn from the findings to ensure such an accident never occurs again."

12/6/95 (212)

Northwest region premier Popo Molefe said the accident had "seized the attention of the nation to focus on safety on mines"

He called on employers, workers and government to "apply their minds afresh" to try to reduce mine accidents.

Molefe said mineworkers would become active participants in the development of the RDP in the regions instead of being seen as providers of jobs where someone "is likely to die"

The funeral at the Orkney cemetery went off without incident despite a threat by AWB members to protest against black people walking over the grave of an AWB member buried there.



BEREAVED: Relatives of miners who died in an accident at Vaal Reefs gold mine on May 10 pay their respects at the funeral of 47 of the 104 men who died (212)

Vaal Reefs tragedy: 47 miners buried

ARG 12/6/95

The Argus Correspondent

ORKNEY — A pall of sadness hung over this dry dusty town as 47 miners were buried

The number was less than half the 104 killed in the Vaal Reefs mining disaster, but the hearses were nose to tail around the stadium before leaving for the cemetery

The miners, killed on May 10 when a runaway locomotive plunged down a shaft and landed on a man-cage, were buried in Orkney cemetery yesterday — the first black people to be buried there — despite protests last week from the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB)

According to Anglo American spokesman James Duncan, discussions with the AWB enabled the company to allay concerns that the crowd of about 15 000 would get out of control and desecrate surrounding graves

The graveside scene was a tragic one of family members going up and down the 17 rows of three graves, desperately searching for their loved ones after the coffins had been lowered into the ground

After the official ceremony conducted by Dr Beyers Naude, some families, who had brought their own priests, performed private, traditional ceremonies

Earlier, at the Oppenheimer Stadium, a distraught woman started to wail as the hearses brought the first coffins into the stadium, but soon the air

was filled with the haunting cries of many women

Others collapsed and had to be given medical assistance by paramedics whose bright orange overalls contrasted sharply with the mourners' dark clothing

Before the ceremony, the hearses lined up on either side of the podium facing inwards with the simple coffins on trolleys behind them. While the national flag flew at half mast, black flags flew on flagpoles along the top of the grandstands

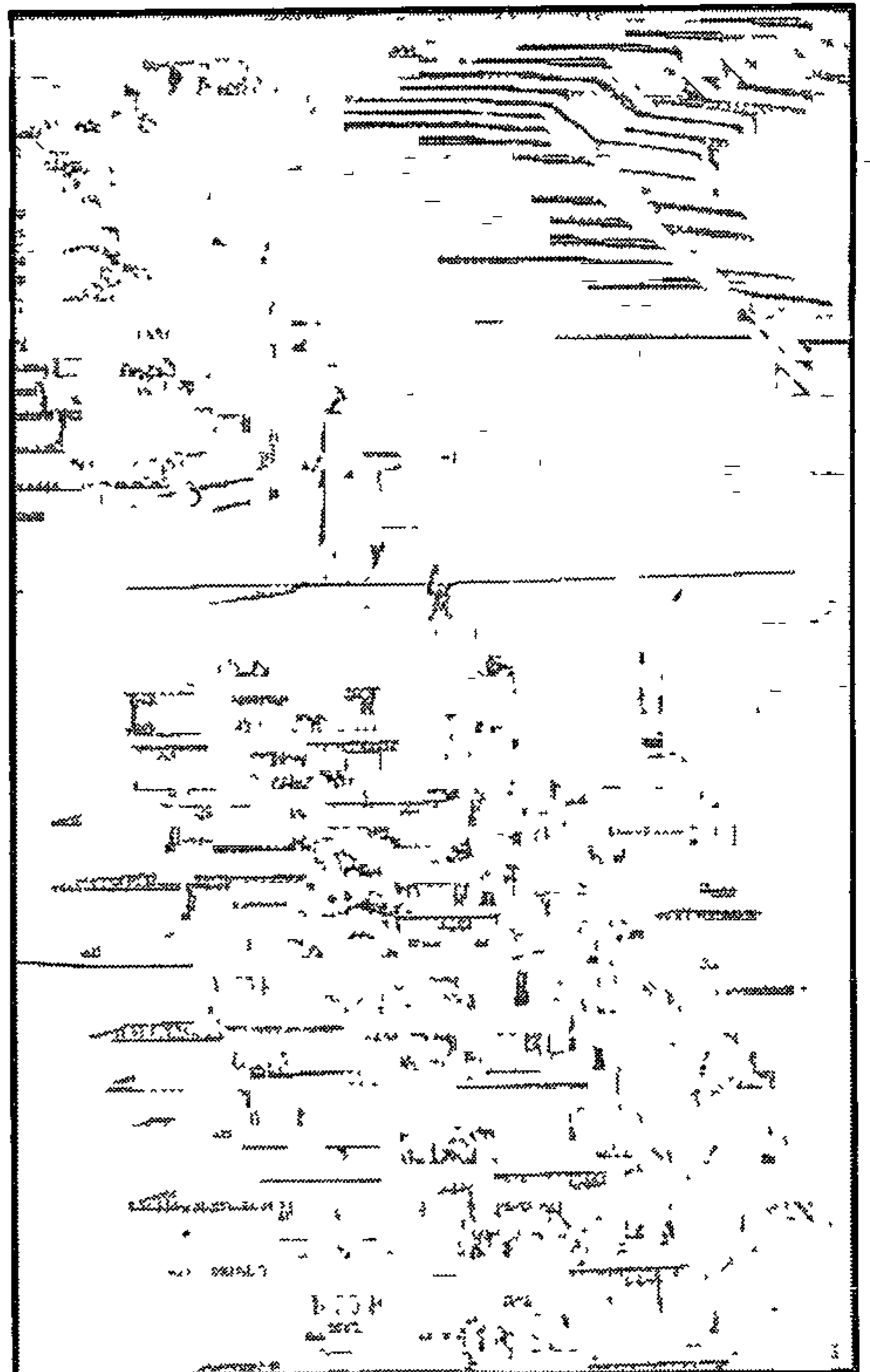
Most speakers talked of the scale of human tragedy, and how mine management should work to prevent such an incident recurring

National Union of Mineworkers president James Mohlatsi said that former ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu and former Democratic Party MP Helen Suzman would administer the disaster relief fund which stands at more than R11 million. He said every cent would go to victims' families

Northwest Premier Popo Molefe said the mines needed to be seen as "more than just a place where people have a job, and are likely to die, but must also play a role in uplifting the communities they are in"

Anglo American executive director Bobby Godsell said the company hoped to learn from the accident, to ensure it never happened again

SA Communist Party gener-



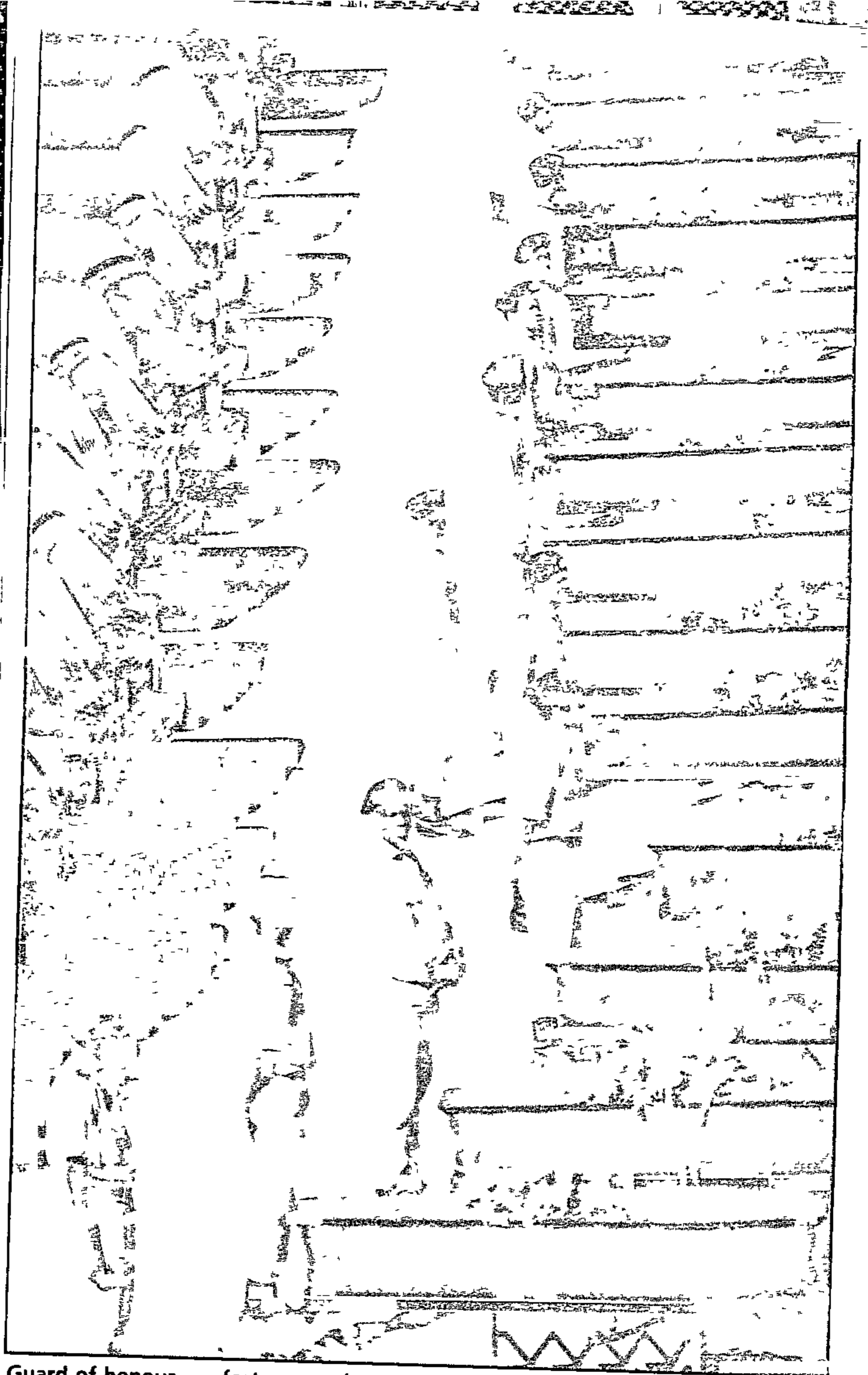
LAST RESPECTS: Guards of honour stand at the coffins of the 47 miners who were buried yesterday. The funeral was delayed because of difficulty in identifying the victims

al secretary Charles Nqakula, representing the tri-partite alliance, said the disaster showed "gross negligence" on the part of management

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha said that health and safety on the mines were the top priority of

his department. Also present were government representatives from Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Mozambique

Mr Duncan added that Shaft 2, where the accident occurred, had gone back into operation last week, with miners doing restoration work



Guard of honour . . . forty-seven hearses and coffins are lined up at yesterday's funeral for some of the miners killed at Vaal Reefs mine. PICTURE THYS DULLAART

SPAN 12/6/95 (212)

Thousands weep again for men killed in mining tragedy

■ BY MICHAEL SPARKS and HOPEWELL RADEBE

Orkney — Forty-seven miners were buried yesterday in this dry and dusty town — less than half the 104 killed in the Vaal Reefs mining disaster, but 15 000 gathered in a stadium to mourn their passing.

Hearses were lined up nose-to-tail around the stadium before leaving for the cemetery.

There had been protests from the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging last week about the mass funeral taking place in Orkney's previously whites-only cemetery.

Anglo American spokesman James Duncan said discussions with the AWB had enabled the mining company to allay fears that the mourners would get out of control and desecrate surrounding graves.

Relatives went up and down the 17 rows of graves, seeking a final glance at their loved ones after the coffins were lowered into the ground.

After the official ceremony conducted by Dr Beyers Naude, some families, who had brought their own priests, performed private ceremonies to bury the dead according to traditional custom.

Earlier, at the Oppenheimer Stadium, a woman started to wail as the hearses brought the first coffins into the stadium, but soon the air was filled with the haunting cries of many women.

Negligence

National Union of Mineworkers president James Motlatsi said that former ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu and former Democratic Party MP Helen Suzman would administer the disaster relief fund which currently stands at more than R11-million.

Anglo American executive director Bobby Godsell said the company hoped to learn from the accident, to ensure it never happened again.

SA Communist Party gener-

al secretary Charles Nqakula, representing the tripartite alliance, said the disaster showed "gross negligence" on the part of management.

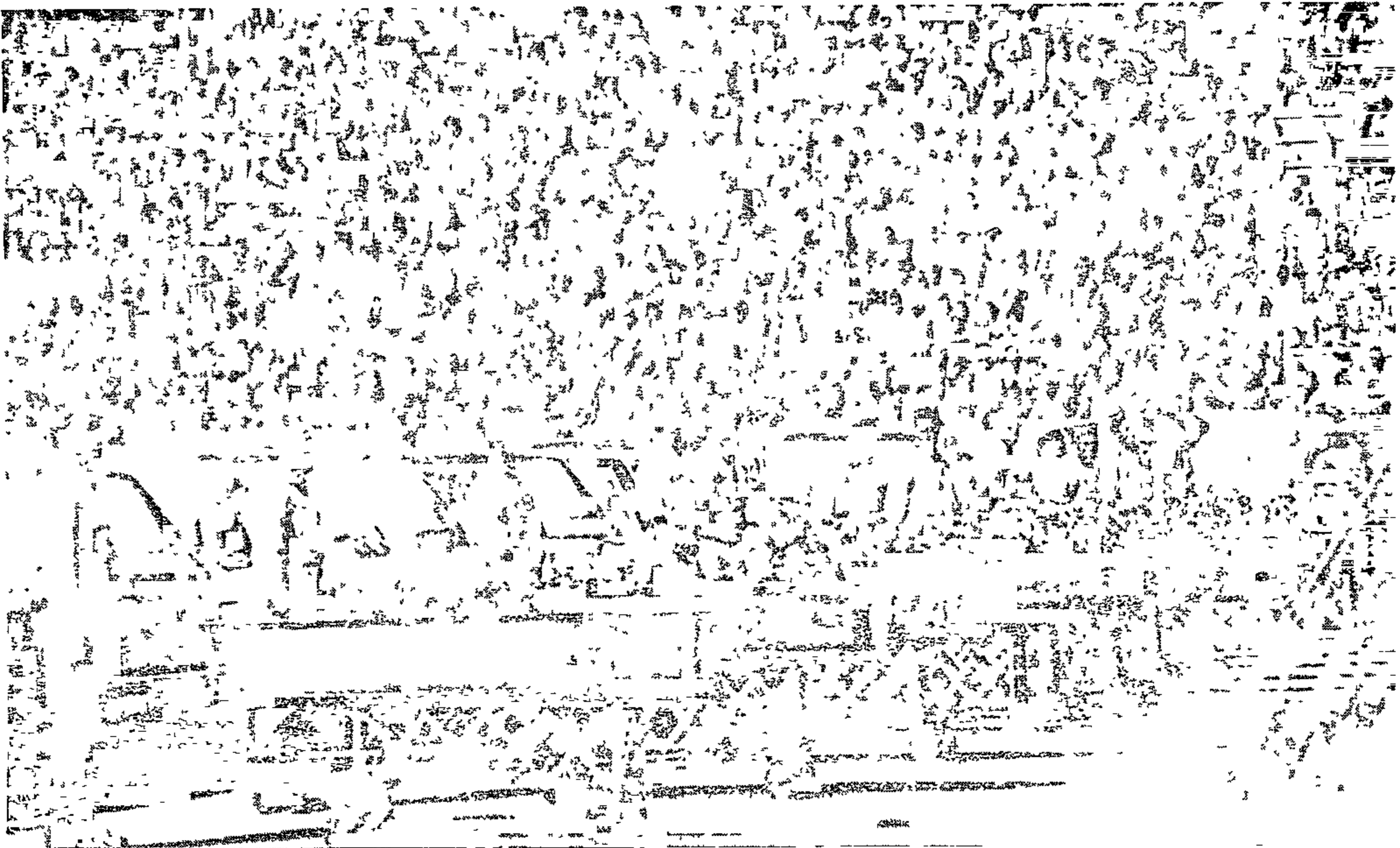
Also present were government representatives from Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Mozambique.

■ The information gathered during the course of the investigation of the disaster is to be submitted to the Attorney-General's office today, according to a Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs spokesman.

The spokesman said the information had been collected by people from the Government Mining Engineer's office, and included affidavits from people who had information that might assist the investigation.

He added that a decision would have to be made by the Transvaal Attorney-General Jan D'Oliviera on whether the investigation and inquest should be conducted jointly.

► Picture — Page 3



LAST RESPECTS ... More than 15 000 people from all over Southern Africa yesterday paid their last respects to 42 of the 104 miners buried in Orkney in the North West. PIC. LEN KUM

(212) Sowetan 12/6/95

Weeping as mine victims are buried

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

THE SOUTH AFRICAN national flag flew at half-mast as 45 coffins containing the remains of some of the victims of the Vaal Reefs Gold Mine disaster lined the graves at Oppenheimer Stadium in Orkney in Free State yesterday.

104 miners were crushed to death on May 10 when a locomotive plunged down a shaft, hitting a lift cage carrying the workers and sending it plummeting to the bottom of the shaft.

The funeral was a scene of high emotion.

Hardened miners who had descended into the depths of the earth many times without a care for the attendant risks, sat in disbelieving silence.

It was worse for the families of the victims. Men, women and children wept openly as the coffins were lowered into the graves.

The remains of 49 other victims were buried in Lesotho on Friday after their families had demanded the right to personally bury their dead.

Sorrowful scenes as 45 coffins line graves at Oppenheimer Stadium in Free State

10 other miners are unaccounted for. This is understandable as what was buried was mostly mangled human flesh.

Anglo American Corporation executive director Mr Bobby Godsell told mourners that more than R11 million had been donated to the Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund.

The trustees were visiting families of the victims to assess their needs.

The National Union of Mineworkers president Mr James Motlatsi said every cent in the fund would go towards helping families of the victims.

Energy and Mineral Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha, who represented the Government, said the recommendations of the Leon Commission into health and safety on the mines would be "urgently" implemented to prevent similar disasters in the future.

However, South African Communist Party general secretary Mr Charles

Management must carry full responsibility for what will go down in the annals of South African history as the Vaal Reefs disaster

Nqakula charged that the disaster was not an act of God but the result of negligence on the part of mine owners Anglo American Corporation.

"Management must carry full responsibility for what will go down in the annals of South African history as the Vaal Reefs disaster," Nqakula said.

Miners' deaths: Decision soon on prosecution

(212) ARC 13/6/95
JOHANNESBURG — About 50 statements relating to last month's accident in which 104 people were killed at Vaal Reefs mine have been handed to the office of the attorney-general, according to a spokesman.

He said Transvaal Attorney-General Jan D'Oliveira hoped to make a decision "as soon as possible" on whether to prosecute anyone for the miners' death.

The decision hopefully would be made before the end of next week, he said.

If Mr D'Oliveira decided to prosecute, there would be no need for an inquest.

However, if there was no prosecution, a separate inquest and investigation would be held, appointed by Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

On Sunday, 47 of those who died were buried in the Orkney cemetery. The other 57 are being buried by their families.

ET(BR)13/6/95 (212)

At the very heart of safety is understanding 'why'

By Ross HERBERT

STAFF WRITER

Dust, like chalky cigar smoke, billows in the air. Sweat pours off faces in metre-high crevices, air-powered drills pound against quartzite, thundering like a jackhammer in a closet. This is the everyday feel of mines in South Africa, a netherworld in which bosses shout commands and curses over deafening noise at workers who silently stare back before carrying out the next order.

That underground world reflects a mining culture that, perhaps more than any other industry, was the epitome of the old South African order. Life below ground was paramilitary. Whites gave orders and blacks took them or risked being fired. Mines were near-feudal domains, unused to being challenged.

Today there is, however, widespread recognition in the industry that it must change for political, economic and safety reasons. Profitability is slumping and costs are rising.

At the same time, more than 90 percent of mining accidents and health problems, according to the Leon commission of inquiry, result from one or another form of human error — failure to follow standards, install safety equipment properly, inspect for, or even comprehend, dangers. The regulatory stick alone cannot eliminate safety problems.

With hundreds of thousands of underground miners labouring in tiny, hard-to-reach passages, there are simply too many spots to check to rely solely on inspection. Real improvements in health and safety must come from within workers and mine managers themselves and from fundamental changes in the culture that still grips the industry.

The heart of the safety question is the command system that has always run the mines. In an ideal world, workers would understand the principles of safe blasting and underground support and actively check that supervisors followed the standards. In practice, workers have been given little understanding of the reasons behind the orders given to them. Hence, the most natural and effective safety measure — self-observation — does not function.

"If you don't actually go out and change the culture on the mine, it's not going to work. There is no doubt about it, the autocratic way mines have been run in the past is not conducive to employees questioning things. Probably one of the most difficult things to change is culture," said Karl van Gessel, mining engineer who is responsible for safety programmes at Anglo American's gold division.

"We need to experiment with new ways of working. South African industry is searching for ways out of the cultural cul de sac we are in and I frankly don't think we have any other way out," said May Hermanus, who investigated and testified on health and safety issues to the Leon commission on behalf of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

The shortest cut out of that cul de sac involves arming employees with proper training, not just in what to do but why it matters. There is, as the commission noted, a sizeable amount of "commendable" educational activity in the industry regarding adult basic education. Opinions of safety training were less positive.

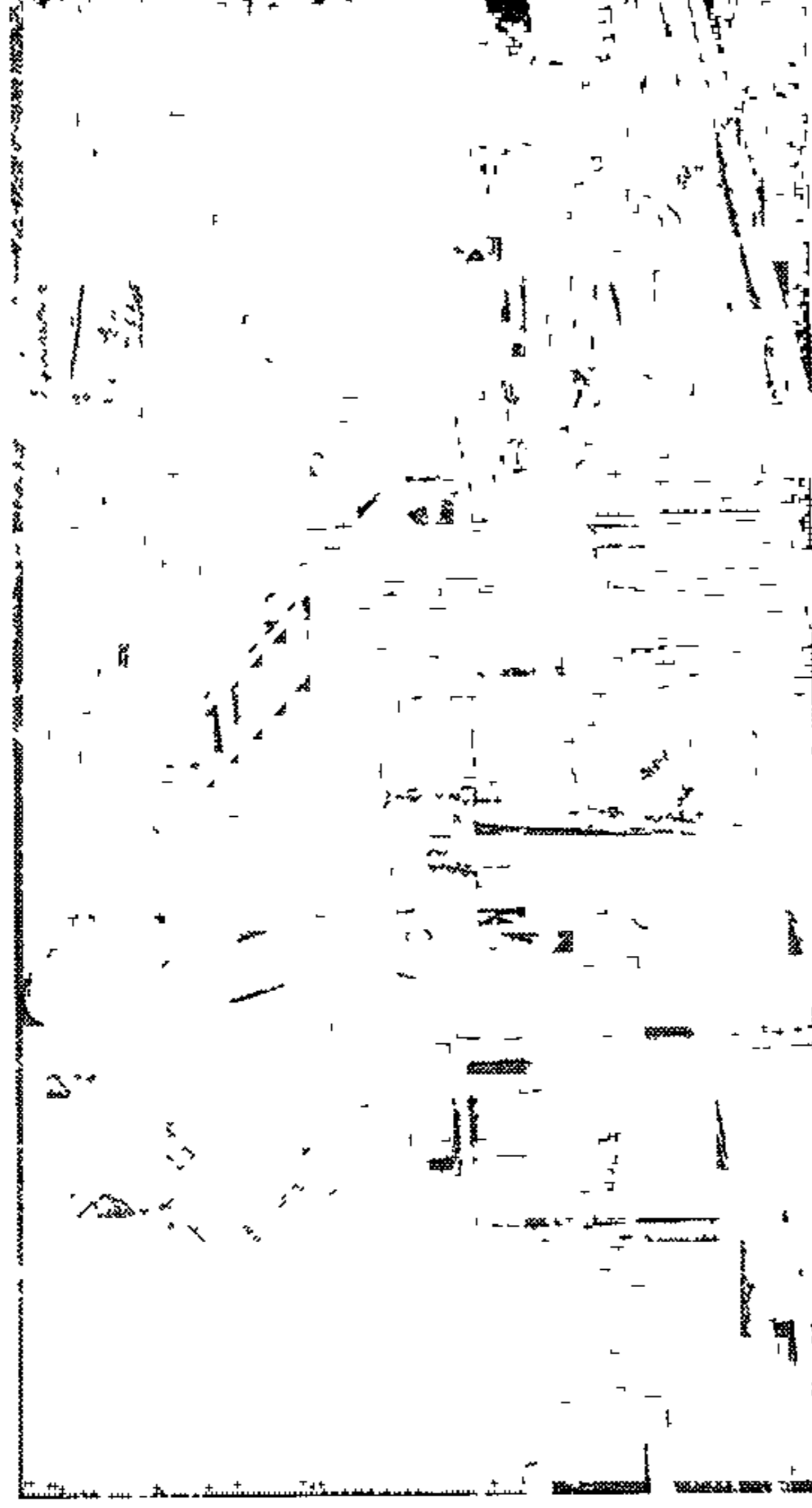
"You have to look at what the quality of (safety) training is. It is pretty much appalling or non-existent," said Sazi Jonas, national health and safety education co-ordinator for NUM.

Jonas notes that when workers come back from leave each year, they are supposed to have a refresher course in safety. But the law only requires a 30-minute course, which often does not occur or must be attended during the workers' hours off. NUM also notes that very few mines offer any meaningful courses on rock mechanics to the general workforce.

Van Gessel does not agree entirely. "Skills training and safety training is actually pretty good. Where I agree with the NUM submission is that we train them and say, 'Do this because it's what we say you must do.' It's got its limitations because it's not explaining why."

At a recent conference on mine safety, Fleur Plimmer, NUM health and safety co-ordinator, noted the experience of a shift boss who decided to implement the use of hydraulic supports, generally considered the best form of support.

Fits workers, used to pipes and wooden blocks, refused. They did not like the look of the



MINING'S RISKS Miners are exposed to the hazards of working at deep levels every day and casualty figures over the years have not abated

hydraulic supports and did not see the advantage of lugging a 30kg to 50kg support plus a 5kg to 10kg headboard through narrow, rough mine stopes. Only after seeing stress tests of various supports were they convinced.

One problem is language. Miners, who work closely together, rarely share the same native language. Fanagalo, a pidgin language largely based on Zulu, has become the *lingua franca* in the mining industry. But it is a language of basic commands — lift this, fetch that, move this. It is not well suited to expressing subtleties, such as why the jagged appearance of overhead rock indicates poor blasting technique and potentially dangerous stress fractures in the rock.

"Language has a very serious effect on safety. They use fanagalo for commands, but it does not give workers a clear understanding when it comes to safety," said Jonas.

Benedict Thaba, NUM chairman at West Driefontein mine, recalls a recent fist fight between a worker and a white supervisor, who said he thought the worker threatened in fanagalo to kill the supervisor's wife. The fanagalo word, the supervisor said, 'he heard actually

work team leaders, who interact with certified miners, helps but is not enough.

NUM also needs to upgrade its own staffing and skills in health and safety. At many mine shafts there are no full-time union representatives. What union officials there are, have work duties they cannot leave and are also unclear about the range of health, safety and compensation standards. However, NUM plans to install full-time health and safety stewards at every mine, each of whom will be given training.

Both NUM and the white Mineworkers' Union charge that workers underground are often asked to operate in ways contrary to safety policies. Without knowing the "why" workers continue to be victimised. However, James Duncan, Anglo's gold division spokesman, complains. "The union must understand that if it wants to participate, it has to go beyond just saying what management must do. With that has to come greater individual accountability. Saying safety is a management problem is not going to wash in the future."

Improving safety also requires beefing up training at higher levels. An NUM analysis of the testing required to obtain a blasting certificate in the Klerksdorp and Free State districts in 1993 found that, respectively, only 5.3 percent and 3 percent of questions in the test pertained to strata control.

The commission noted. "Even the few questions that were asked in these examinations did not refer to rock bursts or strata-control practice. Rock bursts and rock falls were identified as the dominant safety threat in gold mining, and the records do not reveal even a slight improvement in this regard. The commission finds it difficult to understand how such an important safety risk does not receive more attention from those responsible for examining future mine officials."

Some mines have been experimenting with new ways of communicating with employees, particularly Anglo's Elandsrand.

"Elandsrand has been making an effort to turn itself around," said Brendan Barry, an attorney who has been representing NUM on employee health and injury cases, "but what about all the other mines?"

Across the industry, underground supervi-

sors complain that their authority is waning. However, certified miners are finding persuasion and demonstration of new techniques to be unfamiliar ground.

Managers complain of falling "employee discipline", which employees interpret as little more than a desire to return to the ways of old. Despite recent overtures and statements that the industry basically accepts the Leon commission's recommendations, distrust will likely remain deep for years to come.

Changing mine culture to improve safety also means examining the industry's more fundamental structures. There are often mine or layers of management above workers. At even level the universal tendency to filter bad news takes its toll on truth.

Unions say if the industry wants to improve its safety record, it will have to face up to the fact that filtering is endemic. Accident investigation by the industry, the Leon commission concluded, were more orientated toward avoiding blame than finding and correcting problems.

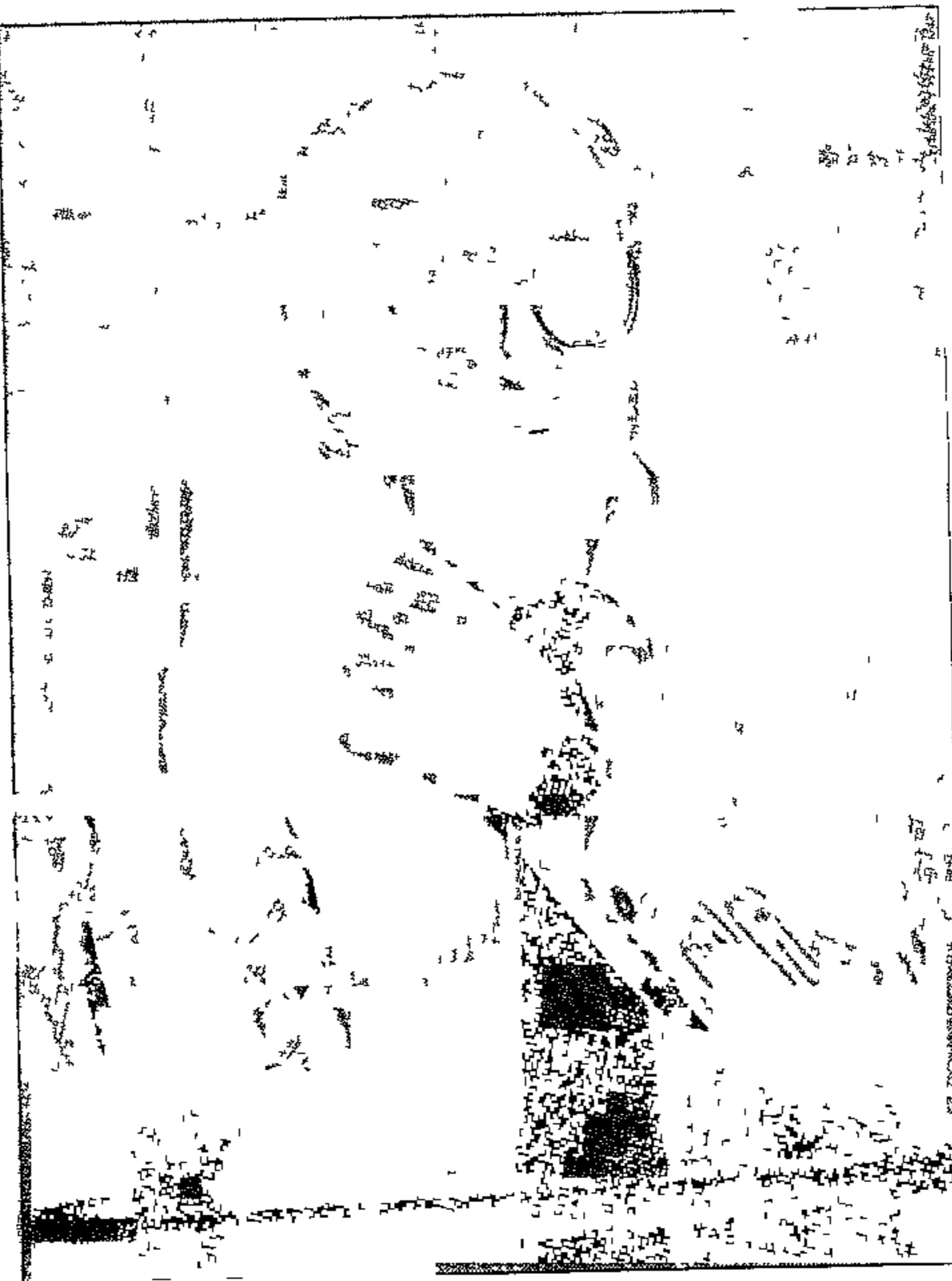
Production quotas are passed down through every layer and when they aren't met there are questions to answer. Many argue that production bonus systems exert a corrosive effect and should be countered with meaningful bonuses. Rewarding managers and employees for conforming to safety standards during surprise inspections.

The pressure to produce profit has also led to widespread allegations of under-reporting accidents. Rhett Kahn, mine medical officer at Harmony gold mine for a decade, testified to the Leon commission that the requirement that on accidents requiring 14 or more days of recuperation led non-medical staff to review patient medical records on the 13th day after accidents.

Pressure was then applied to return workers to duty to avoid reporting accidents and, in turn, increasing insurance levies payable to Rain Mutual Assurance.

Bernard Swanepoel, Harmony mine manager, said he could not say whether the allegation was true or not, but he said it would definitely be an abuse.

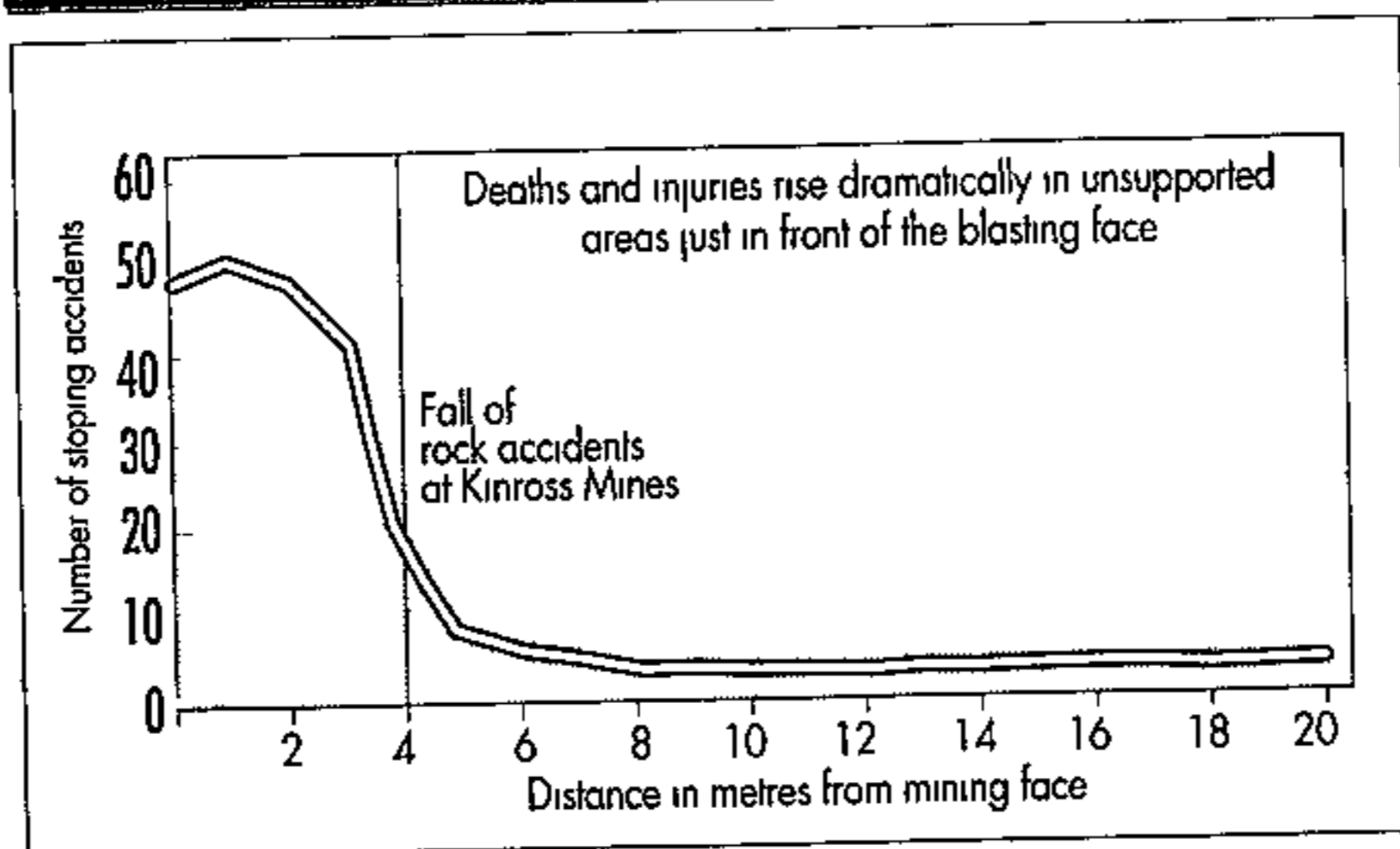
"That has never been mine policy, and no one worth its salt would let that happen," he said.



ELANDSRAND INITIATIVES

Anglo's Elandsrand mine, under manager Ian Cockerill, left, has been experimenting with new ways of communicating about safety and productivity. Safety-related videos are now being shown on televisions in the underground areas where miners wait to be hoisted to and from work. The mine has also improved safety training courses by developing styrofoam models to illustrate the principles of rock mechanics and the proper placement of underground supports. To help cross language barriers, abstract productivity concepts are acted out in "industrial theatre" presentations. Elandsrand has also proposed a study project, which was accepted by the Safety in Mining Research Advisory Committee, to use computer virtual reality images to practise installing supports in an animated world that can safely "collapse" on the miner when support techniques are applied incorrectly.

Deaths at the rock face

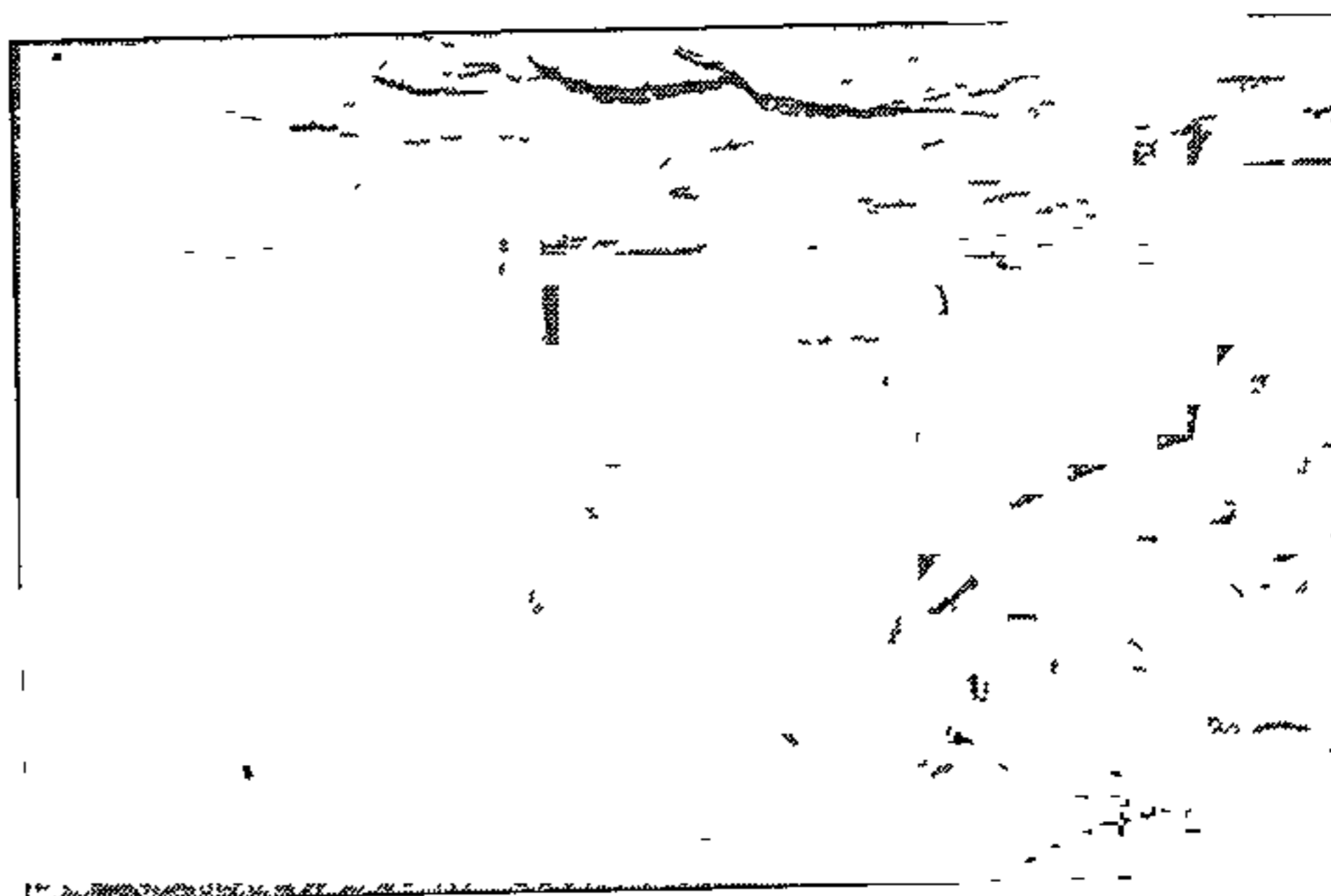


ROCK FACE ACCIDENTS

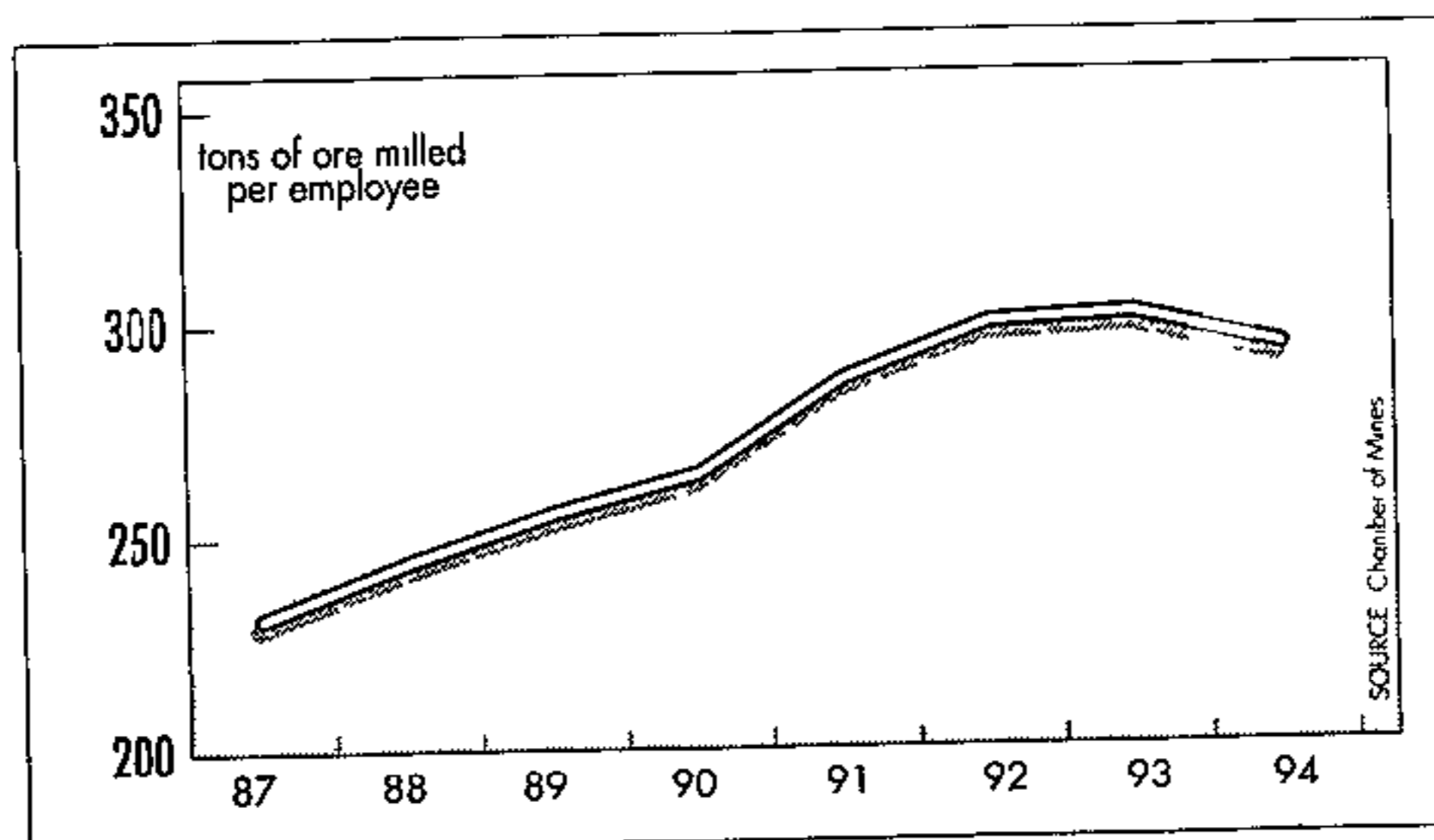
The highest number of underground deaths and injuries occur within two metres of the rock face, as shown by the graph on the left. The level of risk could be significantly reduced by improved support in critical areas and by inspection training.

DANGEROUS FACE

Rock falls and rock bursts are major causes of death and injuries, particularly at the rock face where drilling occurs. The government mining engineer has concluded that 81 percent of rock fall accidents are caused by a failure to properly inspect overhanging rock.



Rising production per gold mining employee



TRACKING PRODUCTION

Mining industry profit has slipped, and management has attributed this partly to a declining work ethic and a subsequent fall in productivity. But, as shown in the graphic on the left, productivity has been rising over the long term when assessed by tons of ore milled per employee.

56/9/81

(2/2)

NEWS NATIONAL

R11-m aid for victims' families

Sowetan 13/6/95
the families of the victims, irrespective of union affiliation.

Widow's words: 'I don't want the money, I want my husband'

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

THE NEEDS of the families of the Vaal Reefs disaster victims are being assessed and steps taken to distribute the R11 million fund collected for their relief, Anglo-American Corporation said yesterday. Anglo-American executive director

miners were buried in Orkney and the dust settled over the incident.

Maybe the R11 million in the Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund and the benefits due to them will help to ease the pain and financial burden of the families, most of whom have lost breadwinners.

One weeping widow at the mass funeral said it all when she said "I don't want the money, I want my husband. The money will help in the short term but will never bring back loved ones

Most of the mineworkers were from Lesotho, while others were from Botswana, Swaziland and South Africa.

Some of the families from Lesotho insisted on taking the remains of their loved ones for burial at home, despite the condition of the corpses. Many were crushed beyond recognition when the cage plummeted down the shaft.

On Sunday the mangled bodies of the

way locomotive hit their cage on May 10, were buried after a mass funeral in Orkney on Sunday.

National Union of Mineworkers spokesman Mr Gregory Matshelwa said the R11 million would be shared by

Mr Bobby Godsell says trustees of the Vaal Reefs Mine Disaster Fund are busy visiting the families to determine their needs.

Forty-five of the 104 mineworkers, who were crushed to death when a mine-

Ergo, NUM agree on pay, bonus issues

Renee Grawitzky

(212)

2014/6/95

THE East Rand Gold and Uranium Company (Ergo) and the National Union of Mineworkers agreed yesterday to a 10% across-the-board increase and the introduction of broad banding which reduced the number of grades

Ergo, considered to be part of the gold mining industry, agreed to a new minimum of R1 345 a month

The union proposed introducing broad banding and it was agreed that the current seven grades would be reduced to four

Ergo management said the broad banding exercise would be conducted over the next year with NUM participation.

NUM's Gauteng organiser Archie Palane said the establishment of a committee to deal with job grading issues would enable members to understand the question of skills "and the payment of workers according to skills acquired"

The parties agreed to a revised employee profit share scheme based on affordability, with profits earned above budget shared with the workers

In addition, NUM representatives would be involved with the calculation and monitoring of the bonus on a monthly basis

The parties agreed to establish a medical aid forum to discuss alternative medical aid schemes as well as the issue of traditional healers

MINING HEALTH & SAFETY

SPECIAL REPORT PART FOUR: CONCLUSION

The Pandora's box of disability

By ROSS HERBERT

STAFF WRITER

Cracked, grey callouses have grown across Templeton Nozozo's hands in the past year in his quest to redress past wrongs.

His right leg, amputated mid-thigh after a mining accident in 1971, was replaced by a strap-on artificial leg. He says he received R70 a month until 1984, when he was told the payments, which he thought was a pension, were "finished."

After lodging high-level queries, he was called into an office in April last year by a mine hostel supervisor, Eugene van Dalen, who demanded the artificial leg back because Nozozo was using it to get around and make trouble. Astonished and cowed, Nozozo pulled up his pants' leg and unstrapped the limb, then slid to the floor and crawled out of the office down to a medical station to ask for crutches. The misshapen callouses on his hands have since grown deep where crutch handles, wrapped in rags, press into his palms.

It is impossible to say whether Nozozo's version of that fateful day is correct or Van Dalen is right in asserting that Nozozo took off the leg as an act of protest. No one else witnessed the conversation.

What is clear is the enormity of the tragedy that would leave a man crawling down a hallway over injury compensation that is, by any reasonable standard, appallingly low.

A yet-to-be-named commission of inquiry will investigate the issue of compensation in the mining industry as a follow-on to the Leon commission of inquiry into health and safety. The issues promise to be explosive as experts say there are many thousands like Nozozo, perhaps less willing to confront the system, whose lives have been destroyed by life in the mines.

Here is an examination of key issues at that tragic confluence of disability, money and mining in South Africa.

Bearing the brunt of disability
 "Two-thirds of all occupational disabilities among black workers in South Africa occur in the mining industry," writes sociology researcher Jean Leger. He also testified to the Leon commission. According to his calculations, the rate of permanent disability cases per 1,000 employees is about six times as high in mining than in the timber industry, the next nearest.

The majority of injuries are rated at one to five percent disability, but major injuries like Nozozo's are common. And the support and compensation seem well outside what most people would call equitable.

Before 1977, black disabled miners were given lump-sum payments for their

That system, essentially, continues today with compensations according to what is known as the "neat chart." Each body part lost or mutilated represents a percentage disability. In cases like Nozozo's, doctors determine the percentage disability within a range of 45 to 75 percent. The system was designed to ensure that workers are compensated for all serious injuries regardless of fault.

However, the law severely limits the ability to sue for negligence and leaves many grey areas that can work to the disadvantage of workers.

A partial loss of vision, hearing or mobility are common complaints among miners. Back injuries also are common and hard to diagnose or affix a percentage disability to. When it comes to hearing loss, the system assumes that the first 25 percent of hearing loss is not compensatable. As a result, a 40 percent hearing loss is paid as if it is a 15 percent disability.

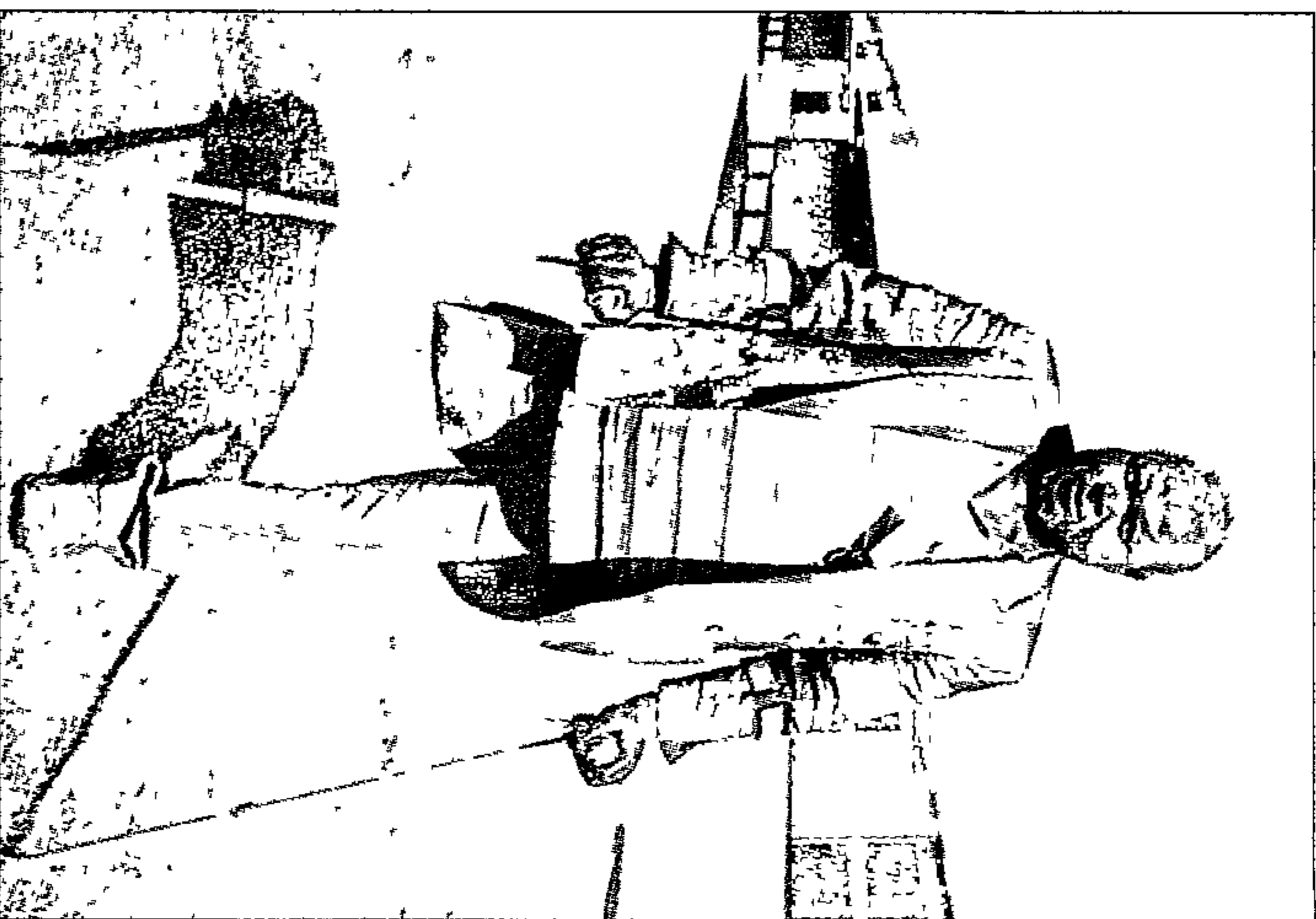
No statistics are available to prove the point, but in several dozen interviews in the Johannesburg area, workers reported a wide variety of such grey-area injuries that they said had gone uncompensated or undercompensated.

The Chamber of Mines and Rand Mutual Assurance said it was possible that they were not aware of this as a widespread practice.

Patrick Rathbe, a full-time National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) shop steward at ERM mine in Boksburg, said such disputes have been common. He is pursuing a challenge to a ruling that a man who can now walk only with the aid of a walking stick after an underground injury was categorised as zero percent disabled.

"Doctors tell me, 'you are not a doctor. We know better than you.' At the end of the day, we can never trust the doctor," Rathbe said.

In 1993, Rachelle Arkles, a graduate sociology student at Wits University, published a thesis on the social consequences of mining accidents, focusing on Lesotho. She found miners and their families were often devastated by injuries and under severe financial pressure.



NO REST Minner Templeton Nozozo, disabled in 1971, still seeks what he views as just and proper compensation.

PHOTO: ROSS HERBERT

tons with limited or no vocational skills, endemic unemployment in rural areas, a general lack of opportunity for income generation, and the inaccessible location of many workers' homes," she wrote.

"They are unaware of what they are entitled to, or when they are not assisted by mine and/or union officials, to claim what is rightfully theirs. It also illustrates that the provisions of compensation legislation are not always adhered to."

Once a foreign worker is sent home, often to locations without proper mail service, getting compensation can be difficult.

Last year's report by the compensation commission, released last week, showed R13.8 million in benefit payments, while more than R2.2 million remained in unclaimed benefits account because workers' cheques were returned uncashed or workers were dismissed with no known forwarding address.

The compensation system assumes a worker who is 30 percent disabled can find other lesser-paying employment to get back his earlier income. However, in a market with high unemployment, workers say they have no chance of getting a job when they have noticeable injuries. So, for practical purposes, a 30 percent disability is the same as a 100 percent disability.

"In most cases workers cannot get re-employed once disabled," said Helen

in the industry are employer-dominated, resulting in inequities for mine workers who are the recipients of these services. The system for reporting mine accidents is unreliable and open to abuse with the consequences that South Africa's mine accident statistics are flawed."

Kahn said in his experience, medical staffs were under pressure to get workers back to work to avoid having to report injuries and so boost insurance costs. He noted two cases, one of a man with a leg in plaster and another in a brace for a fractured spine, who were wheeled to lectures underground to avoid having to report their injuries as "serious."

The dominance of the system by employers makes it extremely difficult, in practical terms, to challenge the system. If employers fail to report an accident or lose records, the worker has almost no recourse.

Medical records are the key to any compensation claim. Anglo American uses a system that allows each worker to carry around their medical records in a packet. But much of the industry limits access.

Union representatives are often not allowed to request records without the employee in question being present. If a worker continues in a light-duty job, he must request time off to get the records. Rand Mutual, which handles most mining-industry claims, also limits access to the employee.

To rectify the situation, NUM is negotiating to put full-time health and safety shop stewards on every mine who will be able to follow up on complaints and question NUM's also hiring part-time doctors to do independent assessments.

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"In most cases workers cannot get re-employed once disabled," said Helen

bound. He believes his treatment is grossly unfair. He asked once asked for an increase in his pension. Asked why he did not file a union grievance or persist, he said he was afraid. "I know. Once they say no you just don't dare ask again or they will do something." He asked not to be identified.

If managers want to win employee loyalty to improve productivity, they will have to face such fear and distrust. "We don't just need rehabilitation of the body. We need rehabilitation of the mind. This is what apartheid has done," said Maome.

The law itself is a source of confusion. One act, the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act covers specifically mine-related diseases. The Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act covers all other industries. However, a worker disabled by a mine-related disease can get a substantially different financial benefit than a similarly disabled worker in another industry.

According to calculations by Kahn, in terms of the first act, a miner suffering from second-degree silicosis (from inhaling rock dust), would be eligible for a lump sum of R42,005 based on a monthly salary of R1,200 and 100 percent disability. If he were deemed 100 percent disabled under the second act, he would receive a pension of R900 a month for life. Over a decade that equals R108,000. NUM also complains that white workers, with higher base salaries, receive much more for the same injuries.

Contract workers, who work for subcontractors and often do underground work equal to mine workers, are not covered by pension or compensation schemes negotiated between the Chamber of Mines and NUM. They too can receive outcomes very different from staff workers.

Another crucial aspect of the system has been inflation, which has far outstripped the increases in disability pensions granted by the workmen's compensation commission. According to the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, when inflation is reckoned in, the value of a pension in 1992 had only 37 percent of the purchasing power it held in 1982. For those severely injured before 1977, who simply got a lump sum payout, the situation can be extreme.

"The compensation offered is just not enough for our workers, and the arguments they use to justify the system are just not human," said Maome.

When workers file for additional compensation or hardship benefits for family support, claims can take years to prosecute.

"I think the credibility of the compensation commission and Rand Mutual is at a massive low because of delays. I am struck by a complete, appalling lack of urgency in processing any claims," said Erendan

ET (BR) 14/6/95 (212)

THE DISABLEMENT SCALE

Percentage of permanent disablement for injuries Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, 1993

INJURY	PERCENT DISABLEMENT
Loss of two limbs	100
Loss of both hands, or of all fingers and both thumbs	100
Total loss of sight	100
Total paralysis	100
Injuries resulting in employee being permanently bedridden	100
Any other injury causing permanent total disablement	100
Loss of arm of shoulder	65
Loss of arm between elbow and shoulder	65
Loss of arm at elbow	55
Loss of arm between wrist and elbow	55
Loss of hand at wrist	50
Loss of four fingers and thumb of one hand	50
Loss of four fingers	40
Loss of thumb	25
Loss of index finger	15
Loss of middle finger	10
Loss of ring finger	8
Loss of little finger	5
Loss of metacarpals	5
Loss of leg	4
Loss of foot	4
Loss of toes	4
Toes other than big toes	3
Loss of eye	3
Loss of hearing	3
Loss of index finger	3
Loss of middle finger	3
Loss of ring finger	3
Loss of little finger	3
Loss of metacarpals	3
Loss of leg	2
Loss of foot	2
Loss of toes	2
Toes other than big toes	2
Loss of eye	1
Loss of hearing	1

'The point is that Nozozo has nothing'

By ROSS HERBERT

STAFF WRITER

At 48, Templeton Nozozo says he has little left. His wife left him. He rarely sees his two children. Two of his friends were killed and his leg was amputated as a result of a mining accident in 1971.

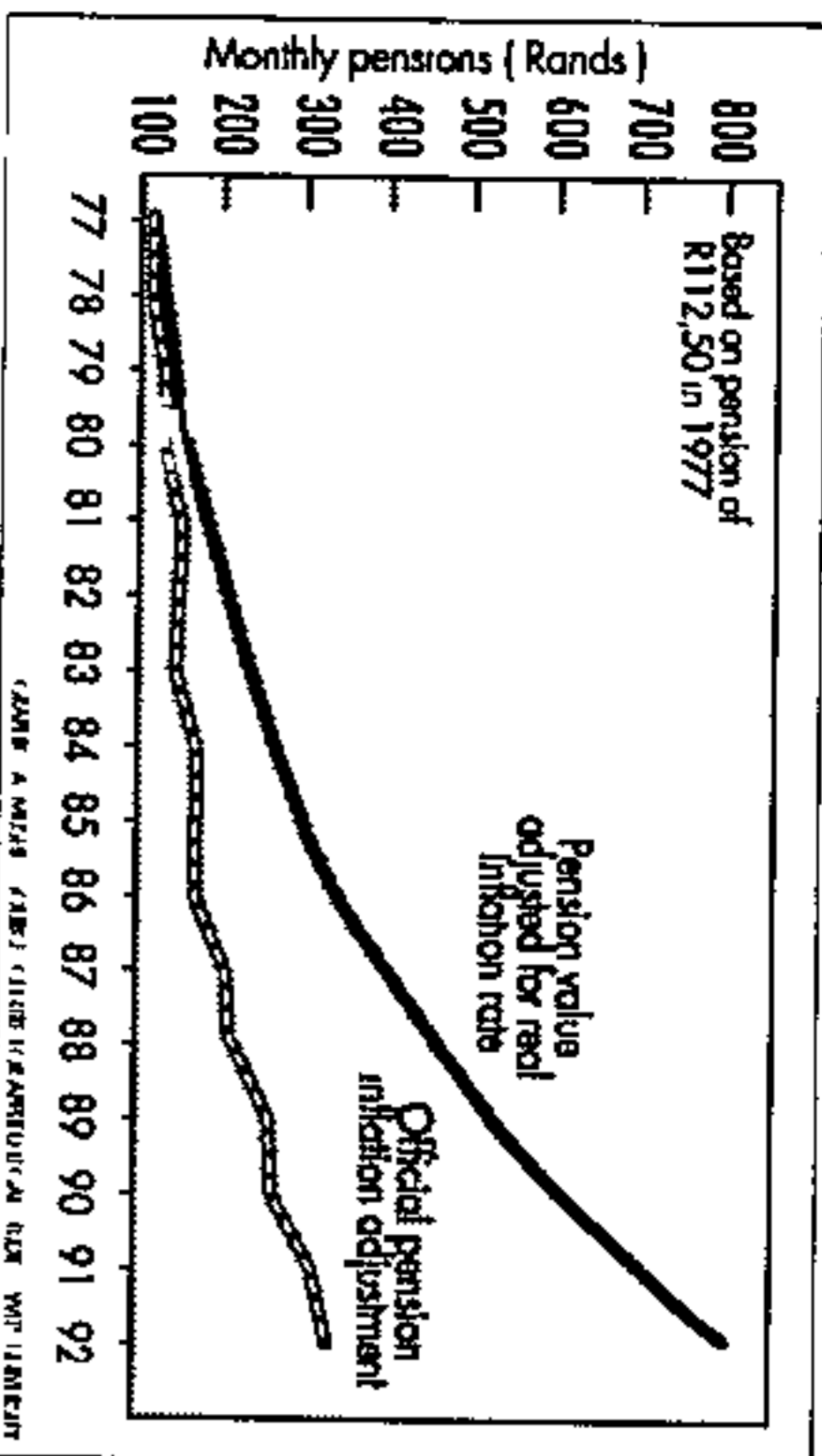
"I don't care. They can take any step. I was punished for nothing and enough is enough," he said through a translator after meeting the former supervisor of his hostel and a National Union of Mineworkers' (NUM) representative in the presence of Buisner's Re tort.

shouting that "he (Nozozo) never works one minute of the day." He said Nozozo drank too much and had had complaints from room-mates that he wet his bed at night.

When Van Dalen returned to the office he wrote out a statement on a piece of paper and had the other man translate it. "I am getting very tired of you accusing me of things," Van Dalen said before beginning his statement. He recounted the story much as Nozozo had, recalling queries to Rand Mutual Assurance, the Chamber of Mines and Gold Fields head office. He said Nozozo had

...et a unip leg amputated in 1983, one below the knee, one at the hip. He received a pension that began in 1984 at R280 and moved to R400 in 1987. He thought the money was a pension and that other compensation was coming for his injury.

Pensions eclipsed by inflation



Articles says the system is so complex and stacked against the employee that it took several professionals several years to win higher compensation for Sekoni.

Most mines have their own medical facilities or share them with nearby mines. Doctors in such facilities make the initial assessment of the extent of disabilities. Workers do not have the right to refuse care provided by the mines, unless they decide to pay for their own doctors. That lack of independent treatment and advice, together with language difficulties and substantial illiteracy and innumeracy among workers, is ripe for abuse.

Dr. Rieft Kahn, for 10 years a mine medical officer at Harmony Gold Mine, testified to the Leon commission. "The provision of medical and compensation services for the NUM. Moreover, the mine doctor can say that an employee is only 10 percent disabled but mines often dismiss employees, which is legal, for being no longer able to do their work."

Incomprehensible system

The health-care and injury compensation system viewed from the workers' vantage, is largely incomprehensible. The legal jargon, the percentages and formulas mangle with a vast legacy of past exploitation that continues to corrode morale and foster distrust of any management initiative.

One West Driefontein miner, paralysed below the waist a few years ago, said he receives R500 a month as a pension. His wife left him and he continues to have pains in his body and bladder problems, which are common among the wheelchair-

off his leg of his own accord, and had then refused on several occasions to take it back. After he finished reading, Van Dalen said twice "I haven't done anything to you but if you keep this up maybe I will do something."

'Obsessed' with the social costs of mining industry

Ross Herbert talked to Tony Davies, chief director of occupational health at the department of health, about key health, safety and compensation issues in the mining industry

Few subjects wind up Tony Davies as fast as compensation for mining industry diseases and injuries.

Mention his name among mining industry medical staff and eyes roll.

Davies, who sat on the Leon commission of inquiry into mining health and safety, has begun a personal effort to search South Africa's rural areas for sufferers of mining-related diseases who have not been compensated.

Business Report: The mining industry says that it has some of the best health care available in the country. Why should that system be changed?

Tony Davies: It is a matter of tremendous concern that so little hard data is available in the mining industry. And the amount of research in the mines themselves has declined remarkably. We should change the culture. The responsibility for running an effective health service in the industry is firmly in the hands of manage-

ment. Their attitude is everything's all right. Leave us alone. We have lots of doctors and hospitals.

But every time we have one of these big accidents, there is a big fuss. But it soon dies away. I have to say, the mining industry is not alone. Every dusty industry in the country is the same. If they have any decent statistics about what really happens, they don't publish them. I think society as a whole has a right to know what is going on in industry. We as a society as a whole have to pick up the cost of frightful poverty in rural areas.

BR: You have been going out to rural areas in search of uncompensated workers. Why?

Davies: I am actually obsessed with the social costs. We've treated the labour force as a disposable commodity like rubber syringes. They've been task-trained instead of cross-trained. They are housed in absolutely frightful conditions that are ghastly places that give rise to incredible levels of alcoholism,

depression and disease. What we are now reaping is the holocaust of that system. If it weren't for cheap black labour, there would be no Vaal Reef mines.

I've been spending three days a week in a rural hospital in northern Transvaal. I think we've been instrumental in distributing R3.5 million in compensation. We started a new project to look at the situation in the eastern Cape. We are opening a complaints clinic there soon. So long as these people go uncompensated, the conditions in mines and factories go unimproved. Only by whacking up the cost do you get attention. We put about a million rand into a community of 10 000 to 12 000. If all the compensatable diseases were compensated, we might just break the bank.

BR: Some mining houses are researching post-traumatic stress disorder and researchers have told us they find evidence of widespread depression among miners.

BR: Tuberculosis is spreading rapidly among mine workers and many suspect HIV is driving it. Do you have any policy suggestions?

Davies: I think it's absolutely critical that this idea of regulating the mining industry with separate laws and departments from other industries needs to be debated at great length. Every company should publish an annual statement on the health and safety and simply tell the public this many people died of this, and this many got diseases.

There is no good relevant data published. One hundred people killed in one accident is news but two or three from here and there isn't

ET 14/6/95



Universal findings are photographed in the lungs of an HIV infected individual. TIME TO STOP Tony Davies believes the mining industry has treated the labour force as a disposable commodity, like rubber syringes, and the social costs of that historical attitude, now being realised, are untenable.

There are no proper data collection systems. There is a National Centre for Occupational Health and the Epidemiological Research Unit but they have no statutory power at all. In general terms, you don't get anywhere by talking science, you have to talk compensation.

TB and HIV is still a very scary situation. If you really crack down on sexually transmitted diseases, you could halve the total of HIV. To

urge continuance on 30 000 men on a mine is impossible, but an aggressive education programme could make a dent.

A major problem is the fact that the major form of communication is fanagalo, which makes it very difficult to communicate the subtlety of viral kinds of disease.

BR: Many mines say that educational programmes have had little effect on sexually transmitted diseases or on condom use. And the same can be said for some safety measures where workers don't conform to standards that benefit them. Why?

Davies: We are bringing exalted technology to bear on medicine and safety. We fail because we don't involve workers. What we are doing is pouring it all over them like some kind of celestial chocolate sauce. If you are going to change people's behaviour, they have to have part ownership of the project.

The industry has to change to some kind of participative mode. The industry can't just go on saying we're going to work these guys and kill them with HIV and TB and rock bursts. It's time we all just sat down and talked this through.

PHOTO JOHN WOODKROOK

Negotiations extended by miners De Beers

Renee Grawitzky

(212)

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and De Beers are to continue wage negotiations on June 26.

Parties were unable to make progress on a number of issues last week

The union has revised its wage increase demand to 16% and the company is offering between 5% and 6%. The current minimum is R1 124 a month.

NUM said agreement had been reached on the establishment of a committee to investigate job grading and broad banding, and on an audit of non-racial conditions of employment

The company had refused to negotiate further on wages until the union had stated its position on affirmative action and public holidays

NUM negotiator Gwede Mantashe said the union

Anglo American strategy to force the union into a strike this year"

De Beers said it would respond on the remaining agenda items after it had considered the union's reply to the outstanding issues at the meeting later this month

Union demands still on the table include sub-contracting, increased training leave for union office bearers and an increase in annual leave. The union has dropped its demand for workplace forums

had been unable to respond on affirmative action, as the company's document on the issue had been presented on the eve of the meeting

He said "It seems to me that De Beers are using a similar strategy to that used in the Chamber negotiations where conditions are put on negotiating. Therefore we see this as an

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Ergo's wage increase 8019/6/95 (212) 'will not set mine trend'

Michael Urquhart

THE 10% wage increase at Anglo American's Ergo gold dump retreatment operations would probably not set the trend for the industry, sources said at the weekend.

Underground mines, many of which were facing serious cost squeezes, would not be able to afford such a high increase, they said.

The poor performance of the majority of SA mines, which analysts said were largely related to labour unrest, meant unions were not in a strong position to push for large basic wage increases.

Mine management would be aiming at a lower basic wage increase and some form of profit sharing associated with productivity. Management would also be pushing for continuous operations which would lead to better utilisation of capital.

One analyst said with labour making up 50% of the total costs of a mine, a 10% wage increase would translate directly into a 5% increase in total working costs. "Unless the gold price did something spectacular", mines would not be able to afford

such an increase in working costs, he said.

This was especially true for the numerous marginal mines in SA. According to Chamber of Mines figures, in the first quarter of 1995, 15 gold mines were unable to fund their capital expenditure programmes from their own earnings.

At Ergo, which sourced all its income from the treatment of gold bearing slimes and sand dumps, the situation was different as it was a profitable producer with high margins. There was also not the same necessity for spending on safety.

Mines could often use spending on extra safety procedures as part of the bargaining package to keep down wage increases. Issues other than wage increases would probably be of greater importance in the current round of wage negotiations.

Chamber of Mines economist Roger Baxter said mines would give the issue of continuous operations priority and that it would have benefits for all stakeholders.

He said the ability to have flexible work practices and continuous operations would influence the level of wage increases.

1203

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1204

tual information obtained, a decision concerning which appropriate steps should be taken, will be made

SANDEF/Armscor: sale of weapons to Rwandan government

*24 Mr E I EBRAHIM asked the Minister of Defence

Whether the South African National Defence Force and/or Armscor directly or indirectly sold arms to the former Rwandan government, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, (a) when, (b) at what cost and (c) what are the further relevant details?

N743E

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Yes. Prior to the UN Resolution on 17 May 1994 embargoing the sale of weapons to Rwanda, arms were sold to that country

Between late 1980 and March 1992, Armscor sold infantry weapons comprising 40 mm grenade launchers, 107 mm rocket launchers, 81 mm mortars and R4 assault rifles, as well as ammunition of various calibres, to the value of approximately R26 million, to the Government of Rwanda

On 1 April 1992 Denel (Pty) Ltd, under the Ministry of Public Enterprises, took over all Armscor's contractual obligations in Rwanda. Between April 1992 and February 1993 additional infantry type weapons and equipment to the value of approximately R74 million were exported to Rwanda. Export permits during this period were issued by Armscor. On 25 February 1993 Armscor refused to issue any further export permits because of the rapidly deteriorating situation in Rwanda. This refusal caused Denel (Pty) Ltd to dishonour orders to the value of approximately R45 million that had been placed with them during February 1993

On 28 March 1994 the then Minister of Defence, acting on a request from Armscor, withdrew all permits for the export of all arms to Rwanda

SANDEF/Armscor: sale of weapons

*25 Mr E I EBRAHIM asked the Minister of Defence

Whether the South African National Defence Force and Armscor (a) have a policy and (b) apply certain criteria and procedures in respect of the sale of arms and weapons to other countries, if not, why not, if so, what (i) is this policy and (ii) are these criteria and procedures?

N744E

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE

It is not the responsibility of the SA National Defence Force and Armscor to formulate policy in this regard. The Minister of Defence has been overseeing arms control since May 1994. Policy is being reformulated by a Committee of Cabinet Ministers. This Committee is reviewing the question of arms trade policy and decision making procedures. Among the matters under review are

- Proper control of market and export activities,
- procedures to ensure accountability and legitimacy of all contracts,
- criteria for an effective and responsible defence industry,
- the future of the industry

They will soon be making recommendations to Cabinet. In the meantime the Minister of Defence and the Deputy Minister of Defence are exercising control and judgement and reporting to the Committee of Ministers as well as to the Cabinet Committee on Security and Intelligence

Criteria and procedures are being followed whereby weapons are categorised according to their sensitivity, lethality and possible application. Countries are classified according to foreign policy concerns, record on Human Rights, UN embargoes and any other international concerns relating to the supply of weapons to a specific country or region. Sensitive orders are being handled on a case by case basis

Appearance before Truth and Reconciliation Commission: policy

*26 Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Justice

- (1) Whether his Department has any policy in regard to the appearance of (a) Cabinet Ministers and (b) members of each of the

1205

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political parties and liberation movements before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what policy in each case,

- (2) whether his Department intends taking any steps to ensure that any such persons do not appear before the Commission, if not, why not, if so, (a) what steps and (b) on what basis will such persons be dealt with *vis-a-vis* other persons appearing before the Commission?

N745E

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE

- (1) and (2) No

Newborn babies abandoned by mothers

*27 Ms M SMUTS asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development

- (1) How many newborn babies were abandoned by their mothers during the period 1 January 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available,
- (2) whether any attempts have been or are being made to trace the mothers of abandoned babies, if so, (a) what steps and (b) how often are these attempts successful,
- (3) what is the policy of his Department in regard to returning abandoned babies to their mothers?

N746E

THE MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

- (1) Approximately 150 up to 7 June 1995,
- (2) yes,
 - (a) attempts are made by hospital authorities, welfare organisations and the South African Police Service and
 - (b) these attempts are not very successful,
- (3) to reunite babies with their biological mothers if it is in the best interest of the baby

State departments: annual independent audits

*28 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Finance
Whether all State departments are obliged to undergo annual independent audits, if not, why not, if so, in respect of each such department,

(a) on what date was the last audit performed and (b) who performed the audit?

N747E

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

In terms of section 193 of the Constitution Act, all State departments are subjected to an independent, external audit by the Auditor-General on an annual basis. These audits are carried out on a continuous basis and are concluded at the close of each financial year. Reports on the various audits carried out are compiled and tabled in Parliament in terms of section 193 of the Constitution Act, 1993, and are referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts for its consideration

- (a) The report on the audits in respect of the 1993-94 financial year was tabled in Parliament on 29 March 1995 and is presently being dealt with by the Joint Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The audits in respect of the 1994-95 year are being finalised, whereafter the report will be compiled and tabled in Parliament towards January 1996
- (b) The audits were performed by the Auditor-General who is appointed by the President upon designation by a Committee of Parliament in terms of section 191 of the Constitution Act, 1993, to act as the external auditor of *inter alia*, all State departments on behalf of the Legislature and the taxpayer, and he is assisted by the staff from the (also independent) office of the Auditor-General (established in terms of the Audit Arrangements Act). The audits of the Government departments are carried out in terms of Council of Accepted Government Auditing Standards as determined by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions, and is monitored by a tribunal of Parliament called the Audit Commission

Mining accidents: deaths/injuries (2/2)

*29 Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs

- (1) How many (a) deaths and (b) injuries as a result of mining accidents were reported during the period 1 January 1994 up to the latest specified date for which information is available,

HANSARD 21/6/95

(2) whether any commissions of enquiry have been appointed to investigate these deaths and injuries, if not, why not, if so,

(3) whether any of these deaths and injuries have been investigated by such commissions, if not, why not, if so, (a) how many cases had not yet been so investigated as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what was the most common cause of the mining accidents investigated by these commissions during this period?

N748E

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS

(1) (a) and (b) Analysis of mine accidents

Year	Fatalities	Injuries
1994	485	7 899
1995 (1 Jan to 31 May)	275	2 965

The 1995 figure includes the 104 mine workers who died at Vaal Reef on 10 May 1995 as well as the number of workers who were injured

(2) These accidents were investigated in a general sense by the Commission of Enquiry into Safety and Health in the Mining Industry, which examined the legal provisions concerning safety and health in the mining industry. The Vaal Reef accident on 10 May 1995, which claimed the lives of 104 mine workers, is being investigated by a separate Commission of Enquiry, also chaired by Judge Leon

In terms of section 24(a) of the Minerals Act, 1991, any accident causing the death of or serious bodily harm to any person which occurs at a mine or works, must be investigated by a Regional Mining Engineer or a member of his personnel. In practice the Regional Mining Engineer investigates most of the accidents even if they do not fall within a category where an investigation is legally required. The reason for this is to determine the cause of the accident so that steps can be taken to prevent similar accidents in future.

In the case of the recent disaster at Vaal Reef's Gold Mine a joint investigation in terms of section 28(6)(a) of the Minerals Act is to be held

(3) Apart from the above no such deaths and injuries have been investigated by commissions as the Minerals Act provides for the investigation of these accidents by the Department

(a) and (b) Fall away

Rural communities/squatters disadvantaged in coming local government elections

*30 Ms M S SEPHEREPERE asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development

Whether rural communities and so-called "squatters" will be disadvantaged in any way during the coming local government elections as a result of the absence of street names and house numbers, if so, why, if not, what is the position in this regard?

N749E

THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

No. The election regulations do not require street names and house numbers. A person that would like to vote on 1 November 1995 must register and his name and particulars must be taken up in the voters' roll. The address demanded on the registration form, is defined as a mode of identification of a place which is sufficiently precise to permit a person who is ordinarily resident within the area of jurisdiction of a transitional authority, or under law liable for the payment of assessment rates, rent, service charges or levies to the transitional authority concerned, to be enrolled in a voters' roll and to exercise his or her vote at a voting station in a ward or part of a ward in which such place is situated.

UN Convention on women: ratification

*31 Ms M S SEPHEREPERE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Whether the Government of National Unity intends ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women before the Beijing Conference, if not, why not, if so, when?

N750E

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

President Mandela, on 24 May 1994, reaffirmed this Government's commitment to the eman-

pation of the women of our country. In his State of the Nation address President Mandela, *inter alia*, said

It is vitally important that all structures of Government, including the President himself, should understand fully that freedom cannot be achieved unless the women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. All of us must take this on board that the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme will not have been realised unless we see in visible and practical terms that the condition of women in our country has radically changed for the better and that they have been empowered to intervene in all aspects of life as equals with any other member of society.

The matter is also addressed in 1993 Constitution Article 8 determines that all persons, men and women, are equal before the law and that no-one may be unfairly discriminated against on account of gender. Article 119 creates a Commission for the Equality of the Sexes. Its aim is to promote equality and to advise parliament or any other legislative body, and to make recommendations regarding laws that affect the status of women.

The constitutional principles determine furthermore that the next constitution should provide for a system of government that is committed to accomplishing equality between men and women.

The 1993 Human Rights Conference in Vienna, both in its Declaration and Plan of Action, placed strong emphasis on the Human Rights of Women and the position of the girl-child. It was made clear that violence against women encompasses physical as well as mental violence. The rights of women in armed conflict, also refugee women, have been reiterated in the context of both Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The goal is for all countries to ratify—by the year 2000—human rights treaties and protocols adopted within the framework of the United Nations system.

In the light of our policy commitments, the Government aims to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women during 1995.

If parliamentary procedures and the consultative process permit, ratification will indeed take place before the Fourth UN World Conference

on the Status of Women which is to take place in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995.

In addition to the signing of CEDAW by South Africa in January 1993, we also signed the Convention on the Political Rights of Women and the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women. South Africa acceded on the same date to the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for marriage and Registration of Marriages. In the course of next year we will approach Parliament with regard to ratification of or accession to these conventions.

By becoming signatories to the above-mentioned conventions South Africa has undertaken to bring the internal law of this country into line with the conventions. All Government Departments will therefore be approached for comment regarding existing legislation which might be in conflict with the terms of the Conventions.

Questions put on Question Paper for reply on 21 June 1995

Police Guard Unit: performance of duties at ministerial houses of former Venda government

*32 Col N G RAMAREMISA asked the Minister for Safety and Security

Whether the Police Guard Unit is still charged with the performance of any duties at government houses previously used by Ministers of the former Venda government, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, why? N787F

THE MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

No. The Protection Service (former Police Guard Unit) is only responsible for the rendering of protection services at the residences of the Premier, the Speaker and the MEC for Safety and Security in the various provinces.

None of these officials occupy government houses previously used by Ministers of the former Venda government. It is not a function of the Police to guard government houses of any former government.

Pensioners queuing

*33 Ms M S SEPHEREPERE asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development

Mining jobs under threat

ET 21/6/95

(212)

JOHANNESBURG: Anglo-American Corporation may have to close 11 shafts at three gold mines in the northern Free State before the end of the year because of low productivity

The closures would entail the loss of 32 000 jobs

Unless productivity improves, a third of the shafts could be shut down within six weeks

Mr Ken Dicks, regional man-

ager of Freegold, the world's largest gold mining complex, said greater productivity was the only solution

"The slower you work, the more ore you lock up. It becomes unavailable. We're not asking people to work harder, but as they did in 1993."

Anglo-American spokesman Mr James Duncan said "Freegold has serious productivity problems. If there is not a turn-

around, shafts will close and people will lose their jobs."

The survival of the shafts depended on co-operation between management and mineworkers' unions on core issues, he said. An agreement on Sunday mining was vital, as was a more productive approach to public holidays.

The closure of 11 shafts was "a worst-case scenario", Mr Duncan said — Sapa

Renee Grawitzky (212)

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has indicated it would support acceptance in principle of continuous mining operations within an industry level framework agreement, according to Chamber of Mines negotiator Andre Geldenhuys

This is in response to the Chamber's appeal for the removal of legal restrictions on Sunday work to ensure the industry remains viable. The industry framework agreement tabled by the NUM covers issues ranging from premiums for night shift work to roster systems, job grading and subcontracting. **MD 22/6/95**

The chamber tabled two alternative wage offers yesterday, dependent on whether the NUM accepted the introduction of

NUM accepts idea of Sunday work

Sunday work The first offer, based on refusal of Sunday work, provided for a 3% increase on gold mines and a 4% increase on coal mines. If the union agreed to Sunday work, the industry was willing to offer 5,5% on gold mines and 6% on coal mines. The offers did not cover Anglo American mines or Randgold's marginal Durban Roodepoort Deep.

Anglo American indicated it intended tabling a separate proposal that would encompass an incentive bonus scheme

Continued on Page 2

NUM (212) **MD 22/6/95**

Continued from Page 1

Anglo spokesman James Duncan said. "We can confirm that we have made proposals to both the Council of Mining Unions and the NUM on an incentive scheme. We intend tabling a basic wage offer, but we have tabled an incentive scheme first. We hope to have feedback on the incentive scheme from the council tomorrow morning. The NUM has requested elaboration

on the proposals."

NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said that because Anglo had not tabled an offer it was difficult for the union to formulate a response. The NUM's opening wage demand was a minimum wage of R905 for marginal mines and up to R1 325 for others, with general increases in excess of 80%. The union indicated acceptance in principle of Sunday work, provided workers enjoyed a significant share of the financial gains it would bring.

**'44 miners
killed ⁽²¹²⁾
each month'**
ARCT 22/6/95

Political Staff

MINING accidents have claimed the lives of 760 workers — about 44 a month — since January last year

Replying to a question tabled in the senate, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha also disclosed that 10 864 miners had been injured in work-related accidents between January 1 last year and May 31 this year

These figures include the 104 workers who died at Vaal Reefs on May 10 as well as the workers injured in that tragedy

Last year 485 workers were killed and 7 899 injured in mining accidents

So far this year, 275 workers have died and 2 965 have been injured in mining accidents

Mr Botha said the accidents had been investigated in a general sense by the Leon commission of inquiry into safety and health in the mining industry

Mine workers'

productivity
stay 22/6/95
could rise
(212)

■ BY DEREK TOMMEY
MINING EDITOR

Hopes are rising in the gold mining industry that the workers are starting to respond to the message that if they don't work more effectively their jobs could be at risk.

Ken Dicks, regional general manager of Freegold, Anglo American's giant Free State mine, said he had been heartened by the fact that no workers had taken time off on Monday afternoon to take part in the demonstration organised by Cosatu.

He added that at a subsequent meeting with union leaders they had highlighted this fact.

Campaign

In recent weeks Dicks has been warning that unless worker productivity at the mine improved to somewhere near the levels of 1993, there was a risk that the mine would end up closing 11 marginal shafts with a potential loss of 32 000 jobs.

He said management at Freegold has been conducting a major campaign in recent months to win the support of workers for its plans to keep the mine's shafts in operation.

Consultants had been called in to instill a work ethic among workers and explain why this was so necessary to the future of the mine and the worker's livelihood.

A mining official said there had been a steady decline in profitability at Freegold for more than a year.

RUM

COLUMN ONE



South Africa has made an implicit judgment that the rewards of mining are worth the risks

BY JIM SMITH

Seeing straight on mine safety

(212) CT(BR)23/6/95

Complaining about health and safety hazards in the South African mining industry is a bit like objecting that driving is dangerous

No one suggests that mining can be carried out without risk, especially at the depths required here; risk-free mining is as inconceivable as accident-free roads.

Given the dominant role of mining in the South African economy, a social judgment has implicitly been made that the reward is an acceptable trade-off for the risk

Yet when you choose to drive, you impose the risk of accidents on yourself in return for the value of free movement. Underground miners, in contrast, can hardly be said to be the primary beneficiaries of the reward gained for the very considerable personal risks they take each day.

The risks have always been grave for miners of all races, as Elaine Katz's study of silicosis among turn of the century white miners shows. But the exposure to danger among black miners has been most troubling, given that alternative means of earning a living for blacks were restricted by apartheid laws until very recently — and the reward was so small.

The racial overtones of the debate on mining health and safety add to the charged atmosphere at times of accidents such as that at Vaal Reefs.

So the four-part series on mining health and safety in the Report this month sought to avoid pressing the easy emotional levers, and instead look at areas of practical concern where real improvements might be made. Staff writer Ross Herbert took forward the Leon commission's concerns, and presented some personal observations from those literally at the rockface.

Several key points emerged

The rise in TB and its HIV implications

While safety issues gain most of the attention at times of accidents, the quiet surge in TB poses a far more insidious threat to far more people. The question of testing for HIV as well as TB among recruits needs to be re-examined

Record-keeping in general.

A recurring theme was the need to improve data collection and record-keeping in the industry. In particular, dust-sampling techniques appear to be inconsistently applied, making comparative analysis difficult.

Rock mechanics training

Although the mines have invested heavily in rock mechanics specialists, their knowledge is not effectively communicated to miners.

Underground supports

The series noted that regarding both the type of supports used and their handling, day to day practice often differs from policy, resulting in a greater risk of rockbursts.

Inadequate union skills

The anecdotal evidence supports the view that the unions have been hard-hit by the attraction of experts into politics, reducing their contribution to the health and safety debate.

Health and safety refresher training.

Workers are required to go through only a 30-minute refresher course each year.

The autocratic culture

While no one questions that discipline on mines is essential, the series underscored the need for workers to understand why they should do things, not just what they should do.

Delays in resolving disability disputes

Claims for increases or changes in disability status can take years to process, thus eroding the credibility of the disability system into doubt.

Most of these concerns have been raised, and explored in depth by the Leon commission. The players — the chamber of mines, the unions and the mineral and energy affairs ministry — appear to have the will to follow up. Any delay will only add to the tragedy of Vaal Reefs.

□□□

One danger of the noisy negotiating style of organised business and labour in recent weeks is the near-total unpredictability of the outcome.

Open confrontation and egos raise the chances of detours into debilitating side arguments.

Another danger is that the arguments get more simplistic as they get louder — which in this case could be termed Brinksmanship.

Dave Brink, the head of Business South Africa, cited the paper and printing industry as one where central bargaining could never work because lowly paid woodcutters would be thrust into the same bargaining group as skilled downstream workers in high-tech paper factories. Yet even the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union — which has long sought to win centralised bargaining for its members — has agreed to divide up bargaining into separate sectors such as wood and paper manufacture.

The trade unions in turn have been guilty of failing to break out of a pre-election mindset. The language ("rolling mass action") is as dated as the tactics. And the lost business for small shopkeepers during the protests has been considerable (and no doubt greater than the cost to big business).

Labour Minister Tito Mboweni was right to sit the parties down and try to talk some sense into them, even at the risk of creating yet another negotiating channel outside Nedlac itself. The economy cannot afford this impasse continuing.

□□□

In my debut as a rugby writer a few weeks back, I correctly identified Joost van der Westhuizen as South Africa's most powerful weapon.

Since then, Jonah has swallowed Wales and everything else in his path, and may now even make the mistake of trying to transfer his skills to American gridiron as Naas Botha did.

And the haka haka has proved fearsome.

The Springboks should now drink from their own deep cultural well. Why not bring a praise singer onto the pitch tomorrow? And how about some Zulu dancing from the Bok frontline? We too have our muti. Boks 27, All Blacks 22.

Methane discovered in Zimbabwe: A Zimbabwe mining company has discovered methane gas at a site in western Zimbabwe, in an exercise that could culminate in the country's first methane gas mine being developed. Paul Tromp, a director of Shangani Energy Exploration, said yesterday three gas-producing test wells had already been drilled over 177km². "We have managed to produce some gas, but I am not at liberty to say how much," Tromp said, declining to say whether the company would proceed to open a mine. (52) CT (PR) 28/6/95

Joint venture to boost mine safety: HL&H Mining Timber has embarked on an R8 million joint venture with the Swiss-based multinational MBT Holdings. Announcing this earlier this week, HL&H said MBT Holdings would contribute expertise and equipment that would improve mine safety underground. CT (PR) 28/6/95 (212)

Britannica goes on-line: Encyclopedia Britannica has announced an agreement with Time Warner's Pathfinder Internet subsidiary to integrate and market its reference works on the public computer network. Computer owners with access to the World Wide Web portion of the Internet will be able to reach Britannica On-line through Time Warner's on-line operation, called Pathfinder.

Agricultural co-op chamber formed: The Agricultural Co-operative Business Chamber (ACBC), representing co-operatives with a total annual turnover of R22 billion, was established on Monday at a special congress of the Co-operative Council of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU). The chamber's chairman, Charles van Veen, said it would replace the council. CT (PR) 28/6/95 (52)

SEAS
Develon

ASTORIA

NUM, chamber discussions continue

(212) 150 29/6/95
Renee Grawitzky

NEGOTIATIONS continue today between the Chamber of Mines and the National Union of Mineworkers with the core issue being the move towards continuous operations

NUM assistant general secretary Gwede Mantashe said yesterday it was incorrect to portray that the union had accepted the chamber's proposal for Sunday work.

Mantashe said "Sunday work was not the issue, but rather the restructuring of the mining industry"

He said one element of industrial restructuring could be Sunday work and the movement towards continuous operations.

Mantashe said within the context of industrial restructuring the industry would have to consider a whole range of issues

Big improvement expected in mine safety standards

(212) BO 30/6/95

Adrian Hadland

CAPE TOWN — Substantial improvements in safety and health standards on SA's mines were likely to result from Cabinet's approval this week of the recommendations of the Leon commission, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said

Immediate steps would be taken to draft a new Safety and Health in Mines Act while a range of structures would be established or formalised in a bid to curb what the commission called "unacceptably high" rates of death, injury and disease in the sector

Botha said both the Cabinet and the National Assembly's mineral and energy affairs committee had expressed consensus on the commission's findings and recommendations which were published in March.

A Mining Regulation Advisory Committee, which has been set up on a voluntary basis but which would be formally established under the new Act, would commence urgent investigations into ground fall accidents, underground haulage and transport accidents, occupational health, coal mine explosions and respirable dust, Botha said.

Tripartite task groups — involving government, labour and management in the sector — dealing with each of these problems would be in place soon

Among the major reforms recommended by the commission, and ap-

proved by Cabinet and the committee, are improved training and human resource development, the entrenchment in legislation of the right to refuse work in dangerous conditions and the creation of tripartite bodies to review legislation and regulations.

The following tripartite bodies were endorsed by the Cabinet: a Mine Health and Safety Council, a Mining Regulatory Advisory Body, a Safety in Mines Research Advisory Committee, a Mining Qualifications Authority and a Mining Occupational Health Advisory Committee

The principle of tripartism ran like a golden thread through the commission's report, Botha said

"The department is a proponent of this and has already introduced mechanisms to ensure that employers consult with employee organisations before any exemption from the Minerals Act or regulations is considered."

A Publications and Statistics Committee has also been formed which will be responsible for the publishing of mine accident statistics.

Botha said while management and labour had opposing views on migrant labour and hostels, tripartite negotiations would be conducted into the issues

"A way must be found which will enable our society to make changes in order to allow the workers to improve themselves by giving them the opportunity for a proper and better family life without stifling the industry."

Eleven miners injured as lift cage falls

ELEVEN miners were injured yesterday when their underground lift cage fell 50m down a shaft before being stopped by a hoist rope at the Freegold Saaiplaas No 4 shaft near Welkom. (212)

Mine owner Anglo American Corporation spokesman James Duncan said the men, some of whom had fractures, had been admitted to hospital following the early morning incident.

"These people were rattled around quite a bit," said Duncan. BD 30/6/95
The cause of the lift fall had not yet been

established. The shaft and cage were not damaged and the lift was expected to be back in operation later in the day.

Duncan said the circumstances were "entirely different" from those in which 104 miners were killed on May 10 when an underground locomotive plunged down a mine shaft at Anglo American's Vaal Reefs mine near Orkney, crushing the lift cage.

Freegold is the world's biggest gold mine complex, employing 85 000 people in 26 operating shafts. — Reuter.

● See Page 3

New mine safety rules approved by cabinet

MINISTER of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha has announced the cabinet's approval of the Leon Commission recommendations on health and safety on the mines

The announcement came only hours after 11 workers were injured in an accident similar to the Vaal Reefs Mine disaster last month in which 104 mineworkers were killed

Calls for the approval of the commission's recommendations, which provide for wide-ranging health and safety laws in the industry, reached a crescendo after the Vaal Reefs disaster

Mr Botha said cabinet had also endorsed a union call, made in submissions by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), to entrench the right to refuse to work in dangerous conditions

One of the commission's most important recommendations was the drafting of a new Safety and Health in Mines Act

The commission, which described the death rate in South African mines as unacceptably high, has also recommended that five safety and regulatory forums be set up

Hours after cabinet approved the recommendations, Anglo American Corporation announced that 11 men were injured at the Saaiplaas mine's number four shaft near Welkom yesterday

The accident occurred when a cage taking about 50 mineworkers underground at 6 30 am stopped and then dropped about 50 metres before being arrested by its hoist rope

11 miners injured as cage falls

JOHANNESBURG: Eleven mine employees were injured yesterday morning when a cage taking 50 workers underground stopped and then dropped 50m at Freegold's Saaiplaas No 4 Shaft near Welkom Anglo American Corp -

(212)
ration said in a statement the 11 were admitted to hospital where they were in a satisfactory condition

The accident occurred about 6 30am

The fall of the cage had been arrested by the hoist rope, company spokesman

Mr James Duncan said

The cause of the accident is not yet known and there will be an official inquiry CT 30/6/95

The shaft and cage were not damaged and will be back in operation later in the day. — Sapa

Govt sets mining reforms in motion

CT (PR) 30/6/95 (212)

By BRUCE CAMERON

POLITICAL EDITOR

The government has approved sweeping reforms, including a major redraft of legislation, to improve safety and health standards in the mining industry.

At an extended Cabinet meeting on Wednesday night, the Leon commission report on mine safety and health standards was approved with instructions for immediate action.

Pik Botha, minister of mineral and energy affairs, said there was consensus "among all industry players that the current situation cannot be allowed to continue".

Botha said there was general support for the recommendations of the commission.

The Cabinet endorsed several major recommendations including:

- The need for greater legislative intervention and restructuring,

- The establishment of tripartite bodies, representing the unions, the mine owners and the government, to review legislation and regulations,

- The introduction of appropriate systems for employee participation with enhanced worker rights and obligations;

- Improved training and human resources development, and

- The entrenchment in legislation of the right to refuse work in dangerous conditions.

The Cabinet also agreed to the

creation or restructuring of five tripartite forums to administer and consider mine safety. They are:

- The Mine Health and Safety Council, which will advise the minister of mineral and energy affairs, on all issues relating to mine health and safety, the relevant legislation and its enforcement,

- The Mining Regulating Advisory Committee, which will draft a new Safety and Health Mines Act,

- The Safety in Mines Research Advisory Committee, which will be restructured to give representation to employee organisations,

- A mining qualifications authority, which will set standards for the industry, and

- The Mining Occupational Health Advisory Committee, which will be restructured as a separate administrative agency within the department of mineral and energy affairs.

Recommendations to alter the grades of the inspectorate are being urgently investigated.

An investigation will also be conducted into South Africa's controversial migrant labour and hostel system on the mines.

The Cabinet has endorsed a Leon commission recommendation that to establish a tripartite structure "to seek ways of improving the conditions of workers living on the mines, and to investigate the question of housing for mine-workers and their families".

Mine safety measures approved

(212) Star 30/6/95

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA
LABOUR REPORTER

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha announced yesterday the Cabinet had approved the recommendations of the Leon Commission into health and safety on the mines.

The announcement came only hours after 11 workers were injured in a mine accident similar to the Vaal Reefs disaster in which 104 mineworkers were killed last month.

Calls for the approval of the commission's recommendations, which will put in place wide-ranging and enforceable health and safety laws in the industry, reached a crescendo after the Vaal Reefs accident.

Botha said the Cabinet had also endorsed union

calls, made in submissions to the commission by the National Union of Mineworkers, for the right to refuse to work in dangerous conditions to be entrenched

One of the most important recommendations was the drafting of a new Safety and Health In Mines Act, and which the Cabinet had requested be drafted "with urgency"

The Commission, which described the death rate in South African mines as unacceptably high, has also recommended that five safety and regulatory forums be set up. These included a Mining Health and Safety Council which would serve as an advisory body to the Minister.

Hours after the Cabinet approved the recommendations, Anglo American Corporation announced that 11 men

were injured at the Saaiplaas mine near Welkom yesterday

Anglo American said the accident occurred when a cage taking about 50 mineworkers underground at 6.30 am stopped and then dropped about 50m before being arrested by its hoist rope.

Company spokesman James Duncan said the injured were in a satisfactory condition at the mine hospital. The cause of the accident was unknown.

NUM assistant general secretary Gwede Mantashe said the Saaiplaas accident highlighted the need for training in the mining industry.

The union also reported that a mineworker had been killed in an accident at the Western Holdings mine.

Mine safety enters new era

212
sowetan
30/6/95

Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

THE Cabinet has finally approved in principle the recommendations of the Leon Commission on health and safety on the mines released on March 30 this year.

It also approved in principle the recommendations set out in the report of the Parliamentary Mineral and Energy Portfolio Committee released earlier this month. The commission described the current death, injury and disease rate on South African mines as "unacceptably high".

The Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs said yesterday that submissions had been received from 17 bodies, including the Chamber of Mines, the National Union of Mine-workers and other mining trade un-

ions, the Department of Labour and the Institute of Safety Management.

The Portfolio Committee, assisted by the Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs, found that there was a general consensus among parties concerned that there was a need for legislative intervention and restructuring of the current legal framework on SA mines.

It was also realised that there is a need for the establishment of representative tripartite bodies to review legislation and regulations and the introduction of appropriate systems for employee participation with enhanced basic worker rights and obligations. The structures designed to implement the commission's major recommendations have now been approved by the Portfolio Committee and the Cabinet.

A look at mine safety

(212) Sowetan 3/7/95

FOR MANY years, South African mines were the country's killing fields for black workers. As victims of the cheap migrant labour system, their safety was ignored.

However, according to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Affairs, this is about to change. Last week the Cabinet in principle approved the Leon Commission's recommendations on health and safety on mines.

Ministry spokesman Mr Roland Darrol says South Africa could have a new Safety and Health in Mines Act before the end of the year.

This is long overdue. It has been estimated that about 69 000 mineworkers were killed in local mines between 1911 and 1994 with more than one million injured.

The May 10 Vaal Reefs Mine disaster in which 104 mineworkers were killed made the work of the Leon Commission of Inquiry into Safety and Health even more urgent.

The commission appointed last year called for a new mine safety law to be drafted by workers, management and Government - a right for which unions have long been campaigning. The commission stated the statistics of mining accidents in South Africa over the past years as leaving much to be desired.

Mine accidents

According to the Energy Affairs Ministry, 485 people were killed in mine accidents in 1994 and 586 in 1993. Most of the fatalities were in gold mines (372 in 1994 and 426 in 1993).

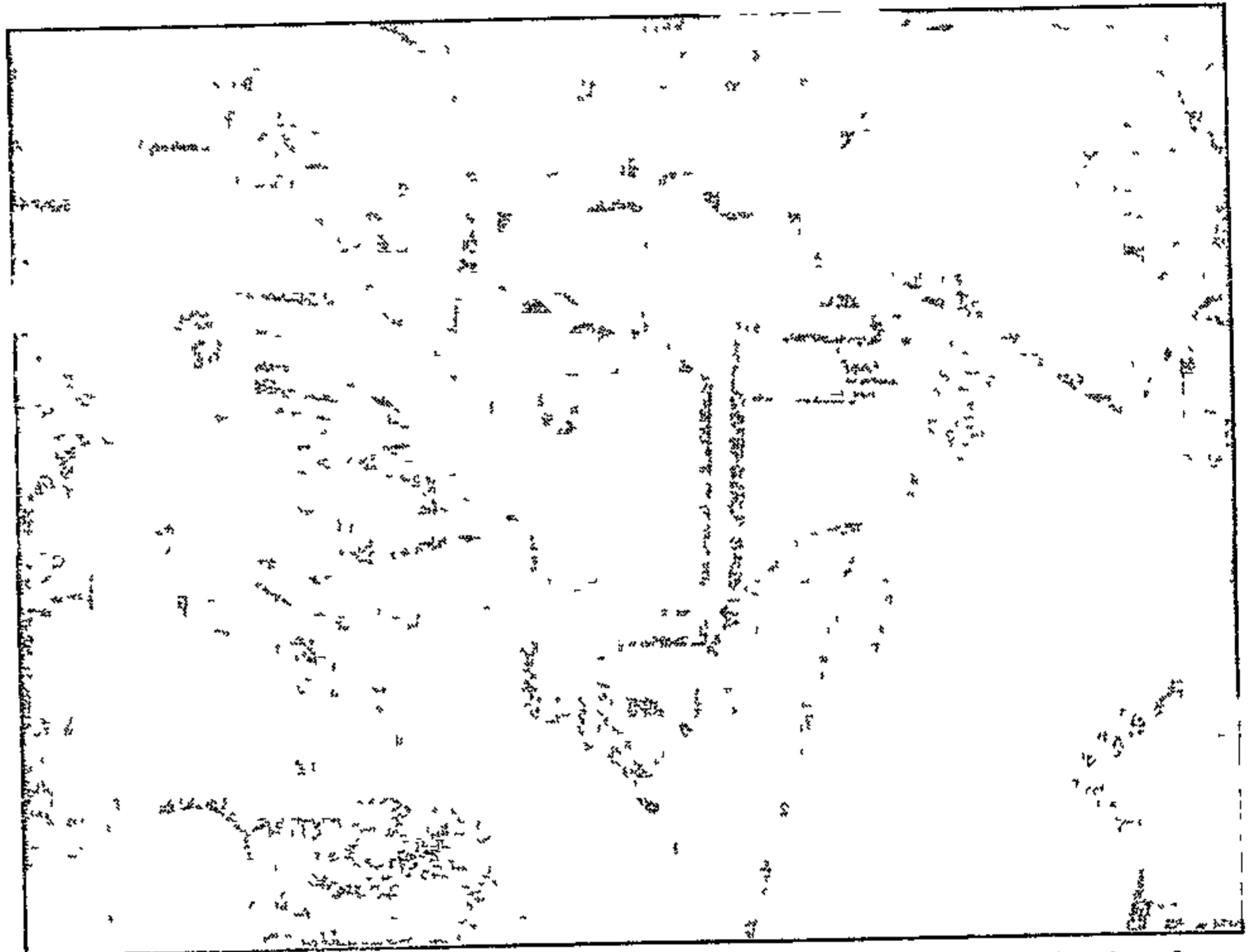
The commission recommended the immediate drafting of a new Safety and Health in Mines Act by a Mining Regulation Advisory Committee (MRAC). At the request of Minister Mr Pik Botha, the Government mining engineer has already established the MRAC, which had its first meeting on May 30.

During the meeting, the MRAC identified key issues which needed immediate action. These were the appointment of representatives for a tripartite committee to draft the new Safety and Health in Mines Act and the immediate investigation of issues raised by the Leon Commission. It was further resolved that task groups be established to investigate ground falls, haulage and transport accidents underground, occupational health and coal mine explosions.

The MRAC is also currently amending the terms of reference of the Safety in Mines Research Committee (Simrac) to include employee organisations, which previously did not enjoy representation. A special Simrac meeting will be held on Thursday July 6 to rectify its new terms of reference.

In evidence submitted to the Leon Commission, Darrol said the Government's mining engineer informed the commission about the initiative to establish a tripartite Mining Qualifications Authority. The commission recom-

Following many years in which workers were killed in South African mines, Cabinet has in principle approved a commission of inquiries' recommendation on safety, writes **Abdul Milazi**, Labour Reporter.



Another mine disaster families of mineworkers killed during the recent Vaal reefs mine tragedy

mended that a restructured Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate (MHSI) be a separate administrative agency within the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, and be separate from the Regional Organisation set up by the Minerals Act of 1991.

In response to the commission's recommendations on mining accident statistics, the Government Mining Engineer has already formed a tripartite Publications and Statistics Committee to deal with the publication of accident statistics. The first volume of this publication was released early this month and contains statistics on accidents reported from January 1984 to December 1994.

Darrol says although the Chamber of Mines and the National Union of Mineworkers have opposing views on the issue of migrant labour and hostels, they both agreed that the issue be jointly tackled by workers, employers and the Government. "The structures designed to implement the commission's major recommendations have now been approved by the Portfolio Committee and the Cabinet," says Darrol.

"The Minister (Botha) is convinced that the

envisaged changes will result in substantial improvements in safety and health in South African mines."

A Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC) will be established by the new Act to advise the Minister through the Government mining engineer on all matters relating to health and safety in mines, the relevant legislation and how it can be enforced.

Standing committees

Darrol says the MHSC will consist of four representatives of employers, four of workers who do not hold managerial positions, one from mine management, three from the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, and the Government mining engineer as chairman.

The MHSC will have standing committees and sub-committees for specific purposes, and be empowered to appoint *ad hoc* committees to investigate or administer the relevant business of the MHSC. "The composition of the committees will be a reflection of the council, with emphasis on the expertise of members in relation to the subject matter of the committees," says Darrol.

Fatal mine fire now sealed off

(212) sawe tan 3/7/95

FOURTEEN proto teams were yesterday busy sealing off the underground fire that caused the death of six miners at St Helena Gold Mine in Welkom in the Free State on Saturday.

The eight survivors of the 14-man team, who were in the area of the fire, were still in the mine hospital yesterday morning. All were due to be discharged later yesterday after being kept for 24 hours for observation.

Mine general manager Mr Mike Fischer said all production at the mine, which has three operating shafts, had been halted.

Conditions underground

Mining will only resume once it is known that conditions underground are safe and that smoke has not spread to the other shafts.

The accident occurred in the mine's No 2 shaft some 1 600 metres below surface.

Fischer said the men who died had not been burnt, but had apparently been overcome by dense smoke. It was too early to speculate on the cause of the fire, which was gaseous in nature.

One survivor, Mr Crosby Matimba (31),

recounted to journalists what had occurred in the 45-minute drama.

He and his team leader, who had been conducting operations using a transvac system — sweeping up small particles of ore — had detected a smell of smoke. "At first we thought it was fumes from explosives."

'Blinded by smoke'

The team leader went to the bottom of the shaft to switch off the transvac system. Matimba said the smoke then started to become denser and he made his way up to the station.

"I was blinded by the smoke and could not find my way. So I crawled along the railway track in the haulage."

From the station he and another miner attempted to go back down to the area where two team leaders were stranded near the fire.

"But the smoke was too thick. We had to turn back," he said.

Subsequently, four other men who had reached the station returned into the smoke to try and rescue the two others below.

"They never came back," Matimba said. — Sapa.

in eye-catching outfits designed by their prominent fashion-designer mother, Lindiwe



FINAL TRIBUTE ... Deputy President Thabo Mbeki pays his respects at Harry Gwala's funeral yesterday. Full report on Page 2
Picture: CHRISTINE NESBITT

ST 2/7/95 (212)

Six miners die in underground fire

By ANDREW TRENCH

SIX miners — including three who made a heroic dash through dense smoke to warn their colleagues — died in an underground fire at Gengold's St Helena goldmine near Welkom in the Free State yesterday afternoon.

Another eight miners who came through the smoke were taken to St Helena's mine hospital for observation. Mine management said all underground personnel had been accounted for and they did not expect more deaths.

The names of the dead are being withheld until their families have been notified.

Andrew Davidson, Gengold's spokesman, said about nine men had been returning from their shift at about 2pm when they noticed smoke

about 1,6km below the surface in No 2 shaft.

He said six of the group realised that three of their colleagues were still coming up and rushed back through the smoke to warn them.

Three did not return and died with the three miners they had tried to warn. The other three were able to make it to the surface.

As their colleagues ran back down the shaft to sound the alarm, the other miners telephoned personnel above ground to warn of the fire below.

Mr Davidson said it did not appear that the men had died by burning, although he was reluctant to speculate on the cause of their deaths. He said all the bodies had been recovered.

He said there would be a full in-

vestigation by St Helena mine management and an inquiry by the government mining engineers' department.

The shaft stewards committee and the National Union of Mineworkers had been informed of the disaster and had been on hand, offering help with the rescue operation, Mr Davidson said.

By last night the cause of the fire was unknown and Mr Davidson was unwilling to speculate.

He said a mine fire-fighting team was still trying to pinpoint exactly where the fire was, adding that no flames were visible, only smoke.

Gengold said later that mine rescue teams were fighting the fire.

It was unclear over how large an area the fire may be spread.

They are junction

Six miners killed

(212) CP 2/7/95
SIX mineworkers died in an underground fire yesterday at the St Helena Gold Mine, near Welkom in the Free State, the mine owners Gengold said in a statement.

The accident occurred about 1600 metres below surface in the number two shaft between 1 pm and 2 pm as the men were making their way out of the mine at the end of their shift. Six bodies were recovered last night. - Sapa

Mining engineer investigates fire

Renee Grawitzky

(212)

GOVERNMENT mining engineer Dick Bukker met management and National Union of Mineworkers representatives at Gengold's St Helena mine yesterday at the start of an investigation of Saturday's fire, in which six miners died.

Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson said four proto teams had gone underground yesterday to seal off the fire. The smoke was being drawn out through a ventilation shaft.

The names of the dead would be released only once their families had been notified. Production would resume once the fire had been sealed off.

"Lost production will only be quantified at a later stage. The mine is more concerned with the loss of human life at present," he said.

Fourteen people were walking up an incline after their shift when they came into contact with smoke from a fire in an unused stop 1 600m below the surface, Davidson said.

Most ran through the smoke and made it to the station, where they alerted others to the fire.

Six men, realising three of their colleagues had not come up the incline, went back through the smoke to warn them.

Four of the six died, as did two other

Continued on Page 2

Fire investigation (212) PD 3/7/95

Continued from Page 1

miners. Eight men were admitted to hospital. All were from Lesotho and Eastern Cape, Davidson said.

The last major mining accident at St Helena was in 1987, when 63 people died in a methane explosion.

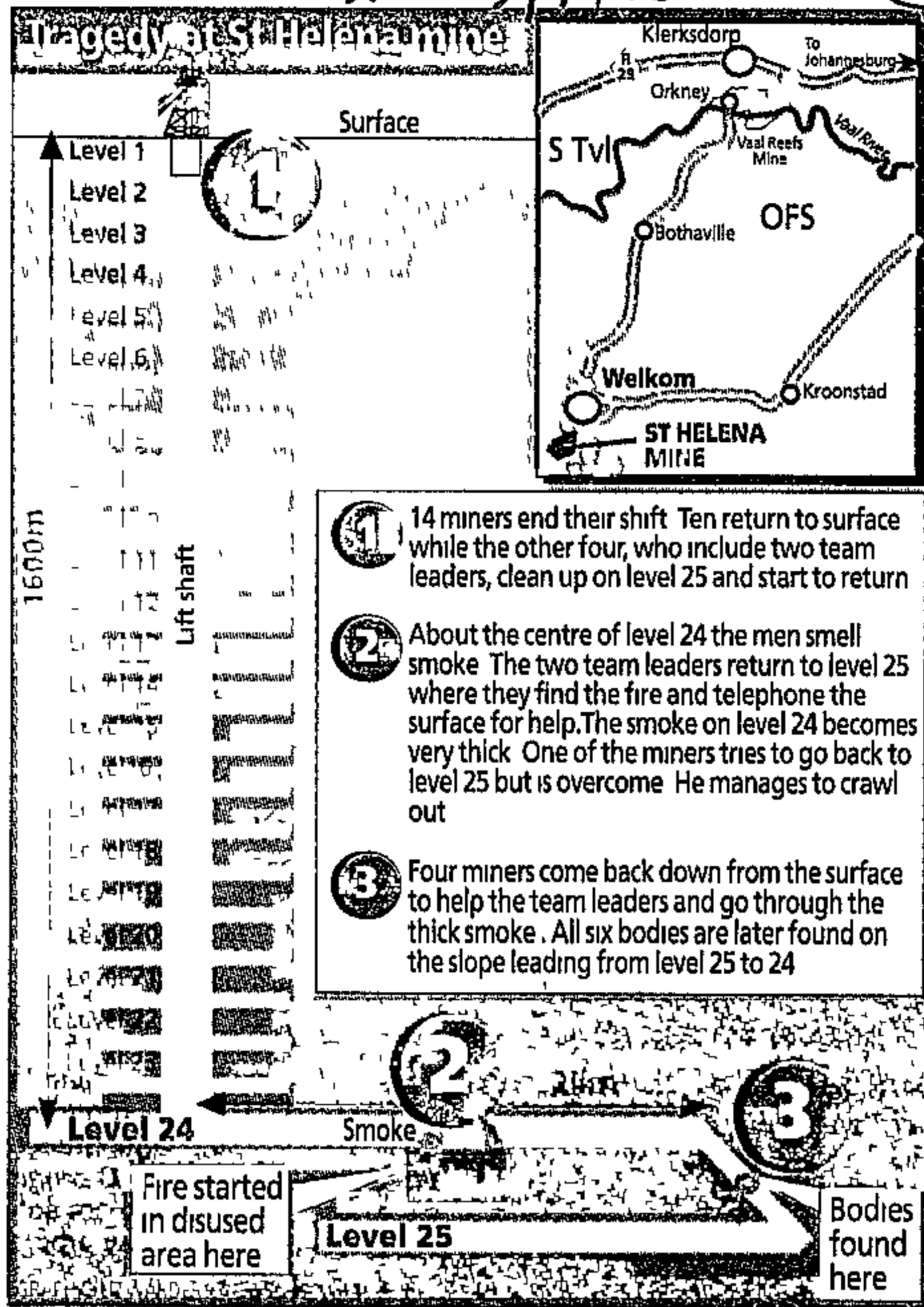
Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said the heroism and selflessness of the miners who ran back through the smoke "served as an inspiring example to us all".

He appealed to the mining industry to put into effect the recommendations of the Leon inquiry into mine safety before legislation was passed.

Heroes perish in rescue bid

STW 3/7/95

(212)



BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

The "heroism and the selflessness" of the four St Helena miners who died when they risked running back through the smoke to warn fellow workers has been praised by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha as "an inspiring example to us all".

Six miners were killed on Saturday by a fire more than 2km beneath the surface, four of them attempting to rescue two colleagues trapped behind dense smoke at the Gengold mine near Welkom in the Free State.

The four men ran back in a vain bid to warn fellow miners further down an incline at the pit's Number Two shaft, but the rescuers and the two men they tried to save, were overcome as they tried to get back above the smoke wall.

Botha called on the Chamber of Mines and mine managements to apply the recommendations of the Leon Commission on mine safety, without waiting for legislation to be enacted. He said

► To Page 3

Heroes die in rescue bid

◀ From Page 1 (212)

the Government was doing all it could to bring new mine safety measures into force with the greatest urgency.

Although the blaze was isolated yesterday evening by 14 proto teams which sealed off the underground, the fire was still burning this morning.

Rescue teams suffered a setback last night after the collapse of a chimney created within the mine to channel out the smoke. Workers were busy trying to establish another route for the smoke, said Andrew Davidson, spokesman for Gencor's mining division Gengold.

General manager Mike Fischer said production at the Number Two shaft would not resume until all traces of smoke and gas had been eliminated.

About 100 miners resumed work last night on the night shift at the Number Four shaft, about 6 km from where the fire started. The Number Four shaft is served with a separate ventilation system. Work at Shaft Number Two would only be resumed after the mine management had decided the area was safe, he said.

The accident is the latest in a series to hit South Africa's mining industry.

SA Housing Trust. In the interest of transparency the Minister's Department is investigating the constitutional, contractual and other legal implications of disclosure of information in respect of the salaries of top executives of State-owned corporations under her jurisdiction.

- (3) If it becomes necessary to do so a statement on the matter will be made in due course.

Curtailling for offices; report on complaint re tender

*53 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Public Works

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 11 on 15 March 1995, the departmental report on the complaint in respect of tender PA 94/015, concerning curtailling for office accommodation, has been completed, if not, when is it anticipated that it will be completed, if so, what were the findings,
- (2) whether any action has been or is to be taken pursuant to this report, if not, why not, if so, what action,
- (3) whether the contract in respect of this curtailling has been completed, if not, why not, if so, what was the total cost to the State of curtailling the offices involved?

N440E

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

- (1) The departmental report on the complaint in respect of tender PA 94/015 has been completed. The finding is that the procedure in connection with the curtailling of specifications for the provision of curtains was incorrect in some instances and in conflict with State Tender Board directives.
- (2) The action that has been taken is

- (a) The official concerned had been reprimanded in writing for the incorrect procedure he has followed.

- (b) A copy of the departmental report had been supplied to the South African Police Service to further investigate the allegation of underhand dealings.

- (c) The official is being utilised on alternative duties until the Police investigation has been completed.
- (3) Yes, contract PA 94/015 has been completed at a total cost of R27 000.

Road between New Guelderland and Inyoni resurfacing

*54 Mr E J LUCAS asked the Minister of Transport

- (1) Whether the road between New Guelderland and Inyoni on the North Coast was resurfaced in the last 12 months, if so, what are the relevant details, if not, (a) why not and (b) what is the current condition of this road,
- (2) whether he or his Department intends taking any action in respect of this section of the road, if not, why not, if so, what steps?

N441E

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

- (1) No
- (a) The road between New Guelderland and Inyoni is a provincial road and as such it falls under the jurisdiction of the KwaZulu/Natal Administration.
- (b) The reply from the respective province is as follows:

- (i) The road was resealed in June 1993. An overlay was the correct treatment to use, but due to the non-availability of adequate funding a low-cost reseat was applied.

- (ii) Due to flushing of the binder and the plucking out of the surfacing stone, this road condition is poor and it is hazardous in wet weather. The speed limit has been reduced and slippery road signs are being installed.

- (iii) Just a medium term repair would cost an estimated R6,5 million and funds are not available for this. Lower cost options are being investigated, but only very limited work will be possible during this financial year.

- (2) No. As explained above, it is a KwaZulu/Natal road and as such their Department of Transport will have to determine the action it takes.

We therefore would advise that Mr Lucas follow up this aspect with Mr Sibusiso Ndebele the Minister of Transport in KwaZulu/Natal.

Reviewing of current tender system

*55 Mr L D CHUENYANE asked the Minister of Finance

- (1) Whether he or his Department is reviewing the current tender system, if so, what are the relevant details, if not, why not,
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the funding of the State Tender Board?

N442E

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

- (1) Yes

Objectives of the review are to—

- (i) formulate revised procurement legislation and regulations,
- (ii) prepare guidelines on procurement support and information systems,
- (iii) create an enabling environment for small, medium and micro enterprises, and
- (iv) promote participation by emerging contractors in public procurement activities.

In the reviewing process, all stakeholders will be consulted in order to reach consensus on the scope of procurement reform.

- (2) No. Funding of the Office of the State Tender Board is shown in the R P 2—1995, page 32-8.

Violence at the Deelkraal gold mine: persons killed/injured

*56 Mr J J NIEMANN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs

- (1) (a) How many persons were (i) killed and (ii) seriously injured in incidents of violence at the Deelkraal gold mine in the first half of March 1995 and (b) what were the causes of the violence,

- (2) whether any steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of such incidents of violence, if not, why not, if so, what steps?

N443E

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS

- (1) (a) (i) Six persons were killed in the initial outbreak of violence, a further seven persons were killed by gangs during the ensuing violence.
- (ii) 22

- (b) Tension was created when union demands for the establishment of a full-time Hotel Residents Committee were not satisfactorily met by Mine Management. The transfer to the surface of an employee, assaulted underground, initiated the violence, which spread to the hostel where it triggered inter-union clashes. Subsequent involvement by the South African Police Service, searching the hostel for weapons, led to an increase in the violence.

- (2) An interim Peace Forum, consisting of the United Mining Workers Union of South Africa (UMWUSA), National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Mine Management, Mine Security, and chaired by the South African Police Service (SAPS), was formed.

The goals of this forum are the establishment of a satellite police station at the mine, the appointment of a commission of inquiry into the causes of the violence, a Community Police Forum and a Peace and Harmony Committee and the appointment of Peace Monitors.

It would appear that these measures have been successful to date.

Commission of Inquiry into Safety and Health in the Mining Industry: report

*57 Mr J J NIEMANN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs

- (1) How many mineworkers died in mine-related incidents in 1994,

- (2) whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 59 on 10 August 1994, the

(212)

Hansard 3/5/95

Commission of Inquiry into Safety and Health in the Mining Industry has produced its report, if not, when is it anticipated that the Commission will produce its report, if so,

(3) whether the said report has been published, if not, why not, if so, when,

(4) whether the Government intends taking any steps with a view to implementing the report, if not, why not, if so, what steps? N444E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS

(1) Analysis of Mine Accidents Statistics 1993 and 1994

Year	Accidents	Fatalities	Injures	Fatality Rate/ 1 000	
				Fatality Rate/ 1 000	Injury Rate/ 1 000
1993	8 725	586	8 524	1,04	15,16
1994	8 039	485	7 899	0,91	14,79
Variance	-686	-101	-625	-0,13	-0,37
Gold Mines					
Year	Accidents	Fatalities	Injures	Fatality Rate/ 1 000	Injury Rate/ 1 000
1993	7 507	426	7 368	1,08	18,68
1994	6 943	372	6 858	0,95	17,52
Variance	-564	-54	-510	-0,13	-1,16
Platinum Mines					
Year	Accidents	Fatalities	Injures	Fatality Rate/ 1 000	Injury Rate/ 1 000
1993	513	29	493	0,29	4,99
1994	435	24	415	0,26	4,47
Variance	-78	-5	-78	-0,03	-0,52
Coal Mines					
Year	Accidents	Fatalities	Injures	Fatality Rate/ 1 000	Injury Rate/ 1 000
1993	303	90	279	1,47	4,56
1994	268	55	239	0,96	4,16
Variance	-35	-35	-40	-0,51	-0,40
Other Mines					
Year	Accidents	Fatalities	Injures	Fatality Rate/ 1 000	Injury Rate/ 1 000
1993	297	20	280	0,91	12,72
1994	278	17	270	0,39	6,21
Variance	-9	-3	-10	-0,65	-6,51

(2) Yes

(3) The report was released on 30 March 1995

(4) A press release issued on 30 March 1995 invited interested parties to submit their written comments on the report to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs. After the closing date for comments on 15 May 1995, the Parliamentary Mineral and Energy Portfolio Committee will assist the Department of National Unity and the Commission's recommendations. But the Department has not suspended its ongoing programme of upgrading safety and health measures pending the outcome of the Leon Commission. The following measures have been taken

(a) The Department is actively supporting the "Safety At The Working Face" Campaign by the industry. The Campaign has concentrated on improved safety measures closer to the face during drilling operations. These measures include denser support and support installed closer to the face prior to drilling.

(b) Mines are being encouraged to use so-called "blast on" props, which improve support at the beginning of the cleaning cycle.

(c) The Codes of Practice for Support are being revised to ensure that the latest available technology for the relevant mining conditions are enforced.

(d) Safety objectives have been set in consultation with Regional Directors and quarterly meetings are held to monitor progress. Emphasis is placed on the categories with the highest accident rates. An initial target of 10% reduction is required.

(e) I recently approved the changing of the Standard 8 qualification for blasting certificates to Adult Basic Education Training Level 3. Apart from the inherently discriminatory nature of the old provision, a further reason for the change was to improve supervision at the face. This measure now

enables competent and experienced workers, previously excluded by the artificial barrier of the Standard 8 certificate, to play a leading role in supervision and safety and health.

The Leon Commission of Enquiry into Safety and Health in Mining was appointed by this Ministry. We welcomed the establishment of the Commission, assisted it enthusiastically in its activities and we welcome its having completed its work. We now want to see its accepted findings put into practice as urgently as thorough and responsible implementation permits. We are also open to all proposals and suggestions from members of the House and others as to how Mine Safety and Health can be continually improved.

Disappearance of SA tourist in Singapore

*58 Mr T D LEE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Whether he has any information on the alleged disappearance in Singapore recently of a South African tourist, Mr Gerard Lowe, if so, what are the relevant details?

N445E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Yes. The unfortunate incident has also received extensive publicity in the media.

Mr Gerard Lowe left South Africa on 7 March 1995 for Singapore on South African Airways, flight SAA 282. He was travelling alone without specific appointments in Singapore. The purpose of Mr Lowe's visit was solely for shopping.

He arrived in Singapore on Wednesday, 8 March 1995. The last contact with his family was on boarding the flight in South Africa. Mr Lowe was due back in South Africa on 11 March 1995.

When Mr Lowe failed to arrive in South Africa on 11 March his family contacted the Singapore Consulate in Johannesburg. The Singapore Consulate immediately referred the matter to the Singapore authorities, who in turn informed the South African High Commission in Singapore.

The South African High Commission reported the matter to the Singapore Immigration Au-

'HEROISM AND SELFLESSNESS' HAILED

Miners die in bid to rescue colleagues

(212)

ET 3/7/95

JOHANNESBURG: Six miners died after being overcome by smoke from an underground fire at Gencor's St Helena gold mine near Welkom yesterday.

FOUR miners were killed in a fire 1,6km underground at the St Helena gold mine near Welkom yesterday, in a failed bid to rescue two colleagues trapped behind a curtain of smoke

Six miners died in the incident, the four after going back through thick smoke to warn their two colleagues further down an incline at the mine's No 2 shaft. All six were overcome as they tried to get back above the smoke wall

By early evening the fire at the Gencor mine had been isolated.

"The heroism and the selflessness of the miners who ran back to warn their fellow workers serves as an inspiring example to us all," Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said.

Mr Crosby Matimba, one of eight survivors of his team of 14, said his team leader went to the bottom of the shaft to switch off equipment they were using after

they detected a smell of smoke

After crawling to safety along a railway track, blinded by dense smoke, Mr Matimba and two others tried to go back to look for the team leader and another man

But the smoke forced them to turn back "I saw that my strength was at an end," Mr Matimba said

Subsequently, four other men returned into the smoke "They never came back"

The names of the dead will not be released until their next of kin have been informed — Sapa-Reuter

● See Business Report, Page 7

Honours for mine heroes

ART 3/7/95

(212)

Blaze isolated, but still burning in Welkom mine

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — The four heroes of the St Helena mine blaze who gave their lives to warn colleagues trapped behind thick smoke underground, will be posthumously honoured by the Gengold mine.

They were praised by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Phekiso Botha for their "heroism and selflessness".
Mine spokesman Andrew Davidson said their action highlighted the "very special breed of people in mining" and the bond linking them.

"The men involved were four black miners in lowly positions and their tragic sacrifice typifies the spirit that exists in South Africa's close-knit mining fraternity," he said.

Six miners were killed by the fire more than two kilometres beneath the surface of the Free State mine, four of them attempting to rescue two colleagues trapped behind thick smoke at the Gengold mine near Welkom in the Free State.
The four men ran back in a bid to warn miners further

down an incline, but the rescuers and the two men they tried to save were overcome.

Although the blaze had been isolated, the fire was still burning today, three days after the accident.

General manager Mike Fryscher said production at the No. 2 shaft would not resume until all traces of smoke and gas had been eliminated.

The fire broke out in a disused stope about 1,600 m underground, and four firefighting teams sealed off the blaze site in the shaft, which produced high-grade ore.

In the first three months of this year, the St Helena mine produced 1 499 kg of gold, making it the fifth largest producer of Gengold's 10 mines.

The accident is the latest to hit South African mines.

On May 10, 104 miners were killed when an underground locomotive plunged down Anglo American's Vaal Reefs gold mine, crushing the lift cage carrying men to their night shift.



Picture ROY WIGLEY, The Argus
BEEBLEMANIA: It took Quinton Drury of Tableview two years to knock, spit and polish his "bug" into this gleaming shape. He was one of the entrants at the VW Bugfest at Maynardville in Wynberg at the weekend.

Pik urges immediate action on mine safety proposals

212

ARG 3/7/95

PRETORIA — Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha has appealed to the Chamber of Mines and mine managements to apply the recommendations of the Leon Commission on mine safety without waiting for the new legislation to be enacted

Mr Botha's appeal comes in the wake of the fire accident at St Helena gold mine near the Free State town of Welkom on Saturday in which six miners lost their lives

Mr Botha said in a statement he had again instructed the government mining engineer and his staff not to wait for the new structures to be in place, nor for the new Mine Safety and Health Act to become law, before applying the Leon Commission's recommendations

He expressed his condolences to the families and friends of those who died in the accident

"I am only too aware of the tragic human consequences of disasters of this kind"

He expressed admiration for

the "heroism and selflessness" of three miners who ran back through the smoke to warn their fellow workers they were in danger. Their action "serves as an inspiring example to us all"

Mr Botha said the government was doing "its utmost to bring the new mine safety structures into place with the greatest urgency"

"We are striving to meet the risks inherent in mining with the most effective safety measures that are humanly possible"

Last Wednesday the cabinet had approved the salient features of the recommendations of the Leon Commission

"This decision placed the stamp of approval on steps which the department of mineral and energy affairs, the government mining engineer and I took in anticipation of that decision"

"It also opened the way for putting additional recommendations into place. Swift implementation of the recommenda-

tions is essential to save human lives and prevent injury"

Mr Botha said he had specifically requested all structures reconstituted or set up by the Leon Commission — the Mine Health and Safety Council, the Mine Regulating Advisory Committee, the Safety in Mines Advisory Research Committee, the Mining Qualifications Authority, and the Mining Occupational Health Advisory Committee — to give their work and responsibilities the highest priority

"They are not to rest until the commission's recommendations are being fully implemented in every mine in the country"

Mr Botha added that urgent attention was being given to the restructuring of the mine health and safety inspectorate

The tripartite principle, whereby government, labour and management were together involved in every aspect of mine safety, was being increasingly applied, he said — Sapa

Mine to reopen as fire quelled

CT 4/7/95

(212)

JOHANNESBURG: St Helena Gold Mines, where six miners died in a fire, was to resume partial production yesterday afternoon as firefighters contained the underground blaze and channelled smoke and fumes to the surface.

However, Mr Andrew Davidson, spokesman for Gen-gold, said although the all-clear had been given for the Number Four shaft, the emphasis was on safety. — Reuter

Killer mine fire sealed off

BY BOBBY BROWN

The fire in a disused shaft at the St Helena goldmine, near Welkom, which killed six miners on Saturday, has been brought under control and sealed off, the mine's owners, Gengold, said yesterday.

They also released the names of the six men, four of whom died when they went back through a blanket of smoke to rescue two team leaders.

The six workers were Lennox Chaltone (35), a panel operator from Umtata in Transkei, Ram-mole Masilo (37), a hoist driver from Quthing in Lesotho, Pitso Sethobane (42), a panel operator from Mhaleshoek in Lesotho, Maqondweni Ngedle (42), also a panel operator from Tsolo in Transkei and the two team leaders Mohanoe Mochesana (45) and Samuel Mkwanazi (53) from Maseru, Lesotho and Witsies-hoek, Qwa-Qwa respectively.

Gengold spokesman Andrew Davidson said funeral services for the men would be held individually by their families in their home towns.

"We are discussing the possibility of a memorial service with the National Union of Mine-workers," Davidson said.

The fire started at the end of a 14-man shift at about 1 pm in a disused section of Level 25

The four men, who had already surfaced, went back down Level 24 to an incline shaft which connects with Level 25.

The six bodies were found by rescue workers later that day.

St Helena's general manager, Mike Fischer, said he was unable to speculate as to the cause of the fire, but added that it was gaseous in nature.

"Both the mine and a government engineer will be conducting a full investigation," he said.

(212) STAN 5/7/95

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Killer fire at mine sealed off

JOHANNESBURG. — The fire in a shaft at the St Helena goldmine, near Welkom, which killed six miners on Saturday, has been brought under control and sealed off, the mine's owners said.

Gengold, in a statement yesterday, released the names of the six men, four of whom died when they returned through a blanket of smoke to rescue two team leaders trapped by the fire.

The six workers were Lennox Chalitone, 35, a panel operator from Umtata in Transkei, Ram-mole Masilo, 37, a hoist driver from Quthing in Lesotho, Pitso Sethobane, 42, a panel operator from Mhaleshoek in Lesotho, Mapondweni Ngedle, 42, also a panel operator from Tsole in Transkei and the two team leaders Mohanoe Mochesana, 45, and Samuel Mkwanazi, 53, from Maseru in Lesotho and Witsieshoek in QwaQwa respectively.

The fire, said to have been "gaseous", began in a disused section of level 25. The four men, going off duty, had already surfaced but returned down level 24 to an incline shaft which connects with level 25.

(212) ARG 5/7/95

Gold mine fire 'under control'

cr 6/7/95

WELKOM The fire at the St Helena gold mine here in the Free State which claimed six lives on Saturday is under control but had not been extinguished by yesterday, officials said.

(212)

The mine's management said the area where the fire was burning had been sealed off and declared a no-go area to all personnel as it was unsafe.

The fire, started by the ignition of gas and which set underground wooden props alight, will be left to burn itself out.

Sapa

Mine denies NUM claim

Renee Grawitzky

BD 1417195
THE National Union of Mineworkers claimed yesterday that Vaal Reefs' management had agreed to grant financial assistance to the families of contract workers who died in the Vaal Reefs disaster. (212)

But Anglo American spokesman James Duncan said management had not agreed to make a payment to the families of the ten contract workers who died.

On May 10 a locomotive plunged down No 2 shaft at Vaal Reefs and crashed into a cage carrying 104 workers, killing them all.

An NUM spokesman said contract workers were disadvantaged because they were not covered by the same benefits as other workers and management's decision was an acknowledgement of this.

The union and management had submitted a joint written appeal to the trustees of the Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund on Wednesday to grant payments "commensurate with those made to other employees who died".

NUM said the families of contract workers were entitled to a small benefit from the Workmen's Compensation Fund, but were not covered by the Mines' Association Benefit Scheme. Vaal Reefs employees would receive an average payout of R53 694 as opposed to R4 000-R6 000 for contract workers

NUM demands compensation for those injured in past

(212) Stan 14/7/95

■ BY ROSS HERBERT

Citing grossly inequitable laws in the past, the National Union of Mineworkers has called for a system to be established to provide for additional compensation for workers injured in past mine accidents or afflicted with occupational diseases.

Helen Maomi, compensation officer for NUM, said the union had begun discussions with the

Compensation Commissioner and the Government over the possibility of creating a fund to give additional compensation to miners and other workers disabled in the past. Before 1977, disabled black miners were given lump payments which the union considers "grossly unfair." After 1977, miners disabled 30% or less received lump payments while those more disabled received pensions

"I have a worker who came

here last week who had a leg amputated in 1978 and is earning only R150 a month. The law of the day wasn't at all fair. Can you really live and survive out of that?" Maomi said.

Theoretically disability pensions were to be increased to keep pace with inflation, but have fallen far behind

According to research by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, the value of injury pensions awarded in 1982 had by 1992 only

37% of its original purchasing power.

"Clearly there are thousands of miners in desparate condition. There are thousands and thousands of mineworkers just dumped in rural areas with very little support, including paraplegics and quadraplegics," said Marcel Golding, chairman of the parliamentary committee on mineral and energy affairs. He said there was broad political support for aiding past disability victims.

Anglo mine revamp could threaten jobs

Star 21/7/95

(212)

■ BY DEREK TOMMEY
MINING EDITOR

A major restructuring, which could lead to significant job losses, is to take place at the gold mines in the Anglo American group

However, the only tangible development so far is the decision to halt the sinking of the second phase of Freddie's No 4 shaft at the giant Freegold mine in the Free State.

The move follows extremely disappointing results from June quarter operations, which included a loss after capital expenditure from Freegold.

Available profit from Anglo's mines dropped 36,6 percent from R137,6 million in the March quarter to R87,3 million

This drop in earnings is reflected in the sharply lower interim dividend declarations from the three Transvaal gold mines

Western Deep is paying 120c a share, down 56 percent from last year's 275c, Vaal Reefs is paying 40c, down 44 percent from last year's 720c, and Elands, and is paying 30c, down 25 percent from last year's 40c

No figures have been given for possible job losses. But Ken Dicks, a senior official, warned a few weeks ago that at Freegold, which employs 78 000 and operates at a profit on only two days a month, 11 shafts employing 32 000 people were at risk

However, at a press briefing in Johannesburg yesterday, he expressed the hope that the mines had reached the bottom of the trough and that from now onward production would improve

The small number of public holidays in the September quarter



Ken Dicks

PHOTO JOHN WOODROOF

would help, he said. He believed that once the wage negotiations were concluded, the workforce would settle down and this would lead to an improvement in the whole situation

Clem Sunter, the chairman of Anglo America's gold division, was not optimistic about prospects for a higher gold price.

He said the price was in a tight range and the industry would have to get used to the idea that it could remain between R45 000 and R46 000 a kilogram for some time to come

Group gold production amounted to 53 487kg compared with 56 599kg in the March quarter

Average revenue was 3,4 percent higher at R45 187 a kilogram, up from R43 703 a kilogram in March

Total working costs were lower at R2,103 billion (R2,108 billion) while average unit costs were 5,6 percent higher at R39 315 (R37 241)

Anglo mine revamp could threaten jobs

(211) CT(BR) 21/7/95

BY DEREK TOMMEY

STAFF WRITER

A major restructuring, which could lead to significant job losses, is to take place at the gold mines in the Anglo American group.

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Available profit from Anglo's mines dropped 36,6 percent from R137,6 million in the March quarter to R87,3 million.

This drop in earnings is reflected in the sharply lower interim dividend declarations from the three Transvaal gold mines.

Western Deep is paying 120c a share, down 56 percent from last year's 275c, Vaal Reefs is paying 400c, down 44 percent from last year's 720c, and Elandsrand is paying 30c, down 25 percent from last year's 40c.

No figures have been given for possible job losses. But Ken Dicks, a senior official, warned a few weeks ago that at Freegold, which employs 78 000 and operates at a prof-

it on only two days a month, 11 shafts employing 32 000 people were at risk.

However, at a press briefing in Johannesburg yesterday, he expressed the hope that the mines had reached the bottom of the trough and that from now onward production would improve.

The small number of public holidays in the September quarter would help, he said. He believed that once the wage negotiations were concluded, the workforce would settle down and this would lead to an improvement in the whole situation.

Clem Sunter, the chairman of Anglo America's gold division, was not optimistic about prospects for a higher gold price.

He said the price was in a tight range and the industry would have to get used to the idea that it could remain between R45 000 and R46 000 a kilogram for some time to come.

Group gold production amounted to 53 487kg compared with 56 599kg in the March quarter. Average revenue was 3,4 percent higher at R45 187 a kilogram, up from R43 703 a kilogram in March.

Total working costs were lower at R2,103 billion (R2,108 billion) while average unit costs were 5,6 percent higher at R39 315 (R37 241).

AM 25/7/95

could cost as much as R3000.

Four miners killed in two accidents

FOUR miners were killed yesterday in two accidents on gold mines east of Johannesburg, three of them in a rockfall at East Rand Proprietary Mines' Hercules secondary shaft, mine officials said.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said the three miners were trapped during the rockfall at the Boksburg mine at about 2am while marking

areas to put in supports. Another miner suffered serious injuries.

Another miner was killed when an underground lift cage derailed at JC Gold Mining's Waverley shaft, formerly the Primrose gold mine, in Germiston. "Two miners were thrown out and one miner died when he broke his neck," rescue official Simon Barkhuizen said. The other miner suffered

lacerations.

(212)
Mine manager John Cockcroft said the accident was the first at the mine in a year.

"We have a very proud mine safety record — we haven't had an accident on the mine for a year now ... There will definitely be a full inquiry into what has happened here."

NUM Gauteng health and safety officer Charles Free-land urged mine owners to work with the union and miners to improve safety

"It is seriously distressing to have two separate shaft accidents in one day. Accidents like these will continue while management refuses to allow workers to be involved in safety on the mines."

Mining companies say more than 69 000 miners have been killed and more than 1-million injured in SA's mines between 1911 and 1994. — Reuter.

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Lift cage and rockfall blamed

Four die ⁽²¹²⁾ in mining accidents

SPAN 25/7/95

■ **LABOUR REPORTER
and REUTER**

Four mineworkers were killed in two separate mining accidents yesterday, sparking renewed calls for worker involvement in mine safety issues

In the first accident, three mineworkers died and another was seriously injured in a rockfall at the East Rand Proprietary Mine's (ERPM) Hercules secondary shaft at about 2 am, the Boksburg-based company said in a statement

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) spokesman Judith Weymont said the four mineworkers, who were marking up the roof of a shaft to install supports, were trapped when the shaft roof fell in.

The injured miner was rescued in the morning, but those who died were only dug out later in the day, the union said.

In the second accident, one miner was killed and another injured when an underground lift cage derailed at the privately owned J C Gold Mining Company near Germiston, east of Johannesburg

"A shaft cage derailed and then overturned. Two miners were thrown out and one miner died when he broke his neck. The other one had only lacerations," said Germiston chief fire officer Simon Barkhuizen

NUM health and safety officer

for Gauteng, Charles Freeland, said it was distressing to have two shaft accidents in one day

"Accidents like these will continue while managements refuse to allow workers to be involved in safety in the mines," he said.

He said the union had been demanding better health and safety in mines and the appointment of full-time safety stewards, but mining houses had refused to accept this demand. The issue is one of several that the union has deadlocked on with employers during this year's wage negotiations

"When will management start putting the lives of workers before profits," Freeland asked.

J C mine manager John Cockcroft said the accident was the first at the Waverley shaft since May, when J C Gold Mining Company took it over from Primrose Gold Mines Ltd

"This is the first death we have had since we've taken over. We have a very proud mine safety record. We haven't had an accident on the mine for a year now. We always try to avoid all accidents, not just the fatals," said Cockcroft.

He said an inquiry into the accident would begin as soon as possible

Both mining companies said the dead mineworkers' names would be released after their families had been informed

Miner dies as shaft cage derails

CT 25/7/95

(212)

JOHANNESBURG One miner was killed and another injured when an underground lift cage derailed at the privately owned J C Gold Mining Company east of here yesterday.

"A shaft cage derailed and then overturned. Two miners were thrown out and one miner died when he broke his neck. The other

one had only lacerations," Germiston's chief fire officer Mr Simon Barkhuizen said.

The accident had happened at the company's Waverley shaft. No other miners had been injured.

Mine manager Mr John Cockcroft said the accident was the first at the Waverley shaft since the company took it over from Prim-

rose Gold Mines.

"We have a very proud mine safety record and try to avoid all accidents, not just the fatalities. There will be a full inquiry into what has happened here," he said.

● Three miners died in a rockfall at East Rand Proprietary Mine's Hercules secondary shaft early yesterday morning — Sapa-Reuter

Fourth miner dies

A FOURTH miner died from injuries yesterday as a result of a rockfall at East Rand Proprietary Mine in Boksburg on Monday. Three miners were dead when they were dug out.

(212) BD 26/7/95

Mine deaths bring SA

toll to 557

(212) GROW 28/3/95

■ LABOUR REPORTER

Two mineworkers were killed in a rockfall at First Wesgold mine on the West Rand yesterday, bringing the total number of mineworkers who have died at South African mines this year to 557.

No workers were injured in the rockfall, a mine spokesman said.

The Wesgold workers died about 450m underground during cleaning operations in the mine's Turk shaft.

Seven mineworkers have died this week alone in accidents at South African mines.

Five mineworkers died in two separate accidents on Monday. In the first accident, four mineworkers died, and another was seriously injured, in a rockfall at the East Rand Proprietary Mine.

In the second incident, a miner was killed and another injured when an underground lift cage derailed at the J C Gold Mining Company near Germiston on the East Rand.

The names of those who died yesterday have not yet been released.

Vaal Reefs inquest to start with Leon at helm

Renee Grawitzky

BD 31/7/95

AN INQUEST-inquiry into the Vaal Reefs mining disaster starts tomorrow — close to three months after 104 mineworkers died when a locomotive crashed down the No 2 shaft and smashed into a cage carrying workers underground

The joint inquest-inquiry, as held following the Merriespruit disaster, will be chaired by Judge Ramon Leon, assisted by assessors Arnold McKenzie from the mineral and energy affairs department and May Hermanus, safety manager for Samancor. The inquest-inquiry, which could continue well into next year, will be followed by a commission of inquiry headed by Leon and the same two assessors.

The inquest-inquiry will determine what happened at Vaal Reefs and could recommend prosecution. The commission of inquiry will investigate ways to prevent similar incidents from occurring and to minimise the risk of such occurrences.

Recommendations made by Leon in the commission of inquiry into safety and health in the mining industry included the drafting of a new Act — the Health and Safety in Mines Act.

In terms of the Leon recommendations, the establishment of a tripartite and voluntary Mining Regulating Advisory Committee would oversee the drafting of new legislation. Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha appointed a team comprising representation from labour (Paul Benjamin, Neil White and Marnie Mulder), government (Terence Doyle and Les Kegel) and business (Lettie La'Grange and Johan Greeff) to draft the legislation.

In June, Cabinet approved the mineral and energy portfolio committee recommendation that the drafting team use the Mine Health, Safety and Environment Act 1995 as the foundation for drafting new legislation. It had been presented by Paul Benjamin on behalf of NUM during the Leon commission hearings. The drafting committee would also consider relevant International Labour Organisation (ILO) recommendations and conventions, the Occupational Health and Safety Act and other relevant international mining legislation when drafting the new legislation.

The 82nd session of the ILO conference in Geneva in June had adopted a convention and recommendation to "improve safety and health conditions for the 25-million workers directly employed in mining, one of the world's most hazardous occupations".

Member states who ratified the convention would be required to consult employers and employees "in order to formulate, carry out and periodically review a coherent policy on safety and health in mines and develop provisions in national laws and regulations to ensure implementation". They had to ensure supervision and inspection of mines, and report and investigate accidents and diseases.

Member states also had to ensure employers took measures to eliminate and minimise risks to safety and health in mines, and workers would be required to report accidents and hazards to employers. They would have the right not to work in an area which could be dangerous, and provision was made for the election of safety and health representatives.

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Mine safety 'needs attention'

Renee Grawitzky (212)

antagonists"

BD 31/7/95

THE mining industry, with its unacceptably high fatality rate, should enact the Leon commission recommendations immediately without waiting for new health and safety legislation, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said.

In his keynote address to the Southern African Miners' Federation (SAMF) in Broederstroom yesterday Botha said. "If one life is saved, it is worth it."

"Of 19 countries listed in an International Labour Organisation (ILO) table summarising fatal mining accidents per year, 13 have better safety records than SA, with Zimbabwe coming close to SA's rates.

"Each ton of gold produced in SA costs an average of more or less one human life and 12 seriously injured miners"

The mining industry was a major contributor to national economies in the region and mineral exports in SA contributed 65% of forex earnings.

He said because of mining's importance, "it is in both management and labour's interests that you strive for a management/worker partnership rather than being

NUM president and president of the federation James Motlatsi said. "We are concerned about rebuilding our economies, but that is not our job. Our job is to protect the diverse interests of mineworkers. For me this means primarily raising the standards of health and safety, and abolishing the migrant labour system as it operates in southern Africa"

Motlatsi said the adoption of the Safety and Health Convention by the ILO in June was "a major victory for mineworkers across the globe. The challenge is for each affiliate to persuade its government to ratify this important convention."

Miners' International Federation (MIF) general secretary Peter Mitchalzik said the increased international unity among mineworkers had made it possible "to impose our will on governments and employers to get the convention adopted"

Mitchalzik said despite changes in the international arena, the labour movement had to be changed and adapted to the same extent. He called for greater unity between unions operating in the mining, energy and chemical industries

D-day for Cape Town

Edward West

BD 31/27/95

CAPE TOWN - Western Cape premier Hernus Kriel has warned that today is the last day for a political solution to be found to the Cape Town demarcation row in order for local government elections to go ahead in November

The warning came as the province submitted an 11th-hour proposal at the weekend in which it offered to withdraw its Constitutional Court and Supreme Court actions against central government if a new five-substructure Cape metropolitan plan was approved by negotiators

"The ANC must note that July 31 is the final cut-off date because there are still a lot of statutory regulations that must be complied with before the elections can take place," Kriel said. He called on the ANC to complete its consultative process over the weekend

In a letter from the province's legal team, the provincial government said the proposal was subject to the provincial committee, appointed by Constitutional Affairs Minister Roelf Meyer, accepting the new five-substructure proposal within 48 hours after negotiators had accepted it

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Each ton of gold costs 1 life - Pik

(212) Stav 31/7/95
Broederstroom — The human costs in South Africa's mining industry were unacceptably high, with a death and 12 serious injuries for almost every ton of gold produced, Mineral and Energy Minister Pik Botha said yesterday.

"This is unacceptably high by any standards, and internationally we compare badly," he told a congress of the Southern Africa Miners' Federation.

International Labour Organisation figures for mine deaths in 19 countries showed 13 of them had better safety records than South Africa's, Botha said. Last year 485 people were killed in accidents on our mines.

SAMF president James Motlatsi said in a speech to the congress that, on average, at least one person was killed at South African mines each day.

"The only conclusion I can draw from it is that black mine-workers are subsidising mining production with their lives. There is no technical reason why mining should not be absolutely safe. The only obstacle is finance. We must insist that this butchery must stop or else production must stop," Motlatsi said — Reuter.

Human cost of gold a death for every ton

(212) AKG 31/7/95

BROEDERSTROOM — The human costs of South Africa's mining industry were unacceptably high, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said.

"Each ton of gold produced in South Africa costs on average the death of one miner and the serious injury of 12 others. This is unacceptably high by any standards, and internationally, we compare badly," Mr Botha told a congress of the Southern Africa Miners' Federation (SAMF) yesterday.

The federation claims membership of 1.5 million workers across the region's mining, quarrying and energy sectors.

Mr Botha said International Labour Organisation (ILO) figures on deaths in mining in 19 countries showed 13 of them had better safety records than South Africa.

More than 69 000 miners died and more than a million were injured in South Africa's mining industry between 1911 and 1994. Last year 485 people were killed in mine accidents.

The industry had a "grim setback" with the death of 104 miners in May, when an underground locomotive plunged down a shaft at Anglo American's Vaal Reefs gold mine southwest of Johannesburg, crushing the lift cage carrying the men to their night shift.

SAMF president James Motlatsi told the congress that on average at least one person was killed on South Africa's mines each day.

"The only conclusion I can draw from it is that black mineworkers are subsidising mining production with their lives. There is no technical reason why mining should not be safe; the only obstacle is finance. We must insist that this butchery stops or else

production must stop," Mr Motlatsi said.

Mr Botha said that in spite of the Vaal Reefs setback, South Africa had made progress, with the publication of the findings of the Leon Commission of Inquiry into safety and health in mines — the first inquiry of its kind on the local mining industry in more than 30 years.

Judge Ramon Leon recommended in his report that the government, employers and labour set up a committee to draft new laws to govern the mining industry.

Mr Botha said this joint approach held the promise of establishing a policy acceptable to all.

"Although South Africa will remain a major gold producer until well into the next century, output will slide owing to falling grades and the depths of the remaining ore reserves. This will impact on the whole southern African region. It is of decisive importance that the region as a whole should reach and display unanimity on minerals and mining policy."

South Africa had to ensure it did not drop behind other countries in mining technology, particularly considering the fall in gold mining.

"The South African gold mining industry is past its peak and gold production is falling. Ore rendered uneconomic through lack of productivity will be lost in the ground," he told delegates.

The output from South African gold mines, which dominated the industry, fell 35 tons last year to 584 tons — the lowest level since 1958. Mine owners had said that production and profitability remained under threat from labour disruptions, a cost squeeze and a rise in the number of public holidays — Reuter.

Mine health, safety shake-up urged

(212) Star 1/8/95

■ LABOUR REPORTER

Representatives of more than 1.5-million southern African mineworkers have vowed to press regional governments to improve health and safety measures, end export processing zones and introduce union-friendly laws in Swaziland

Speaking after the Southern Africa Miners' Federation congress held at the weekend, general secretary Archie Palane said the federation would launch a campaign to pressure all African governments to ratify the International Labour Organisation's health and safety convention

The convention grants workers such benefits as direct participation in health and safety management, currently not the case on SA mines

The 120 delegates were drawn from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe

The federation condemned the Swazi government for the recent spate of labour troubles and alleged violation of labour rights there

It resolved to resist the setting up of export processing zones, saying that where they existed, workers were not allowed to form or belong to trade unions

Palane said the setting up of these zones was not only anti-union but unconstitutional as it violated the guarantee of freedom of association

The unions urged the development of an overall policy of beneficiation of minerals mined in the region instead of these being taken elsewhere

Vaal Reefs legal probe starts

slow

1/8/95

(212)

■ STAFF REPORTER

A joint inquest/judicial inquiry starts today into the causes of the Vaal Reefs mining disaster near Orkney in which 104 men were killed when a runaway locomotive plunged 500m down a shaft on to their underground lift

The hearing, headed by Mr Justice Ramon

Leon, was due to start in Johannesburg at 10am with testimony by the mine's safety manager, RC "Tubby" Proudfoot, said Mineral and Energy Affairs chief regional mine engineer WJ Koekemoer

The probe comes after Government approval in June for sweeping reforms. Leon will be assisted by assessors Arnold McKenzie from the

Mineral and Energy Affairs Department and Samancor Ltd safety manager May Hermanus

Advocate Riegal du Toit from the Pretoria Attorney-General's office will lead evidence

The inquiry is expected to visit the scene of the underground accident on Thursday, Koekemoer said

Also on Thursday, Welfare and Population De-

velopment Minister Abe Williams will present James Motlatsi, chairman of the Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund, with a cheque for R5-million from the Disaster Relief Fund for the dependants of the mineworkers

A formal commission of inquiry assigned to make recommendations on mine safety to prevent a recurrence of the disaster will follow the inquiry

Vaal tragedy probe begins

Inquiry will only know next year if
the miners died from negligence

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

THE Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs says the inquiry into the Vaal Reefs mine disaster on May 10, which begins today, is not only about finding out who was wrong, but to prevent similar accidents in future.

The accident claimed the lives of 104 workers when a runaway locomotive and carriage plunged down a shaft on to the lift they were in.

Mineral and Energy Affairs spokesman Mr Roland Darrol said the recommendations of the Leon Commission of Inquiry into health and safety on the mines has already been implemented ahead of the Health and Safety in Mines Bill becoming law.

One of the Leon Commission's recommendations was that a health and safety in mines act be formulated and that a voluntary tripartite mining ad-

visory committee should oversee the drafting of the Bill.

Darrol said Minister Pik Botha had set the wheels in motion two weeks after the accident when he appointed a team, comprising the union, management and Government representatives to draft the legislation. The team used the Mine, Health Safety and Environment Act of 1995 as the basis for the new Bill.

Darrol said if the inquiry finds proof of criminal negligence against mine management, the Department of Justice will take appropriate action.

The inquiry is chaired by Mr Justice Ramon Leon, who headed the Leon Commission of Inquiry into Health and Safety on the Mines. He will be assisted by Mineral and Affairs representative Mr Arnold McKenzie and Ms May Hermanus.

The fact-finding inquiry is expected to continue till late next year after which a full-blown commission will be appointed.

(212) Secretary 1/8/95

Vaal Reefs disaster inquiry

ARG 2/8/95

(212)

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The movements of the locomotive that plunged down a Vaal Reefs Mine shaft in May, crushing 104 men to death in one of South Africa's worst mining accidents, will be the main focus of the inquiry into the accident

In his opening address to the inquiry yesterday, counsel for mine-owners Anglo American, Chris Loxton, SC, said the movements, condition and functioning of the locomotive on the day of the accident would be matters which would be important to the inquiry

The inquiry, chaired by Judge Ramon Leon, is being held in Johannesburg and is expected to deliberate until well into next year. Its brief is to establish the cause of the accident and who was, on available evidence,

responsible for it. It may recommend prosecution of those found responsible

Vaal Reef's health and safety co-ordinator, Robert Proudfoot, described his role at the mine and explained technical terms which would be used in later evidence. He also testified about the structure of the mine, the circumstances surrounding mining operations and the duties of various employees on a mine

"There is evidence that, at Vaal Reefs Mine, more particularly at Shaft number 2, the implementation of safety rules and regulations was obstructed by an inappropriate attitude adopted by certain employees to discipline which expressed itself at times in entirely unacceptable and illegal industrial activities," said Mr Loxton

Mine safety raised at inquiry

Renee Grawitzky

(212)

THE mechanical functioning of the runaway locomotive in the Vaal Reefs mine disaster and the reason why it was in a prohibited area at the time of the accident will be raised by Anglo American during the joint inquest-inquiry into the incident

This was stated by Anglo's senior council Chris Loxton in his opening statement on the first day of the proceedings yesterday

On the other hand, Advocate Karel Tip, representing the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the families of 84 killed mineworkers, said the issues surrounding the inquiry were far wider than "the resolution of the apparent conflict between the version of the locomotive

BD 2/8/95
driver and the report of the supplier of the locomotive's controller"

One-hundred-and-four mineworkers were killed in the disaster at Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft on May 10. The inquest-inquiry chairman Judge Ramon Leon is being assisted by two assessors Arnold John McKenzie and May-Ann Hermanus. The proceedings are expected to last well into next year.

Tip said it was important to determine why no safety devices were in place "capable of stopping a locomotive moving under power before it and the man carriage apparently being pushed by it plunged over the edge and into the shaft"

He said other questions needed to be

Continued on Page 2

Mine safety

Continued on Page 2

BD 2/8/95 (212)
addressed relating to whether locomotive drivers were provided with training suited to the underground environment, whether adequate supervision existed and whether a meaningful "culture of safety" existed on the mine.

Tip said there appeared to be a clear divide between underground workers who said safety devices at the "farm-gate" were never in place and supervisory personnel who said they were

Tip said some locomotive drivers questioned had indicated safety devices were in place, while others implied there were "routine breaches of important safety procedures"

Loxton said the mine "would not shrink from establishing the truth, whatever that might be"

He said evidence would be presented on "the safety philosophy" of the mine and those responsible for implementation of safety rules and regulations. "The weak point of most safety rules is often not their content but their implementation and the degree of compliance therewith by employees," he said

Loxton said at No 2 shaft there was evidence that implementation of safety rules was obstructed by an inappropriate attitude to discipline adopted by certain employees "which expressed itself at times in entirely unacceptable and illegal industrial activities"

Vaal Reefs inquiry opens

Star 2/8/95

(212)

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA
LABOUR REPORTER

The movements of the locomotive which plunged down the Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft on May 10, crushing to death 104 men in one of South Africa's worst mining accidents, will be the main focus of the inquest/inquiry into the accident.

In his opening address to the inquiry — chaired by Judge Ramon Leon — counsel for mine-owners Anglo American Corporation Chris Loxton SC, said the movements, condition and functioning of the locomotive would be important.

The inquest/inquiry started in Johannesburg yesterday and is expected to deliberate until well into 1996. Its brief is to establish the cause of the accident and who was, on available evidence, responsible for it. It may recommend prosecution of those found responsible.

Only one witness took the stand yesterday. Vaal Reefs health and safety co-ordinator Robert Proudfoot described his role at the mine and explained

technical terms which would be used in evidence, the structure of the mine, the circumstances surrounding mining operations and the duties of various employees on a mine.

Loxton said the movements of, and the repairs and maintenance to, the locomotive would be issues for deliberation. He said the functioning of the locomotive, its controller and a device called a logic card, would be considered to ascertain its safety and whether it could behave in the manner described by its driver, Tsepang Mpota.

He said once the evidence had been presented, it would then be appropriate to hear the "controversial" evidence of the driver and the sole witness to the accident, a Mr Motemekoane.

"There is evidence that, at Vaal Reefs Mine, more particularly at Shaft No 2, the implementation of safety rules and regulations was obstructed by an inappropriate attitude adopted by certain employees to discipline which expressed itself at times in entirely unacceptable and illegal industrial activities."

Mine probe: Lift broke up on way down

(212) 273/8/95
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN N. SHUPP. The cage
in the shaft of the mine
broke up on its way down
on Monday, falling 100 feet
and killing 10 men and
injuring 10 others. The
passengers were killed
before it reached
the bottom of the shaft.

The mine is owned by
the Anglo-American
Coal Co. and the shaft
is one of the main
shafts in which the
mine is mined down the
shaft on to the coal.

The mine is planned that
photo tapes be made
marks on the side of the shaft
and it is felt that the cage had
started on its way down
way down.

The mine is to establish
the cause of the accident and
to be responsible.

Safety stops 'not in place' at mine

Renee Grawitzky

SAFETY devices did not appear to be in place at the time of the Vaal Reefs mine accident. One of the main safety devices — the stop block — was not in place as it was being constructed when the locomotive plunged down the shaft and collided with a cage carrying 104 mine workers

This was suggested during day two of the joint inquest-inquiry into the Vaal Reefs disaster by Anglo American's first witness — safety and health co-ordinator for Vaal Reefs East Mine Robert Proudfoot — who began presenting "non-contentious" evidence yesterday

During Anglo's opening statement Chris Loxton — assisted by Frank Bashall and instructed by Brink Cohen Le Roux & Roodt — said it was important the structure and manner in which mining took place was fully explained before the contentious issues were addressed

Proudfoot said evidence in the form of photographs and diagrams suggested the farm gate was not in place before the locomotive plunged from level 56 down the mine shaft

He also said evidence would be led that after the accident when supervi-

sors went down to investigate the accident two other safety devices — aeroplane sprags — were not in place at the time of the accident, but that somehow one had been replaced after the accident

Judge Ramon Leon questioned whether these safety devices — if they had been in place — would have been able to stop the locomotive.

Proudfoot said the devices were not designed to stop a locomotive under power, travelling at a high speed, but that this matter would be addressed by expert witnesses.

Proudfoot said the stop block — one of the safety devices — had been in the process of being constructed and had not yet been installed at 56 level where the accident occurred Proudfoot will continue presenting "non-contentious" evidence today on "the relevant mining activities, procedures and manpower structures"

Other parties represented and recognised by the inquest-inquiry as having an interest include the locomotive driver, Isepang Mpota, represented by Alec Freund, Rand Mutual Assurance Company, the mineral and energy affairs department, the Underground Officials Association and the Electrical Workers' Association

BN 3/8/95

(212)

Digging

away at
Star 3/8/95
the truth
2/2

**JUSTICE Malala
looks ahead to
the Vaal Reefs
disaster inquiry**

The inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of 104 miners in Vaal Reefs' number 2 shaft, three months ago got under way in the Mineralia building in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, yesterday.

It is an impersonal, technical and tedious affair, dominated by suited men with mounds of files and legal and technical jargon falling easily off their lips.

None of the dead men's families is present. An interpreter is on hand to translate the proceedings for them, but the technicality of the language would probably have alienated them, anyway.

Meanwhile, about 4 900 people were working at number 2 shaft yesterday, blasting and drilling away in the bowels of the earth.

Their profession is described as probably the most dangerous in the world. Certainly, it is one of the most thankless - the National Union of Mineworkers says minimum wages on some gold mines are as low as R400 a month.

"The sheer magnitude of the tragedy which occurred at Vaal Reefs would, under any circumstances, set it apart from the more usual mining accident," says Anglo American counsel Chris Loxton.

It was the worst mining disaster in South Africa since the Kinross disaster of 1986, which claimed 177 lives.

The inquiry is expected to last until next year.

Mine lift cage disintegrated before it hit ground - evidence

(212) Star 3/8/95

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

The man cage which plunged down Vaal Reefs gold mine's number 2 shaft on May 10, killing 104 mineworkers, appeared to have started disintegrating and disgorging its occupants before it reached the bottom of the shaft

This was said on the second day of the inquest-inquiry into the disaster in which a locomotive plunged down the shaft on to the man cage, crushing to death its occupants, by counsel for mine-owners Anglo American Chris Loxton, SC

Loxton explained that pictures presented to Mr Justice Ramon Leon and his two assessors showing blood marks on the sides of the shaft suggested that the man cage had started disintegrating on its way down

The inquest-inquiry is expected to deliberate until well into 1996

It has to establish the cause of the accident and who was, on available evidence, responsible for it

The inquest-inquiry may recommend prosecution of those

found responsible

Vaal Reefs health and safety co-ordinator Robert Proudfoot, who was the first to take the stand on Tuesday, continued his testimony yesterday, identifying and explaining various sections of the mine where the accident happened

Asked by Leon why there was no stop block between the tracks leading up to the gate which opened on to the shaft, Proudfoot said at the time these were being installed but the area in Level 56 had not yet been attended to

Free-falling

A stop block is a device put into the ground in the middle of the rail tracks to stop the locomotive from moving beyond a certain point

In this case the blocks would have had to stop the locomotive from crashing into the shaft gates and plunging down the shaft and on to the man cage

The man cage operates just like a lift, and the free-falling locomotive fell on top of it as it moved down at a slower speed

This was suggested by a video presented to the inquiry yesterday, showing Anglo's understanding of what occurred at the time it was made, two days after the disaster

Loxton said pictures showing marks on the shaft gate leading up to the shaft itself indicated that at the stage when the locomotive reached the tank trap — a place where a part of the tracks are removed to stop the locomotive from moving beyond that point — the locomotive had already left the rail tracks

The pictures showed the marks made by the locomotive to be on the far side of the tank trap and others were on the concrete near the tracks

Among the few attending the inquiry are Anglo gold division chairman Clem Sunter

Loxton said in his opening address on Monday that the corporation had appointed new senior managers so that Sunter could devote more time to the Vaal Reefs probe

The inquiry-inquest continues in Johannesburg today

It will conduct an inspection of the disaster scene tomorrow

Safety devices 'missing'

(2/2) Sowetan 3/8/95

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

TWO crucial devices, a "tank trap" and "farm gate", which would have stopped the runaway locomotive which killed 104 mineworkers at Vaal Reefs Gold Mine in May this year, were not in place when disaster struck

Giving evidence at the Leon inquest into the accident in Johannesburg yesterday, senior counsel for Anglo American Mr Chris Luxton said the devices were, however, not designed to stop a locomotive which was travelling at high speed and under pressure

Luxton said whether the safety devices could have stopped the runaway loco-

tive from plunging into the shaft, was up to the experts to decide

Luxton told *Sowetan* that Anglo American was as committed to finding the truth about the accident as the National Union of Mineworkers. He said the company had spent millions of rands investigating the accident and getting overseas experts to look into the matter

"We have interviewed more than 100 witnesses, but we still don't know what happened. Nobody wants to say who was responsible," said Luxton

NUM spokesman Mr Steve Ratlou said the emphasis should not be on the individual driver of the locomotive, but the safety system that was in place

The inquest continues

Vaal Reefs inquest judge queries drivers' training

Renee Grawitzky

BD 4/8/95 (212)
THE use of Fanagalo in the instruction for training locomotive drivers and the level of complexity of training courses was questioned by Vaal Reefs inquiry-inquest judge Ramon Leon during evidence presented by Anglo American's first witness Robert Proudfoot yesterday

Proudfoot — safety and health co-ordinator for Vaal Reefs East Mine — provided a lengthy overview of the type of training provided to locomotive drivers and the driver of the locomotive which plunged down No 2 shaft

Leon questioned the standard of literacy of the workforce on the mine and asked whether Fanagalo was used in training because of the literacy problem. He also questioned whether the training outlined by Proudfoot was not too complex in view of the fact that the training was conducted in Fanagalo. Proudfoot said the training was based on practical illustration

Proudfoot said adult basic education and training programmes had been introduced to resolve the very low literacy levels. The programmes introduced were intended to bring the majority of the workforce up to a std 3 level by the end of five years, he said

Other issues raised during yesterday's session — which would be addressed later on in the proceedings in more detail and in some cases by experts — related to the reason why the stop block on 56 level was being upgraded and whether less workers would have been killed if the humble hook had not become detached from the cage carrying 104 mineworkers

Today parties represented and recognised by the inquest inquiry as having an interest, ranging from the National Union of Mineworkers to other unions such as the Underground Officials Association, will participate in an in loco inspection at the accident site

Inquiry into Vaal Reefs disaster

Mine train driver was well trained

Star 4/8/95 (212)
■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

The driver of the runaway locomotive which fell on top of a cage transporting 104 mine-workers at the Vaal Reefs mine, crushing them to death, was well trained and had been doing the job for at least three years

Testifying on the third day of the inquiry into the horrific mine accident on May 10, Vaal Reefs health and safety co-ordinator Robert Proudfoot said yesterday that driver Tsepang Mpota had worked at the mine since 1987 and had received proper training for the job

He said Mpota had passed Standard 7 and had been a locomotive driver for more than three years

The inquiry's spotlight yesterday fell on the training received by locomotive drivers at the mine, and on what safety measures had been im-

plemented to prevent accidents

Proudfoot explained that, in addition to the driver, the locomotives had to have a guard on board at all times when in motion

Guard

In his opening address on Tuesday, counsel for mine-owners Anglo American, Chris Loxton, SC, indicated that the guard who was supposed to have been on the fateful locomotive, a Mr Motemekoane, was not on board when the accident happened. The function of the guard is to give the driver instructions when the locomotive is in motion, and to point out obstacles

Motemekoane, the sole witness to the accident on level 56, will give evidence later. Loxton said the drivers were trained in Fanagalo — a mixture of various languages

used on mines — and this was done because of literacy problems among workers

Explaining other safety measures, Proudfoot said it was the duty of every worker to report any faulty mechanism as soon as he became aware of it. The driver was responsible for checking that the locomotive was safe before using it

The inquiry is being held in Johannesburg. It will establish the cause of the accident and, if possible, who was responsible. It may recommend prosecution of those found responsible

■ Minister of Welfare and Population Development Abe Williams yesterday handed a cheque for R5-million to the Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund on behalf of the Government

National Union of Mineworkers and fund president James Motlatsi said the donation brought the fund total to just over R11-million

Mine probe ends first week

By JUSTICE MALALA

Star 5/8/95 (212)

Health and safety regulations at Vaal Reefs gold mine came under the spotlight in the first week of the inquiry into the horrific death of 104 mineworkers on May 10

In testimony heard this week, and in an *in loco* inspection of the scene of the accident yesterday, inquiry chairman Mr Justice Ramon Leon heard how two safety devices were not in place at the time of the accident

Vaal Reefs health and safety co-ordinator Robert Proudfoot, the first person called to the stand on Tuesday, said the stop block had not been in place

The miners died when a battery-operated 3-ton locomotive mysteriously burst through several safety devices on the mine's Level 56, 1200 metres underground, and plunged on to a

cage carrying the mineworkers to another level

The accident, the most horrific since the Kinross mine disaster of 1986 when 177 mineworkers were killed, led to renewed calls for stiffer health and safety regulations on mines

The stop block is virtually the last line of defence for a runaway train

It is a thick piece of steel inserted on to the floor between the rail tracks to prevent the locomotive going beyond a certain point

The "farm gate", another device used to indicate that the locomotive should not go beyond a certain point - and which is supposed to be strong enough to bring a locomotive moving at reasonable speed to a halt - was also found not to be in place

TO PAGE 2

2/News

◆ Mine inquiry

(212)
Star 5/8/95

The farm gate was found lying on the side of the tracks when initial inspection of Level 56 was conducted after the accident

The inquiry is expected to finish proceedings late next year

It will seek to establish the cause of the accident and who was, on available evidence, to blame for it. It may recommend prosecution of those found responsible

In evidence led by Anglo American this week, the commission focused on health and safety features at the mine and on the training given to drivers

Proudfoot testified that Tsepang Mpota, the driver of the locomotive which crushed the mineworkers to death, was well trained and had been doing the job for at least three years

Mpota, who has a Standard 7 education and has worked at the mine since 1987, will give his evidence later on in the inquiry

Mine disaster: Locomotive driver was well trained, inquiry hears

JUSTICE MALALA
Staff Reporter

(212)
ARLT 5/8/95

THE driver of the runaway locomotive which fell on a cage carrying 104 workers at the Vaal Reefs mine, crushing them to death, was well trained and had been doing the job for at least three years.

Testifying on the third day of the inquiry into the accident on May 10, Vaal Reefs health and safety co-ordinator Robert Proudfoot said loco driver Tsepang Mpota had worked at the mine since 1987 and had received proper training for the job.

He said Mr Mpota had passed Standard 7 and had been a loco driver for more than three years.

The spotlight at the inquiry fell on the training received by locomotive drivers and safety measures employed.

Mr Proudfoot explained that, apart from the driver, locomotives had to have a guard on board whenever they were operational.

In his opening address on Tuesday, mine owner Anglo American's counsel, Chris Loxton SC indicated that the guard who was supposed to have been on the locomotive, a Mr Motemekoane, was not on board when the accident happened.

The guard gives the loco driver instructions when he is driving, pointing out obstacles. Mr Motemekoane, the sole witness to the accident on level 56, will give evidence later.

Mr Proudfoot also said the driver was responsible for checking that the loco was in a safe condition before using it.

He said the drivers were trained in fanagalo — a mixture of various languages used on mines which has lately fallen out of favour — and this was done because of literacy problems among workers.

Explaining other safety measures, Mr Proudfoot said it was the duty of every worker to report any faulty mechanism as soon as he became aware of it.

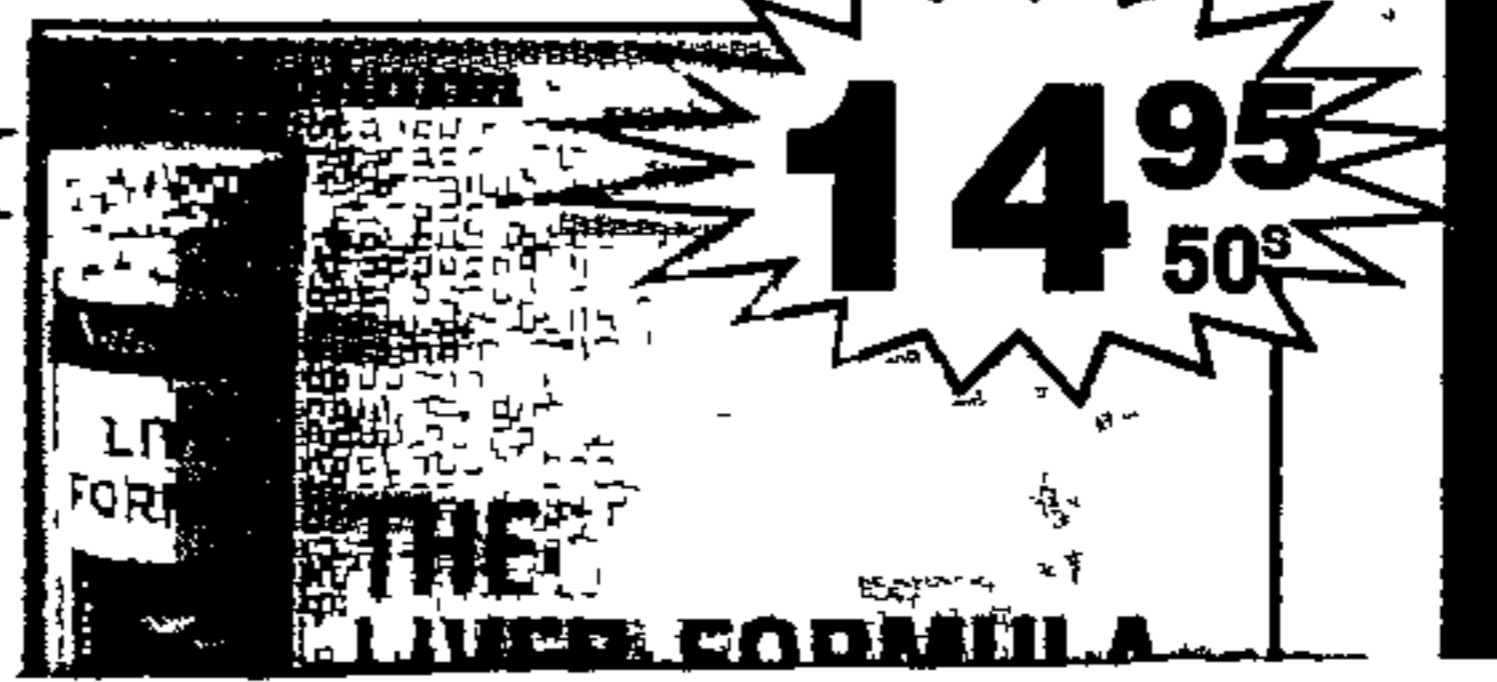
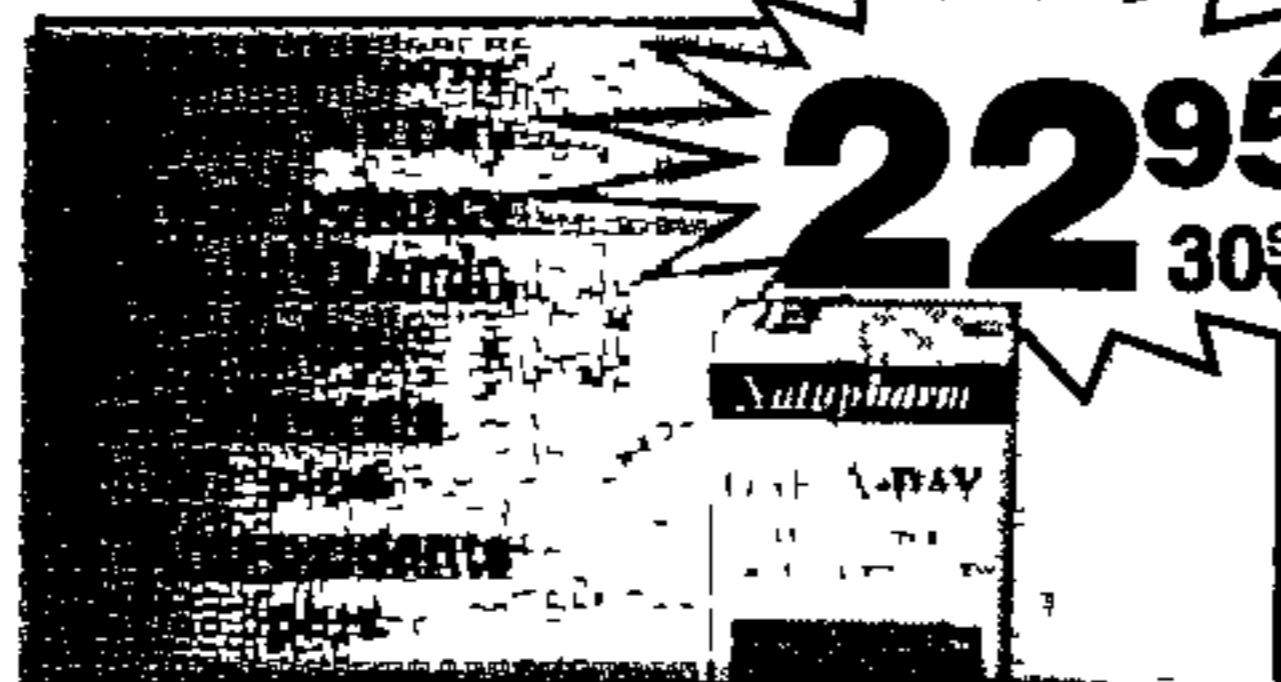
The inquiry is being held in Johannesburg. It will establish the cause of the accident, who was responsible for it and may recommend prosecution of those found responsible.

Meanwhile, Minister of Welfare and Population Development Abe Williams has handed a cheque for R5 million to the Vaal Reefs Disaster Fund on behalf of the government.

President of the National Union of Mineworkers and of the fund James Motlatsi said the contribution brought the total in the fund to just over R11 million.

He said a delegation, including Anglo American gold and uranium division chairman Clem Sunter, would visit the victims' families in Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique to assess their needs before deciding how to use the money.

Natupharm



Commission faces danger during Vaal Reefs inspection

(212) STAV 7/8/95

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

Lawyers on the commission investigating the Vaal Reefs mine disaster came face to face with the dangers facing workers underground when they visited the accident scene on Friday

The party had to cut short an inspection of the shaft well on Level 56, where the accident occurred, when several objects fell down the shaft.

The incident necessitated that the party, led by commission head Mr Justice Ramon Leon, evacuate the area after two warnings that conditions were unsafe

Mr Justice Leon is investigating the May tragedy which saw 104 miners die when a 3-ton locomotive apparently crashed through several safety devices and plunged down the shaft.

It fell on top of a double-decker man cage carrying the 104 and crushed them to death

In an inspection of health and safety regulations on Level 56, 1200m underground, the commission found that two essential safety devices were not in place at the time of the accident

Stop blocks which are meant

to prevent the locomotive coming near the shaft were not in place, the commission was told last week Mr Justice Leon paid specific attention to them at the mine.

The commission has also been told that a "farm gate", another safety device, was not in place when the accident happened

The vital piece of railing which forms part of the farm gate and which should have been placed across the rail tracks to prevent the train from going ahead to the shaft well, was recorded to have been at the side of the tracks when the first inspection took place after the accident

The commission will hear testimony from other witnesses to be called by mine owners Anglo American

The trip down to Level 56 made by legal teams and members of the press at a speed of between 6m a second and 8m a second, was both claustrophobic and scary

The man cage, carrying 50 people on its top deck and another 50 in the lower one, hurtled down the shaft at a speed that made atmospheric pressure changes almost intolerable

'No underground inspection done'

Renee Grawitzky (212)

VAAL Reefs East Mine's safety and health co-ordinator told the Vaal Reefs mine disaster joint inquest-inquiry that since he had taken over monitoring safety at No 2 shaft in March he had not embarked on an underground inspection of the safety mechanisms until the in loco inspection on Friday

Under cross examination by the National Union of Mineworkers senior counsell Karel Tip, Robert Proudfoot also said that after No 2 shaft had become part of the East division, the mine had concentrated on areas which had a history of accidents. He said there was no history of accidents in the shaft station areas but in the stopes

One hundred and four mineworkers were killed when a locomotive plunged down the shaft and crashed into a man cage

Tip questioned Proudfoot on the survey which eventually led to the reappraisal of safety mechanisms at No 2 shaft

Proudfoot said he had been unaware of the survey, its findings and the intention to upgrade the stop blocks in place in the prohibited station areas until after the accident on May 10

Tip said it may have been expected that a person in a senior position would have known about the pro-

DD 8/8/95
gramme of upgrading the safety mechanisms Proudfoot agreed that he should have been informed of this before the accident

Tip questioned Proudfoot whether the safety devices — if all had been in place — would have been sufficient to stop a runaway locomotive under power

Proudfoot said it could have been possible, but that tests were being carried out by experts

Tip said it appeared that training conducted by the mine was not geared to focus on safety but on productivity and to equip the employee with what he had to do in the job to be efficient

He raised a number of examples to illustrate that what occurred underground was not in line with guidelines and training conducted by the mine. For example, the fact that the man cage was supposed to carry 50 people a deck — instead 104 mineworkers died on May 10

At the outset of the proceedings yesterday Judge Ramon reprimanded the media for creating the incorrect impression that the causes of the accident had already been established as well as the proceedings at the in loco inspection on Friday

He said the media should not preempt the findings of the inquest and should report on the proceedings in an accurate and objective way so as not to be unfair to either party

Vaal Reefs inquest grills safety chief (212)

2109 9/8/95

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

The testimony of Robert Proudfoot, Vaal Reefs gold mine health and safety co-ordinator, will remain the focus of the Leon Commission of Inquiry into the death of 104 mineworkers when it resumes tomorrow.

The tragedy happened on May 10 when a highly powered locomotive went out of control and plunged down a mine shaft on to a man cage transporting the workers.

After two days of gruelling cross-examination by State counsel and counsel for NUM, Proudfoot will face counsel for the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

Proudfoot said on Monday that a log book kept by the driver of the disaster locomotive was still missing after efforts to trace it failed.

Proudfoot admitted that the log book, which should detail irregularities on the locomotive on a weekly basis, and which is kept on the driver at all times, had to his knowledge still not been found.

Tsepang Mpota, the driver of the locomotive, will testify later. The commission is expected to complete its work next year and may recommend prosecution of parties involved in the tragedy.

When cross-examined by Karel Tip, counsel for NUM and the families of the victims, Proudfoot admitted he had not inspected the scene of the accident since his appointment in March.

He testified that he visited the scene of the accident for the first time last Friday when commis-

sion members inspected the site. He revealed for the first time yesterday that a track device designed to stop the train from going through a certain point had indeed been on the track leading to the shaft.

Proudfoot said he had not been told that the device, called a stop block, was actually in place.

He said he could not describe it "I have never seen it," he said.

When Tip asked Proudfoot if new stop blocks now in use at the mine could stop the locomotive from moving beyond a certain point, Proudfoot said he did not know.

Proudfoot said tests to see whether this was possible were proceeding under the auspices of the commission but were still incomplete.

"Whether the present devices in place are effective raises a fundamental question," Tip said.

"A hundred and four people died. Were steps not taken to make sure it does not happen again?" he asked.

Tip then asked why 104 people were crammed into a man cage designed to carry 100 men. Proudfoot answered he did not know who was responsible for the counting of workers who entered the man cage on May 10.

Said Tip: "That is startling. There has been a breach of regulations and the mine has not taken action?"

Judge Leon pointed out that he had not seen anyone counting the commission members and lawyers entering the man cage when they went down to inspect Level 56 last Friday.

Hostels deal invites worker participation

211
20 10/8/95

Renee Grawitzky

AN AGREEMENT laying the foundation for the democratisation of hostels and the broader participation of workers in housing options was signed this week between mining house JCI and the National Union of Mineworkers

The agreement covers 22 000 workers on four gold and coal mines. It stems from an agreement reached at last year's negotiations which outlined principles for the establishment of housing forums, the upgrading of hostels and the involvement of workers in "decision making processes in hostel affairs".

The JCI agreement aims to establish "a two tier system per mine of hostel committees and housing forums" which would "be inclusive of all affected employees"

JCI MD Bill Nairn said the company had decided "to facilitate the availability of suitably developed housing land" after it became evident that home ownership at the lower end of the market was a "multi-faceted problem"

Nairn said one of the housing projects the company had become involved in was on the West Rand where a proportion of a potential 10 000 stands would be made available to JCI employees at favourable rates, and the remainder would be given to the surrounding communities to develop.

The agreement had established structures which would enable those employees

who still wished to live in hostels to "have a voice in a democratic administration"

NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said the agreement was significant "because over the years we have raised issues of the problem around the migrant labour system and social problems attached to it which always impacted negatively on motivation of the workforce and on productivity"

He said the agreement would go a long way towards stabilising the workforce and addressing the demand for the democratisation of hostels. It was now important to begin integrating mineworkers into the surrounding communities

Hostel residents would be able to elect representatives (one per 250 residents) to a hostels committee. This committee would be involved in "co-determination in areas which do not have financial or legal implications for mine management". The agreement clearly states "the fundamental responsibility for the managing of and maintenance of good order in the hostels rests with management"

Workers would be consulted on issues such as upgrading of hostels, safety and security of residents while joint agreement would have to be reached on issues around hostel communication systems and hostel disciplinary procedures

Gengold has also recently entered into an agreement with Num on the provision of housing and accommodation.

'Disaster' mine scrutinised

Renee Grawitzky

VAAL Reefs East Mines' safety and health co-ordinator on Tuesday told the joint inquest inquiry into the Vaal Reefs mine disaster that apart from the "no entry" sign before the entrance to the prohibited station area there had been no system in place before the accident to stop a locomotive under power.

Under cross-examination by the locomotive drivers' representative, Alec Freund, Robert Proudfoot said that from his knowledge the safety devices in place in the station area were not designed to stop a locomotive under power.

Freund questioned whether locomotive drivers were taught the purpose of

the safety devices and whether these devices were intended to stop a locomotive under power.

Proudfoot said drivers were not taught the distinction between the purposes of the safety devices, or how they were affected if the locomotive was under power or pushed or pulled by hand

Under cross-examination by National Union of Mineworkers' senior counsel Karel Tip, Proudfoot said locomotives under power were not allowed in the prohibited station area because of the risk of it falling into the mine shaft

Proudfoot said that if the employees had obeyed the rules and done their job properly by keeping the locomotives out of the station

area, together with the safety devices being in place which could or could not have stopped the locomotive, the accident would not have occurred.

Riegal du Toit acting on behalf of the State raised the point that since the accident there had been an incident where a locomotive was driven under power into the station area

He questioned the procedure relevant when a locomotive was left on the station area. Proudfoot said a worker should wait for a supervisor or shift boss to come before the locomotive was moved and if no-one else was available then other locomotive drivers should be asked to assist.

There was no supervisor present during the disaster.

20 10/8/95

No comment

on mine diary

(212) BD 11/8/95
Renee Grawitzky

VAAL Reefs East Mine's safety and health co-ordinator said yesterday he was unable to comment on entries in a mine overseer's diary which implied there were problems with discipline and safety at the shaft where 104 mineworkers were killed.

The joint inquest-inquiry into the disaster was hearing evidence from Robert Proudfoot, under cross examination by Hennie de Vos for the mineral and energy affairs department.

Proudfoot said the shaft foreman was required to inspect that safety devices were in place while the on-setters and mine overseers were responsible for ensuring the necessary safety devices were in place.

He acknowledged that at some mines shafts — not at Vaal Reefs — devices were in place which prevented locos from being driven into the shaft area.

De Vos then quoted an extract from a report published in the Association of Mine Managers of SA papers and discussion volume 1 for 1962-63 and requested Proudfoot to comment. The report was written by Andries Hendriks Taute, at the time the assistant manager of Free State Saarplaas gold mine.

The extract quoted by De Vos related to the designing of a station area to "make provision for the installation of suitable car overrun devices in order to protect the shaft from runaway hoppers and cars, and in particular from runaway locos".

Proudfoot was unable to comment and the parties present agreed that the document should be circulated to all interested parties and experts would comment later. Judge Ramon Leon said that this could prove important.

'Safety weak' at Vaal Reefs

(212)
Star 11/8/95

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

The health and safety co-ordinator of Vaal Reefs mine's No 2 shaft, where 104 mneworkers died in an accident on May 10, yesterday agreed that notes made by an overseer earlier in the year suggested there were problems with safety discipline in the section

Excerpts from the notes, made in a mine overseer's diary at the mine on January 9, said "Safety Very weak What will we do?" and "Safety must now be bettered"

Responding to Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs' advocate Hennie de Vos' suggestion, mine safety co-ordinator Robert Proudfoot agreed that there were problems with discipline in the section

The 104 workers were crushed to death when a locomotive used in underground operations fell on top of a lift cage containing the victims

The locomotive went through an area where trains under power were not allowed

Asked by De Vos if he was aware that there were safety devices which could stop a locomotive under power from moving beyond a certain point, Proudfoot said he had seen one being tested after the accident

He said he had not seen such a device at Vaal Reefs

De Vos then quoted an expert, Dr A H Taute, who said it was necessary when designing a shaft station — the area in which locomotives under power are not allowed — to ensure that locomotives did not go beyond a certain point

Although commission of inquiry chairman Mr Justice Ramon Leon said it was not in Proudfoot's range of expertise to comment on the quote, he said the quote could, on available evidence, very well "go to the roots of this commission"

Star 12/8/95

Mine rescue 'slowed down by shortage of body bags'

(2/2)
The Leon Commission of Inquiry into the Vaal Reefs gold mine disaster was told yesterday how the body parts of dead miners were recovered by six mine proto rescue teams

The tragedy, on May 10 this year, occurred when an underground locomotive plunged down a vertical shaft, killing 104 miners in a double-storey cage lift at the mine in Orkney in the Free State.

Larry Godfrey Biggs, mine overseer at the No 4 shaft of Vaal Reefs, said in an affidavit that he and his "West A" team were the first to enter the shaft bottom, where they began to recover body parts — torsos, legs and arms — from the vicinity of the mangled cage

He said each body bag was "tagged, logged and sent out of the mine with a continuity witness. It was then handed to ambulance and security staff at the No 5 shaft surface bank. Biggs said proto captains decided to cut away the steel plates to gain access to the cage. He said the rescue operation had been slowed down due to a shortage of bags and stretchers.

Biggs said the disaster had traumatised him and his family, and he had to seek psychological counselling.

The hearing continues on Monday. — Sapa

Ingrid Salgado

FIVE of the 104 mine-workers killed in the Vaal Reefs mine disaster were identified by identity cards and lamp batteries found at the bottom of the mine's No 2 shaft as well as by family members, the joint inquest and inquiry into the disaster heard on Friday.

Vaal Reefs Exploration and Mining Company senior personnel officer Hermannus Grobler said mine

Details given on Vaal Reefs disaster

staff were able to identify the other 99 workers from fingerprints.

A record of all employees who clocked in prior to the accident had been used as a basis for the search. Of those recorded 104 employees never clocked out.

The inquest and inquiry earlier heard that 371 people had clocked in at the

time of the accident. Most of those had been unaware of it when they clocked out.

Vaal Reefs West "A" mine proto team captain Larry Biggs said in a submission that rescue teams began their recovery operation the morning after the cage plummeted to the bottom of the 72-level shaft.

They removed body

parts in the immediate vicinity of the cage and placed them in body bags which were tagged and logged. This was done to allow the teams access to the cage, Biggs said.

Steel plates on the cage's upper deck were cut away to expose the bodies, but the process of removing them was slowed down due to a

shortage of body bags and stretchers.

The teams began removing bodies from the bottom deck the following morning. Hard hats, identification cards, pouches, belts, cap lamps, batteries, CO2 detectors and clothing were also retrieved.

All rescue workers, as well as their spouses, un-

derwent counselling.

The inquest and inquiry also heard that blood, boots and clothing were found near level 65 of the shaft. Engineer in charge of the repair and rehabilitation of No 2 Shaft, Edwin Arms, said both sling gates on level 69 were missing.

Under questioning from Judge Rarnon Leon, Arms said he could not comment on the adequacy of a powered locomotive's safety devices.

Ingrid Salgado

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Details given on Vaal Reefs disaster

(212) 20/14/81/45
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Under questioning from Judge Ramon Leon, Atnis said he could not comment on the adequacy of a powered locomotive's safety devices.

Three Vaal Reefs accidents cited

Renee Grawitzky

A DOCUMENT giving details of three accidents at Vaal Reefs similar to the accident on May 10 in which 104 people were killed was tabled at the joint inquest inquiry into the disaster yesterday

The accidents occurred at No 1 and No 2 shafts between 1975 and 1994 but there were no casualties, the document said

Under cross examination by National Union of Mineworkers senior counsel Karel Tip, Stephanus Bekker, a banksman at Vaal Reefs, said he had not heard of any accidents where a locomotive had fallen down the mine shaft, but he had heard of cars falling down the shaft

A banksman co-ordinates the loading of men and material from the surface

At that point Tip presented a document sent to the acting government mining engineer from the regional director in Klerksdorp on the three accidents at the mine which were similar to the Vaal Reefs disaster

Bekker said he had not heard of the 1977 accident when a locomotive ran out of control on 42 level at No 1 shaft and fell down the shaft

Tip referred Bekker to a second accident which occurred in July 1992 at No 2 shaft when four material cars fell down the shaft. Tip quoted from the section of the accident report which said "incorrect design of station tankpit stopblock"

Bekker said since he had become a banksman in 1990 he had heard a lot of debate on how to ensure safety of the station area

The third accident which Tip referred to occurred in December

1992, also at No 2 shaft, when a material car fell down the subshaft

During evidence presented by Anglo American's safety and health co-ordinator Robert Proudfoot, mention was made of an independent safety survey conducted at No 2 and No 8 shafts. This survey was made available by the mine and was presented in evidence by Tip, who said it was relevant to the questioning of banksmen.

Tip quoted a section of the report compiled by Wiek Roets in November 1994 "In my opinion the present arrestors are insufficient on the banks and stations" However, he had been assured that additional arrestors were being installed

Bekker said he did not know about this report or the installation of stop blocks, but said attempts were being made to improve the stop blocks

Relatives hear how miners died

(212) Stav 16/8/95

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

Three women — a mother, her daughter and another woman wearing a black hat denoting her state of mourning — listened impassively as a translator described to them the last known moments of the man cage that carried their relatives to their deaths.

The three, relatives of two of the 104 mineworkers who died in the tragic Vaal Reefs mine disaster on May 10, started attending the proceedings of the inquest-inquiry into the death of the mineworkers, held in Braamfontein, on Monday. They are the first of the mineworkers' relatives to attend the proceedings which began two weeks ago.

The mineworkers were crushed to death when an underground locomotive plunged on top of a man cage carrying the men down the shaft.

Jan van der Westhuizen, the man responsible for the operation of the "man winder" which controls the hoisting and lowering of the cage, told the commission that on the night of the accident, at about 8 16 pm, he had started lowering the workers in the cage.

He said at about that time, while the cage was moving downwards, the winch indicated that the cable that holds the cage was slack.

"I began trying to reset the machine after the winch indicated that there was a slack cable about a minute later the emergency bell started ringing," he said.

Stephanus Bekker, re-

sponsible for the safety of workers getting into the cage and ensuring the 50-person per deck limit set for the two-deck cage is not exceeded, said it was not true black and white workers used different cages or descended at separate times.

He said on May 10, while he was closing the cage a white man got out and said he wanted to have a cup of coffee and would descend with a later cage.

He said he did not know the man's name and the man did not say whether anything had happened while he was in the cage.

Shocked

Counsel for the National Union of Mineworkers, Karel Tip, asked him if he had been approached about the fact that there were more mineworkers in the cage than the legal 100, and if any disciplinary action was likely. Bekker said there had been no such approaches.

He said he was shocked when he heard the emergency bell ringing from level 56, where the locomotive had been.

Tasked with finding the causes of the accident and recommending prosecution of the responsible parties if necessary, the proceedings of the commission, chaired by Justice Ramon Leon are likely to continue into next year.

The mother and daughter who attended yesterday lost a son and a brother in the accident, while the other woman lost a relative.

Expert warns on danger of substandard equipment

Renee Grawitzky

17/8/95

(212)

OCCUPATIONAL safety across all sectors and the use and supply of substandard safety equipment should be brought to light in the wake of the Vaal Reefs disaster, a manufacturer and distributor of Personal Protection Equipment Ron Anderson said yesterday.

Anderson said suppliers of substandard equipment either chose to ignore the SA Bureau of Standards or were indifferent to the consequences for the worker who used the substandard safety products.

He said "the SABS and the department of labour should be responsible for the policing of this industry, but unfortunately there are not enough inspectors to inspect all potential infringements."

Anderson said there were a lot of well-qualified professionals in the safety equipment industry — but there are "certain customers and suppliers who will ultimately give health and safety professionals a bad name because saving money is more important than somebody's wellbeing."

Anderson said the Occupational Health and Safety Act would be ineffective if workers' health and safety were at risk because of the use of substandard safety equipment, or if they were not properly educated on how to use the product.

Meanwhile, the Construction Industry Health and Safety Forum was launched last week and included representation from both unions and employers operating in the industry.

The forum has appointed a number of subcommittees to deal with safety training, the promotion of occupational health and safety, and publications and promotional material.

Trustees of the fund set up in the wake of the Vaal Reefs disaster have been travelling round the country to interview relatives of the dead miners. **PETER DE IONNO** reports

A mine-disaster widow's dream . . . to learn sewing and go back to school

ST 20/8/95

(9/2)



MODEST AMBITIONS . Mathusang Maphaka, right, with her daughter and her parents

THURSDAY in Umtata was a day that Mathusang Maphaka, a mine-disaster widow, will never forget. She may well remember it as the day that changed her life.

Three months after her husband died in the mangle of men and metal of the Vaal Reefs lift-cage plunge that killed 104 miners, the trustees of the R12,2-million fund set up for relatives were asking her how the money should be spent.

Mrs Maphaka was one of mine disaster widows from the Eastern Cape who travelled to Umtata on Thursday to meet ANC stalwart Walter Sisulu, National Union of Mineworkers president James Molatsi and Anglo American's gold-division boss, Clem Sunter.

It did not matter that Mrs Maphaka did not recognise them. She knew they were important people and she was honoured that they had travelled far to meet her.

That is about all she had been told by the man from the Employment Bureau of Africa, the mine labour-recruiting agency that had sent her husband to Vaal Reefs.

With what must have seemed like a bottomless purse, he had paid for her, her parents and Tshisahang, her six-month-old daughter, to travel to the meeting nearly 300km from their home in Umtatankulu. What's more, he had paid for an overnight stay at a hotel along the way.

In the boardroom of the Teba offices, she was nervous and tongue-tied. It was plain she did not have a clue what was happening. She said it was the first time she had heard of the fund.

She shook her head in disbelief and shyly hid her face behind her hands when Mr Molatsi pressed her to describe her ambitions. It seemed like a question she



IMPORTANT PEOPLE . . . trustees Ina Perlman, Clem Sunter and Irene Charriley want to use the fund for bursaries

had never considered. It was certainly one she could not answer, not even to please the important visitors, who bent forward expectantly, willing her to grab this once-in-a-lifetime chance.

She nodded when he asked if, apart from money to educate her three children, she would like vocational training for herself.

"Mrs Maphaka would like to learn sewing," replied interpreter and trustee Daisy Manzani.

It was too much for Mr Molatsi. Despite trustee Ina Perlman's urging from the start for the widows to "dream the dream", they had confined their aspirations to domesticity, and each time Mr Molatsi had responded with deep frowning disappointment.

"She must think more about the types of training she can do. Everybody just says sewing without thinking. With the support of this trust fund they can study to do anything, anything at all."

Outside, Mrs Maphaka, 24, was beginning to realise that opportunity was knocking at her door. "I did not come with any expectations but now I am thinking that when the children are older I can go back to school maybe I can do matric."

The only decision she and her family had made for the future was that the lump-sum compensation of about R50 000 she had received after her husband died would be spent on building a house for her and her children aged six months, two years and four years. She also received funeral benefits and is to get a pension of R1 000 a month.

Few of the widows interviewed on Thursday understood that the national outpouring of grief and guilt that followed the disaster had created a fund which could underwrite a future for them and their families.

Started with a R5-million donation by the government, matched by another R5-million from Anglo and Vaal Reefs, and boosted by R250 000 from NUM and R100 000 from the ANC, the fund, jointly chaired by Mr Sisulu and Helen Suzman, has been swelled by hundreds of individual donations.

Although final decisions are a month away, the trustees agreed at the outset not to take the easy way out and simply disburse the money in 104 equal shares, but to preserve the capital and use the R1-million plus annual interest as a long-term support for the bereaved.

While a small amount may be spent in community upliftment projects, the trustees, four each from Anglo and NUM, see bursaries for education as the most productive way of using the money.

The joint management of the trust fund has brought Mr Sunter and Mr Molatsi closer together and other mining houses are watching closely.

If the fund succeeds it may become a model for a larger standard fund to help the relatives of the hundreds of miners who die almost daily underground in ones and twos, out of the spotlight of publicity that disasters attract.

With Thursday's visit, the trustees completed the last of the round of 104 interviews that had taken them to Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and Mozambique.

They had checked that the Vaal Reefs widows had received their compensation. Ten families of men who were employed by mine contractors have received only funeral benefits but the contractors are being pressured to make lump sum payments.

Everywhere, except Transkei and Mozambique, the compensation process was working with hardly a hitch.

In Maputo the trustees found that pension payments, supposed to be paid through the government, were disappearing. In an isolated case, a woman was forced at knife-point to hand over her compensation to her brothers-in-law.

In Umtata no one had bothered to explain to the relatives what their entitlements were. Incorrect spelling of a victim's name was holding up one widow's payments, others were not aware they were entitled to life pensions. Family written, but readable, dog-eared birth and marriage certificates had been rejected as illegible.

One question from the trustees was kept until last. "Is there a family member interested in taking a job on the mines in place of the deceased?"

Though their tears for lost sons and husbands were hardly dry, the mine that had caused their grief, was a golden opportunity, as readily understood as a handful of cash.

Not one family hesitated to accept and be grateful.

Pictures **HERBERT MABUZA**

Task group to reveal findings on mine safety

BD 2/8/95 (212)
Renee Grawitzky

A TASK group consisting of representatives from mining industry employers, government and the National Union of Mineworkers established to draft new mining health and safety legislation will present its recommendations to the Mining Regulating Advisory Committee this week.

In line with the Leon Commission's recommendations into mine safety, Cabinet approved the Mineral and Energy Affairs portfolio committee's recommendations that the advisory committee — a tripartite forum — be empowered to draft a new Bill. It will be finalised by September.

In line with the timetable outlined by the portfolio committee, a draft Bill will be presented to Cabinet for approval in principle in October. By early next year

the Bill and comments from interested parties will be presented to the portfolio committee.

The task group has agreed on a number of objectives of the proposed Act including the overriding aim "to protect the health and safety of persons employed at mines".

Broad objectives include the provision of a framework for monitoring and inspecting health and safety at mines and the establishment of a mine health and safety inspectorate; fostering and facilitating co-operation and consultation on health and safety at all levels through the establishment of councils and committees; imposing duties on owners, managers, manufacturers and employees and the provision of certain rights to employees and establishing ways to determine the health and safety of employees.

Conflict over mine disaster

ET 23/8/95 (212)

JOHANNESBURG Two Vaal Reefs mine employees differed in their testimony to the Leon Commission of Inquiry yesterday over whether safety devices were in place on the day 104 miners were killed by a runaway locomotive

Mr Ngesele Bennert Potsane, an assistant onsetter, repeated earlier evidence that he left a "farm gate" safety device open when he knocked off on the day of the accident

The farm gate prevents locomotives and underground rail vehicles from getting dangerously close to the shaft

Mr Potsane said a "man carriage" and a locomotive on the track had prevented him from closing the farm gate

Cross-examined by counsel Mr R du Toit, for the state, on why he could not push the man carriage and the locomotive out of the way, Mr Potsane said he was "not a driver and did not have the keys".

However, onsetter Mr Chris du Plooy, Mr Potsane's supervisor, testified that the safety devices had been restored and the farm gate was closed

The hearing continues — Sapa

Mine safety device 'missing'

CT 24/8/95

(212)

JOHANNESBURG: The horizontal bar of a "farm gate" — a safety device that should have prevented the deaths of 104 Vaal Reefs gold mine workers — had been missing for 15 years, the Leon Commission of Inquiry was told yesterday

The commission, headed by Mr Justice Ramon Leon, is investigating events that led to the deaths on May 10 when a locomotive fell down the

mine's number two shaft to a double-storey lift carrying the men

Assistant onsetter Mr Mzuvukile Ngilane told the inquiry that since working at number two shaft from 1980, he had never seen the horizontal bar of the farm gate

"That is 15 years ago Mr Ngilane," remarked Judge Leon

Under cross-examination by counsel for the mine Mr Chris Lox-

ton, Mr Ngilane said he had been trained at the mine school, although he earlier denied having gone to the mine school, saying he had been trained "on the job"

He admitted that he had not reported the missing device, despite having been taught this at the school

Mr Ngilane worked an afternoon shift on the day of the accident

The hearing continues — Sapa

Use of Fanakalo queried

CT 28/8/95

(212)

JOHANNESBURG. A safety officer at Vaal Reefs gold mine told the Leon commission of inquiry on Friday that mine officials had used Fanakalo when trying to get a locomotive driver to explain how the vehicle had plunged down a mine shaft.

The commission, chaired by Mr Justice Ramon Leon, is investigating an accident on May 10 in which 104 miners died.

Mr Hendrik Jacobus Wood was asked by the driver's counsel, Mr A Freund, to testify in Fanakalo to

test his proficiency.

Mr Wood went underground minutes after the disaster.

Mr Freund said "You used Fanakalo to talk to Mr Mpotha (the locomotive driver). Do you agree that Fanakalo is not a clear language? Why did you use it?"

"Why didn't you make use of a National Union of Mineworkers official who was present to interpret?"

Mr Wood said he had not thought to do this.

The hearing continues — Sapa



ists to exhibit at the zoo, paints
Picture NICKY DE BLOIS

Miners sign milestone accomodation package

Renee Grawitzky

212
28/8/95

AN AGREEMENT providing for worker participation in accomodation issues on and off mine premises and allowing for mine workers to choose the type of accomodation they want, has been reached between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and Gengold.

The housing and accomodation agreement covering 35 000 workers on 11 Gengold mines was formally signed on Friday. It provides for the establishment of elected hostel residents' committees, joint housing forums and a central Gengold housing forum.

The agreement acknowledges that mine workers "have been subjected to poor accomodation facilities due to the migrant labour system, as well as to certain legal constraints which were previously applicable to migrant workers". In line with this the agreement, unlike other housing agreements to in the mining industry, undertakes to assist foreign workers to obtain citizenship "to be able to participate in national, regional and company housing initiatives".

Albert de Beer of Gengold said the agreement would facilitate the education of workers and the dissemination of housing information. He said workers had been found to be ignorant about options and the issues involved in home ownership.

Gilbert Mphahlele of Num said: "We have fought long and hard for this agreement and we now have to ensure that it becomes practice on the ground and has a real impact on workers' lives."

Evidence of accidents at Vaal Reefs

Renee Grawitzky

212
28/8/95

A NUMBER of documents outlining lists of accidents were presented as evidence on Friday at the Vaal Reefs inquiry.

One accident involved "rolling stock" which fell down shafts and other reported accidents involved all tracks and tramming on Vaal Reefs as well as other mines.

National Union of Mineworkers counsel Karel Tip questioned Hennie Woods, the safety officer at No 2 shaft, about accidents that had occurred at the mine involving cars falling down shafts.

Tip focused on an accident in 1992.

Woods said in reponse to a question by Tip that the

safety devices on 56 level were sufficient for hand tramming and not for power locomotives.

Woods also agreed that the safety philosophy on the mine was that power locomotives would not enter the shaft because they were forbidden to enter the station area.

Woods said each person should be responsible for his own safety.

There were also people who monitored safety.

Woods said accidents had occurred after objects had fallen down shafts.

When the locomotive at 56-level fell to the shaft bottom on May 10, detached wheels and damaged battery cells apparently struck the Mary Ann cage at 62-level station injuring employees in the cage.

A document listing nine employees who were injured was also presented as evidence.

Most of the employees suffered from neck and head injuries and burns from the battery acid.

At the beginning of proceedings on Friday, Woods presented evidence about what the driver of the locomotive allegedly said after the accident.

Woods alleged that Mpotha said locomotive 26B was not working and climbed inside locomotive 54B to move it.

Counsel for the driver Alec Freund said this was incorrect as there was nothing wrong with locomotive 26B.

The proceedings continue today.

Disaster mine safety 'monitor' questioned

Rene Grawitzky

(212)

UNDERGROUND inspection of the station area next to Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft was conducted four times a year, safety officer Hennie Woods Jnr said yesterday.

Only one in four inspections was a surprise inspection, he said at the joint inquest and inquiry into the May 10 accident in which 104 people died.

Woods, examined by Japie Maritz on behalf of the mineral and energy affairs department, said safety devices were always in place in the station area.

His logbook indicated that on one occasion "stop blocks and other safety devices were not in use".

In response to a question about a survey by independent consultant Wiek Roets of safety at shafts two and eight, Woods said he had heard about it for the first time during the inquiry.

The judge said it seemed curious to the court that a safety officer was not told about the survey.

Maritz asked whether Woods felt the safety devices in place could stop a locomotive under power and whether he had been consulted on what devices could perform this function. Woods said he had not been consulted and did not have the technical knowledge in this regard.

Sapa reports Woods said. "I monitor safety but I'm not responsible for safety".
Chris Loxton, on behalf of Anglo Ameri-

can Corporation, presented documents detailing inspections carried out at Vaal Reefs during February 1991 and June 1995. The reports from the inspections showed that "no record of shaft station safety devices being found not in place by our client could be found".

Sapa reports that earlier National Union of Mineworkers counsel Karel Tip quoted from the Mineral Act. "No person shall be appointed as a safety officer unless he is . . . able to identify any . . . potential threat to the safety . . . of persons employed in or at the mine".

The regulation quoted formed part of Woods' letter of appointment as safety officer a month before the tragedy.

The letter, signed by Vaal Reefs mine manager MJ Prinsloo, called on Woods to familiarise himself with the requirements of the Minerals Act and other regulations.

Asked by Maritz if he had read a comprehensive Vaal Reefs safety audit report by independent mine consultant W Roets, Woods said he knew the expert but had not seen the report.

Roets, assigned by Vaal Reefs to conduct a safety audit last year, found the mine safety devices to be insufficient and made recommendations to management.

Roets had not had any discussions with him, Woods said.

Maritz said: "The point is that safety was your responsibility. Your position here is spelt out".

MD 29/8/95

Mine plunge loco was 'dangerous'

ET 30/8/95 (212)

JOHANNESBURG The runaway locomotive that plunged down a mine shaft on to a pit killing 101 workers on May 10, has been described by a Panel of the University of Witwatersrand as having been in a dangerous condition.

Professor Michael James, CEO of PWV electrical engineering faculty, was commissioned by the CSIR's

Division of Mining Technology to establish the locomotive's condition in good working order. His report was tabled before the Panel, Commission of Inquiry yesterday.

One member of the panel, director Mr Joseph Mpotho, said the locomotive had many defects. Mr Mpotho could not have been able to stop it when it took off. Super-

Vaal Reefs locomotive 'was in unsafe state'

Renee Grawitzky

BD 30/8/95

(212)

THE locomotive which fell down Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft was in a dangerous condition after its controller had been affected by the deliberate bridging by an unknown person of the line contactor and the fuse

This was evidence presented to the combined inquest and inquiry into the accident at the shaft which killed 104 men on May 10

Prof Mike Case, of RAU's electrical engineering faculty, said safety features in the prime control element in the controller had been inhibited by the bridging

Case was involved in compiling a report on whether there was possible malfunctioning of the electric locomotive which could cause it to act in an uncontrolled manner and travel without the power control lever being activated

He said parts recovered from the accident site "were insufficient in number and condition to establish conclusively from technical evidence alone" what caused the accident. However, various scenarios could be extrapolated from the technical evidence

Case said the examination of the controller reflected that, besides the bridging of the fuse (which interrupts the flow of current) and line contactor, the shunt had been burnt off

Responding to a question by National Union of Mineworkers counsel Karel Tip, Case said the shunt could have been damaged by the application of brakes

He said the state of the controller could have resulted in the "potential for a runaway"

Mine duty electrician 'was undertrained'

Renee Grawitzky *BD 31/8/95* lege training." (212)

THE electrician who was to have fixed a locomotive on May 10 — the day it plunged down Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft, killing 104 people — did not have the required training to fulfill such a function

Bernard Kennedy for the SA Electrical Workers' Union, responding to a question from Judge Ramon Leon, said this would be argued in the evidence presented by the electrician, Frank Khoza

Kennedy was speaking yesterday during the joint inquest and inquiry into the accident

Rand Afrikaans University electrical engineering faculty professor Mike Case, presenting expert evidence in the past two days on the state of the locomotive's controller, said a qualified artisan or someone who had an N2 (the technical equivalent of standard nine) would have needed further training to maintain and repair the controller

Case said "This type of device is not covered in normal technical col-

In response to Kennedy's asking about someone with no training at all, Case said no industrial equipment should be in the hands of someone with no training

During previous evidence, Case said that on examination of the controller after the accident it was evident that its contactor and fuse had been bridged by an individual who appeared to have some electrical knowledge

Besides this, the thyristor had been short-circuited and the shunt had fused. If the locomotive had been in that state at the beginning of the accident it could not have run away, he said.

It could have done this only if the shunt had been intact

Case said he was left with two hypotheses, but could not with certainty state which was correct. The shunt could have fused at the beginning of the accident, in which case the locomotive could not have run. The other possibility was that the shunt fused during the accident

Mineral affairs urged to employ more engineers

Renee Grawitzky (212)

THE mineral and energy affairs department has urged the Public Service Commission to address the Leon commission's recommendations to employ more mine engineers and increase their pay.

Department mineral rights and management services chief director Jan Bredell said no response to the request had yet been received. Public Service Commission personnel said they would comment today.

Bredell said he hoped adequate funding would be made available by the time the new Mine Health and Safety Act came into effect, putting the department in a position to employ new personnel and create a "stable inspectorate". The department was ascertaining how large the inspectorate needed to be to function effectively. The Leon commission recommendation of 169 staffers could be too few.

Department sources have questioned whether the inspectorate will have sufficient financial and human resources to act as a proper enforcement agency. The department acted as a school for mining inspectors who eventually moved to the employ of mines, where they were better paid, Bredell said. *RD 11/9/95*

Leon commission chairman Judge Ramon Leon said yesterday the Cabinet had approved its recommendations and "therefore government must find the money" to fund the inspectorate properly.

The Leon commission said good legislation was only one aspect of enforcement. "If the state does not provide an adequate enforcement agency the value of good law and regulation is lost." The current inspectorate was drastically underfunded. Pay was "inadequate to attract candidates of the right quality in adequate numbers". The R22m allocated to the state mining engineer's office was inadequate.

The drafting committee presented its final proposals on draft mine health and safety legislation to the mining regulations advisory committee this week.

They provide for increased responsibility and duties of mine owners and managers, improved health and safety training, determining employees' rights, risk assessment and efficient administration.

Exam pass shock at mine

(2/2) Star 8/9/95
Despite being unable to read electrical diagrams, a Vaal Reefs underground electrician received "a 100% pass" on mine examinations that qualified him as an electrician, the Leon Commission of Inquiry heard yesterday

Frank Khoza revealed under cross-examination that no electricians failed the examination because the invigilator gave them "booklets that had questions and answers"

Khoza was appearing before the inquiry into the May 10 accident at Vaal Reefs' No 2 shaft in Orkney when 104 miners were killed when a locomotive fell down the shaft on to a double-storey man cage

Asked by mine counsel Chris Loxton if he had cheated in the mine examinations, Khoza replied that he had not as "I would gain nothing by cheating"

- Sapa

Mine records 'backdated'

Ingrid Salgado

A WORKER at Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft was instructed to backdate maintenance reports on the locomotive which plunged down the shaft on May 10, the joint inquest-inquiry into the disaster heard yesterday.

Frank Khoza said under cross-examination that his foreman, Louis le Roux, told him to write the reports after the 54B locomotive fell down the shaft.

The artisan job reports, submitted as evidence before the inquest-inquiry, indicated the locomotive was serviced on a weekly basis from March 15.

This included a report dated May 3, which showed the locomotive's logic card and shunt had been replaced, and a report dated May 10 indicating the locomotive was serviced on the day of the disaster.

Khoza identified the reports as the same he wrote shortly after the locomotive plunged down the shaft. He did not know

^{BD 6/9/95}
the whereabouts of a report he had written originally on May 3.

Khoza said Le Roux had told him on the night of the disaster that the reports written prior to the locomotive's plunge were unsatisfactory. The foreman then told him to write new reports and backdate them while other mine personnel were sent to the mine "to see what had happened".

Khoza said Le Roux also instructed him to backdate reports about another locomotive, 26B. He said engineer Jannie Bronkhorst and fitter foreman Okkie van Aswegen had been present when he received these instructions.

Khoza testified earlier that the shunt he replaced on the 54B locomotive on May 3 was second-hand. The locomotive also needed a new fuse but he was told there were none available.

He said Le Roux did not conduct routine spot checks on his work but checked when he had a chance. (212)

by the SABC Board and the Co-ordinating Body referred to above

In this regard, it must be noted that the SABC Board is a publicly accountable body, appointed by transparent and public process, which accounts both to the IBA and to Parliament on an annual basis

†Sen A E VAN NIEKERK Mr President, answering out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask, firstly, whether it means that an independent, successful corporation such as the Bop Broadcasting Corporation is going to lose its independence totally, and secondly, whether it means that it is now to be managed from Auckland Park

THE MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING Mr President, the issue of the independence or otherwise of the Bop Broadcasting Corporation is not the issue in question here. What I am saying is that the IBA has recommended, on the strength of the understanding that Bop Broadcasting Corporation forms part of the national broadcasting system, that it should be integrated in a national broadcasting service

Where it will be administered from remains to be seen. The headquarters might be in Auckland Park, they might be in Cape Town, they might be wherever the national broadcasting service's headquarters are going to be

They might well be in Auckland Park, for that matter, but it means that the IBA has recommended that the Bop Broadcasting Corporation should be integrated, like the other TBVC broadcasters, with the SABC

Incidentally, the IBA has also recommended that the name SABC be retained for that national broadcasting service

†Sen A E VAN NIEKERK Mr President, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, will the province that established this broadcasting corporation be compensated in some way or the other for the take-over by the SABC?

THE MINISTER Mr President, with respect, I think that the hon Senator will remember that there was no province called the North West Province when the Bop Broadcasting Corporation was set up. In fact, there was a so-called independent Bantustan known as Bophuthatswana. That entity ceased to exist on 27 April 1994, so I do not see how the question arises [Interjections.]

For written reply

Compensatable diseases in mining: benefits payable

204 Sen A BALIE asked the Minister for Health

(1) What benefits are payable in terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act No 78 of 1973), in respect of (a) compensatable diseases of the first and second degree, respectively, (b) compensatable diseases plus tuberculosis and (c) tuberculosis,

(2) whether any differentiation in this regard is made between (a) various categories of mineworkers and (b) members of different race groups in this regard, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what are the relevant details?

S417E

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH

(1) All benefits are paid as lump sums in terms of the Act

Benefits are calculated according to a formula set out in section 80(2) of the Act. The formula is represented thus

$$(A \times 12) \times B$$

In this formula A represents the person's monthly earnings up to a maximum of R2 000 per month, and "B" is a factor by which the annual income is multiplied to arrive at the lump sum payment due to the claimant

(a) In the case of compensatable disease in the first degree the factor is 1,31. Maximum payment for first degree is thus R31 440

In the case of compensatable disease in the second degree the factor is 2,917. Maximum payment for second degree is thus R70 008

(b) The combination of a compensatable disease plus tuberculosis results in a certification of compensatable disease in the second degree and is compensated according to the formula above

(c) Mineworkers suffering from tuberculosis are entitled to 75% of their loss of earnings while unfit to return to their normal duties, for a period of six

months. A benefit examination carried out at the conclusion of treatment will be classified as follows by the Certification Committee

- * no disability or a disability less than 10%—no compensation,
- * disability more than 10% but less than 40%—first degree,
- * disability greater than 40%—second degree

A minimum payment of R7 000 is stipulated in the Act

(2) The short answer to this question is no. The amended Act makes no reference to race. The amendments were designed to

remove reference to race throughout the Act. The regulations made in terms of the Act were not amended and still contain references to racial group. The regulations do not influence current practice. No regulations have been promulgated in terms of the Act since 1973.

The regulations governing health and safety in the mining industry are being rewritten by a tripartite group representing that state, organisations representing mineworkers and management organisations. This process is taking some time as many new matters have to be regulated. There will be no differentiation on grounds of race in the proposed regulations.

Leon probe hears of test 'cribbing'

(212)

JOHANNESBURG—Despite being unable to read electrical diagrams, a Vaal Reefs underground electrician received 100% pass on mine examinations that qualified him as an electrician, the Leon Commission of Inquiry heard yesterday.

Mr Frank Khoza said that no electricians failed the examination because the invigilator gave them "booklets that had questions and answers"

Mr Khoza was appearing before the inquiry into the accident in which 104 miners were killed on May 10

CT 8/9/95
Mr Justice Ramon Leon said he could not attach any importance to the mine test if answers were provided to the miners —

Sapa

Locomotive driver 'was crying hysterically'

BD 13/9/95 (212)

Ingrid Salgado

THE driver of the locomotive that plunged down Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft on May 10 had cried hysterically while trying to hit an emergency bell after the accident occurred, a witness yesterday told the joint inquest-inquiry into the disaster in which 104 miners were killed.

Locomotive driver and guard Alfonso Motenekoane said he tried to console Jack Mpotha, who was "crying terribly, screaming. I could read the shock in his eyes".

He initially thought Mpotha was go-

ing to jump into the shaft after the man carriage and locomotive Mpotha was running between the emergency bell and the shaft, trying to break the bell with a stick.

Motenekoane said he saw the man carriage bump against the shaft gate, push the gate's rope and fall into the shaft. The 54B locomotive fell after it immediately.

He had seen Mpotha shortly before the accident while passing through the station area. Motenekoane was waiting to get to the mine's surface at the

Continued on Page 2

Locomotive driver

(212) BD 13/9/95

Continued from Page 1

end of the afternoon shift and was due to travel in the destroyed cage. He did not know what Mpotha was doing when he passed him.

He heard a great noise while waiting, got a fright, jumped up from where he was sitting and saw the man carriage and locomotive falling.

Motenekoane said he later left

Mpotha near the shaft's entrance and ran to alert other mine personnel about the accident. He believed he and Mpotha were the only witnesses.

Although he had not seen Mpotha jump off the locomotive, the driver had run towards him and hit the emergency bell shortly afterwards. Mpotha had told him that the locomotive ran away when he disconnected its Anderson plug, Motenekoane said.

Staff of various racial groups employed by SAPS

549 Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister for Safety and Security †

- (a) How many (i) White, (ii) Indian, (iii) Coloured and (iv) Black members of the police left the employ of the South African Police Service during the period 1 May 1994 up to the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how many (i) Whites, (ii) Coloureds, (iii) Indians and (iv) Blacks entered the employ of the SAPS during this period?

N1183E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Latest specified date 1995-08-31

- (a) (i) 3 294
- (ii) 125
- (iii) 418
- (iv) 2 330
- (b) (i) 732
- (ii) 81
- (iii) 731
- (iv) 4 940

Children in places of safety awaiting trial

550 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Correctional Services

- (a) How many children awaiting trial were placed in places of safety during the period 4 May 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) (i) how many of these children subsequently escaped and (ii) how many of these children who escaped (aa) have not yet been recaptured, (bb) had previous convictions and (cc) had been charged with crimes involving violence?

N1184E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

- (a) and (b)(i) and (ii)(aa), (bb) and (cc)

This question does not fall within the ambit of my responsibilities

The hon member should approach the Ministers of Justice, Welfare and Safety and Security in this regard

Safeguards for release of awaiting-trial juveniles

551 Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Correctional Services

- (1) Whether any awaiting-trial juveniles released in terms of section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959), during the period 4 May 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, were released without placing them in the care of places of safety of their families, if so, (a) how many and (b) why,
- (2) whether his Department has any safeguards in place to ensure that such children do stand trial, if not, why not, if so, what safeguards,
- (3) whether these safeguards have been found to be adequate, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

N1185E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

- (1) The unconvicted children were not released in terms of section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) They were brought before court which had to determine whether they should be kept in places of safety or being placed in the care of their families
- (a) and (b) Fall away
- (2) It is not the responsibility of the Department of Correctional Services to ensure that such children do stand trial
- (3) Falls away

Posts of senior/chief magistrate in Republic/ former TBVC states: parity

552 Mr D M BAKKER asked the Minister of Justice †

- (1) (a) How many (i) senior and (ii) chief magistrates posts existed in the (aa) Republic and (bb) former TBVC states immediately prior to April 1994 and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished,
- (2) whether he will furnish information on the salary scales attached to each of these posts as at the date furnished in paragraph

- (1)(b), if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details, in each case,
- (3) whether steps have been or are to be taken to ensure parity between these posts, if not, why not, if so, what steps?

N1186E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

- (1) (a) (i)(aa) 87
- (ii)(aa) 13
- (i)(bb) 38
- (ii)(bb) 11
- (b) 1 April 1994
- (2) (1) (a)(i)(aa) R95 517 - 103 185 - 107 019 x 4 848 - 116 715
- (1) (a)(ii)(aa) R126 411 (Fixed)
- (1) (a)(i)(bb) R95 517 - 103 185 - 107 017 - 116 715 (pro Transkei, Venda & Ciskei)
- R92/367 - 99 783 (pro Bophuthatswana)
- (1) (a)(ii)(bb) R126 411 (pro Transkei, Venda & Ciskei)
- R111 867 (pro Bophuthatswana)

- (3) Parity measures issued by the Public Commission were implemented with effect from 1 May 1994 and the salaries of Magistrates in the former TBVC-states have been brought on par with that of the former RSA

Presence of asbestos fibre at mines

554 Mr J J NIEMANN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs

- (1) Whether the presence of asbestos fibre which may cause meso-thelioma has been found at (a) certain mines, the names of which have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, and (b) any other mines, if so, (i) at which mines and (ii) what are the further relevant details,
- (2) whether any persons have been affected by asbestos at any of the above mines, if so, (a) at which mines, and (b) how many in each case,
- (3) whether his Department has taken or intends taking any steps to (a) monitor the

presence of asbestos at mines and (b) prevent the presence of asbestos at mines from becoming a health hazard, if not, why not, if so, what steps?

N1188E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS

- (1) (a) A research project is presently in progress to determine the "magnitude of significance" of asbestos fibres in diamond mines. Evaluation of samples taken from the first two mines sampled confirmed the presence of asbestos fibres in the workings of these mines. The levels of asbestos fibre concentrations in these samples were, however, regarded as being of an insignificant hazard to health insofar as they did not exceed one tenth of the threshold limit of two fibres per millilitre

The following mines have all been sampled in conjunction with De Beers personnel as a joint venture (6 mines)

- Premier Mine
- Finsch Mine
- Kofffontein Mine
- Venetia Mine
- Kimberley Mines (2)

- (b) (1) Other mines samples (8 mines)

- Rex Diamonds
- Star Diamonds
- BKH Mines
- Bellsbank Mine
- Loxton Exploration—Ardo Section
- Loxton Exploration—Du Plessis Diamonds
- Messina Diamonds
- (ii) The results of these surveys are currently being analysed
- (2) No cases have been reported to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs. The

department is presently aware of only one case, this person apparently worked at Premier Mine

- (3) The final results of the present project will dictate the necessary course of action to be taken for control purposes. The monitoring for asbestos fibres for risk levy payments in terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act will be considered if results indicate the necessity of such action

Commitment of gross violation of human rights: investigations

555 Mr R H GROENEWALD asked the Minister of Justice

- (1) Whether any investigations have been done into the possible involvement of persons in the commitment of gross violation of human rights in terms of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, 1995, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, (a) who authorised such investigations, (b) by (i) whom and/or (ii) which organisations were such investigations done and (c) what are the names of the (i) persons, (ii) authorities, (iii) institutions and/or (iv) organisations in respect of whom such investigations have been done,
- (2) whether such persons, authorities, institutions and/or organisations will be furnished with details of such investigations before they are called upon to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

N1189E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

- (1) No. The Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, 1995 (Act No 34 of 1995), will become operative on a date still to be determined by the President. The Act itself provides that such investigations are to be conducted by a Commission, appointed by the President in consultation with Cabinet, or a Committee of the Commission. The Commissioners are appointed and the Act becomes operative, no investigation can be done in terms of the Act

- (a), (b) and (c) Fall away
- (2) Falls away

Extension of period for registration for local government elections

556 Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development

- (1) Whether, with reference to media reports in this regard, an extension of the period for registration for the coming local government elections is being considered, if not, why not, if so, for how long will this period be extended,
- (2) whether such extension will apply uniformly throughout the Republic, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details,
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N1190E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- (1) At a meeting between myself and the MECs responsible for Local Government, it was decided that an additional registration period from 12 to 25 September 1995 should be provided for
- (2) The decision was that it should apply uniformly throughout the country, but it has to be implemented by the provinces individually
- (3) A statement to this effect has already been issued on 23 August 1995

Toxic substance imported into the Republic for disposal/treatment

557 Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

- (1) Whether any toxic substances resulting from various manufacturing processes have been imported into the Republic for disposal and/or treatment, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, (a) from where and (b) in what quantities,
- (2) whether any permits have been issued in this regard, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, (a) how are such permits issued and (b) who authorised such permits to be issued?

N1191E

Hansard 14/9/95

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

Although the question does not specifically refer to waste, it is clear from the context that hazardous waste is implied. The answer has therefore been focused on waste

- (1) Yes (a) As far as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism knows there was one such a case and that was from America.
- (b) Plus minus 2 000 tons,
- (2) Yes (a) Such a permit was issued to Thor Chemicals on the conditions that regulations and standards as determined by legislation, are not transgressed or exceeded,
- (b) The importation of spent mercury catalyst is controlled by the Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act No 15 of 1973) and was administered by the Department of Health. A committee consisting of officials from the Departments of National Health, Water Affairs, Manpower and Environmental Affairs agreed to the importation thereof and a permit was issued to Thor Chemicals on 30 May 1991. The permit was cancelled on 16 September 1994

Local government elections: supervision by Independent Electoral Commission

558 Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development

- (1) Whether the local government elections will be held under the supervision of the Independent Electoral Commission, if not, why not, if so, in terms of what constitutional provisions will the elections take place,
- (2) whether it has been established whether any lacuna exists in the Constitution in respect of local government elections, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what are the relevant details?

N1192E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- (1) Local government elections are held in terms of the Local Government Transition

Act, 1993, and the regulations made thereunder

- (2) It is not clear what the hon member is referring to. If the hon member supplies me with further information I will attempt to reply to the question

Increase in price of postage stamps

559 Mrs P DE LILLE asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting

- By what percentage did the price of postage stamps increase in each of the latest specified three years for which information is available?

N1193E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING

- The Chief Executive of the South African Post Office Limited has informed me as follows
- (i) 1 April 1993 30%
- (ii) 1 April 1994 10% (non-standard rates only)
- 1 August 1994 11% (standard rate only)
- (iii) 1 April 1995 15% (average)

Percentage of cutting/polishing of SA diamonds done locally/abroad

560 Mrs P DE LILLE asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs

- (a) With reference to certain information furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, what percentage of the cutting and polishing of South African diamonds has been allocated to persons and/or industries in (i) Amsterdam, (ii) Antwerp, (iii) Tel Aviv and (iv) India, (b) what criteria are being used in allocating such cutting and polishing and (c)(i) what amount of the cutting and polishing of South African diamonds is undertaken in the Republic and (ii) where in the Republic?

N1194E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS

- (a)(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) South African diamonds are not "allocated" to any person and/or concern in other countries. Cutting concerns in the main diamond cutting centres (like Antwerpen, Tel Aviv, Johannesburg, New York, Bangkok and Bombay) purchase most of their raw material (rough diamonds) from suppliers

Vaal Reefs train driver 'offered cash to lie'

BD 14/9/95 (212)

Renee Grawitzky

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THE driver of locomotive 26B, that plunged down a mine shaft, claimed yesterday that an unknown man had offered him money or a car if he agreed to testify that he had checked locomotive 54B on the day of the accident

Jaime Mathe, a worker for independent contractor Concor who worked the afternoon shift on May 10, told the Vaal Reefs joint inquest-inquiry that he told the man that he could not say that. The man had approached him about a week ago.

Mathe said the next day, in the presence of his foreman George Ship-

man and the electrical foreman Louis le Roux, he was asked if he checked locomotive 54B on the day of the accident. He said that he had not.

In a statement Mathe said that on the day of the accident he used 26B which he found in the station area in the right place before the "no entry" sign. The man carriage and locomotive 54B were also in the station area.

Sapa reports that locomotive guard and driver Brown Koosaletse said Tsepang Mpotha, who was driving locomotive 54B on May 10, had informed a mine shift boss a day before that it was "not in good order".

Koosaletse said on May 9 he and

Mpotha had gone underground to work on locomotive 54B and he waited at the station while Mpotha went to check if the locomotive, which Mpotha said had been out of order, had been fixed. When Mpotha returned to say the locomotive was "still out of order", the two men had told shift boss James Lang.

Koosaletse also concurred with Mpotha's evidence that the shift boss had told them "as long as the locomotive was moving, continue using it".

Koosaletse said Mpotha had pointed out, among other defects, that the locomotive's hooter and front lights were not functioning. There had been no other locomotives for them to use.

Front lights were not functioning, witness tells Leon inquiry

Shift boss told of faulty locomotive

A day before it plunged down a shaft killing 104 mineworkers, a defective locomotive was reported to a shift boss at Vaal Reef's gold mine, the Leon commission of inquiry heard yesterday.

The commission is hearing evidence on the May 10 disaster at Orkney in North West, which was one of South Africa's worst mine tragedies

Under cross-examination by counsel for the mine Chris Loxton, locomotive guard and driver Brown Koosaleise said Tsepang Mpotha, who was driving locomotive

DRIVER reported defects a day before Vaal Reef's mine disaster

five 54B on May 10, had informed a mine shift boss that it was "not in good order"

Koosaleise said he had gone underground at 8 15pm on May 9 as he was due to work with Mpotha on locomotive 54B but had to return to the surface because the

locomotive was not in working order.

"I remained at the station and Jack (Mpotha) walked to the battery bay to check the locomotive because he said it was out of order and (he) was going to see whether it was fixed.

Mpotha returned an hour later to inform Koosaleise the locomotive was "still out of order" They then waited at the station for the arrival of shift boss James Lang, to whom they reported that the locomotive was defective Responding to a question dur-

ing further cross-examination by counsel A Freund, representing Mpotha, Koosaleise concurred with Mpotha's evidence that the shift boss had told them "as long as the locomotive was moving, continue using it"

He said Mpotha had pointed out, among other defects, that the locomotive's hooter and front lights were not functioning

Asked by counsel R du Toit, for the State, whether there had been any other locomotives for them to use, Koosaleise replied that there had been none

(212) Stan 14/9/95

Koosaleise, a locomotive driver at Vaal Reef's since 1974, said that on May 10, the night of the tragedy, he had worked night shift as a locomotive guard

When he did not see locomotive 54B parked at the tip, he assisted other drivers to start their locomotives

He and other mineworkers were later told by Maila Alfonso Motemekeane, a locomotive guard at 56 level, that locomotive 54B had plunged down the shaft The hearing continues - Sapa

Inquiry hears differing evidence on locos

(212) BD 15/9/95
Renee Grawitzky

THE joint inquest-inquiry into the Vaal Reefs mine disaster heard differing evidence from witnesses yesterday as to the location of locomotives 26B and 54B on the afternoon shift of May 10, the day of the accident which killed 104 mineworkers.

Locomotive driver James Mathe, employed as a contract worker from Concor, said he parked locomotive 26B at the cross-cut leading to the station on the right side of the "no-entry" sign.

Cipriano Matsinhe, also of Concor, who worked the afternoon shift on May 10 as loco guard for Mathe, initially said in a statement that on the day of the accident he had not used any locomotive. However, he said later he had used one locomotive but did not know whether it was 26B or 54B as he had not looked at the number.

During cross-examination, Hennie de Vos, for the mineral and energy affairs department, presented Matsinhe with a number of statements by witnesses who at various times saw Concor workers using either one or both of the locomotives in question. Matsinhe said the people were either lying or were trying to put the blame on Concor workers.

Pheelo Rantho, a driver of locomotive 26B on the night shift on May 10, made two differing statements. His initial statement said he found 26B parked in the haulage close to the tip when he went on duty. Later he said he saw his locomotive on the station on the way to the charge bay. He removed the locomotive from the station and drove it to the charge bay. When he did this he was unaware of the accident although he had heard a loud noise. During questioning he said he found loco 26B about 12 paces from the shaft gates in the prohibited area.

Borrowing Bill will enable provinces to raise funds

(212) BD 18/9/95

Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — Provinces will soon be able to raise funds on the domestic capital markets, but legislation just published proposes to prohibit their access to derivative financial products and foreign capital markets.

The legislation also prohibits national government from guaranteeing domestic loans by provinces, and establishes a loan co-ordinating committee to ensure equity and "orderliness" in loan-raising programmes.

The intention of the legislation, tabled by the finance department at the weekend, is to create a legal framework within which provinces will be able to exploit their rights to raise loans

The memorandum of the Borrowing Powers of Provincial Governments Bill states that it will endeavour to achieve equity in the distribution of loan funds among provincial governments.

"While it is the long-term objective that the borrowing activities of provincial governments should to the greatest extent possible be subject to capital market scrutiny and discipline, this cannot be achieved by all provinces over the short to medium term"

The legislation consequently aimed to ensure successful entry into the domestic capital market by provincial governments by creating a mechanism, the loan co-ordinating committee, to ensure fair distribution of funds.

Since the constitution limited

provinces' borrowing powers to raise loans for capital expenditure and for bridging finance, the legislation described these expenditures in terms of "generally accepted criteria".

Because the Bill needed to ensure that borrowing by provincial governments would be affordable, it provided that the amount of interest payable on the loans should not exceed a certain percentage of budgeted revenue. The percentage would be determined by Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg.

The Bill has been submitted to provincial governments, departments, the Financial and Fiscal Commission, the SA Reserve Bank and the World Bank.

The Bill is likely to be tabled in Parliament early next year.

Driver 'did not see the disaster'

Ingrid Salgado

BD 18/9/95

JUDGE Ramon Leon warned a witness on Friday that he could be committing perjury at the joint inquest-inquiry into the deaths of 104 miners at Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft on May 10.

Locomotive driver Pheele Rantho, however, said he was telling the truth that he had not witnessed the disaster when locomotive 54B and a man carriage fell down No 2 shaft.

Rantho said he had been walking towards the mine's battery bay when he spotted his locomotive, 26B, parked in the station area. He had heard a loud noise and thought a pipe had burst.

He then removed 26B from the area after ensuring it was in work-

ing order.

Rantho said he had seen neither Jack Mpotha, the driver of the locomotive that plunged down the shaft, nor witness to the accident Alfonso Motemekoane.

Advocate Alec Freund, representing Mpotha, told Rantho it seemed unlikely he had seen Mpotha. Motemekoane testified last week that a shocked Mpotha had run between the shaft entrance and an emergency bell after the accident.

Rantho denied he had removed 26B to ensure nobody would find the locomotive near the shaft.

Locomotive guard and driver Victor Cako testified on Friday that he had seen contract drivers using 54B. They had switched to using 26B upon his return.

Province to probe appointments

Ingrid Salgado

MPUMALANGA premier Mathews Phosa has announced the province will probe all procedures related to appointment of consultants and commissions of inquiry.

Finance MEC Jacques Modipane would also probe authorisation processes and payment procedures for remunerating future commissions and consultants.

This follows a probe into allegations that consultants to the provincial government, Eugene Nyata and Ntsoaki Mohapi, received excessive payment for their work. Phosa said Mpumalanga's future decisions needed to follow clearly defined policy guidelines.

RARE EARTH EXTRACTION CO. (P) LTD

Locomotive 'could not fall under own steam'

(212) BDS/19/95

Renee Grawitzky

THE locomotive which fell down Vaal Reefs' No 2 shaft on May 10 could not have done so under its own power, as it was probable that its shunt had burnt out before the accident occurred.

This position was presented at a joint inquest and inquiry yesterday by Rand Afrikaans University's Mike Case, who conducted tests at the weekend on a locomotive to establish its performance in a situation where various safety devices were inoperative.

He said an important aspect of the tests was determining "the conditions under which the current shunt would fuse whilst installed in the loco".

Case said he was "morally certain" the shunt had fused before the accident. He said the shunt would not fuse if the wheels of the locomotive were rotating but would do so if the wheels were locked. The wheels would be

locked either by applying the brakes to the fullest extent or by locking them in any other mechanical way.

Case said he felt that the locomotive could not have moved under its own power. Judge Ramon Leon asked if it could have been pushed.

Case said it could have been pushed or otherwise moved.

The view presented by Case contrasted sharply with locomotive driver Tsepang Mpota's statement. He said "As soon as I plugged the plug in, the loco shot off in the direction of the shaft. I immediately tried to put the loco in reverse to get it to go backwards but it carried on going forward. I then tried to tighten the brakes but nothing happened."

Alec Freund, representing the driver, asked Case what his objective was in the recent tests. Case said he had had questions about the conditions necessary for a shunt to fuse.

Vaal Reefs checklist 'was ignored'

Renee Grawitzky

THE driver of the locomotive which plunged down Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft on May 10 killing 104 mineworkers yesterday told the joint inquest-inquiry into the disaster that his supervisor had ignored a checklist indicating a device which prevented it from moving was missing.

Tsepang Mpotha said that on three separate occasions he had presented the checklist to his supervisor indicating the skid-spragg, normally attached to the locomotive to prevent it from sliding forward or backward, was missing. He said the supervisor had refused to sign it.

Evidence was also presented by Mpotha that the day before the ac-

BD 20/9/95 (212)
cident, on May 9, he had difficulties with the locomotive which he allegedly reported to his shift boss.

Alec Freund, representing Mpotha, said evidence during the inquiry had implied that black and white workers did not go underground in the lift together. Mpotha said black workers went down separately and white supervisors came underground 30 minutes after the black workers.

Mpotha said on the night of the accident he had gone down in the first lift.

Freund referred to the shift boss's statement which indicated that no-one had reported to him that locomotive 54B "was not in a good condition".

Mpotha said this was incorrect.

Killer locomotive

(212)

faulty, says driver

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

The underground locomotive which went through several safety devices and plunged on top of a cage killing 104 mineworkers at the Vaal Reefs Mine on May 10, was faulty on the night before the accident, it was claimed yesterday.

The claim was made by the locomotive driver and sole survivor of the accident, Tsepang Mpota, who said he had found on the night of May 9 that the locomotive would move forward only a short distance before stopping.

Speaking at the Vaal Reefs Commission of Inquiry into the disaster, in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, Mpota yesterday began giving evidence at the joint inquest-inquiry about what happened that night in the mine's Number 2 Shaft.

Mpota said when he found there was a fault with the locomotive he reported the matter to the "engineering person" on duty.

The particular individual had said someone would come to check on the fault.

Mpota said he had also reported the fault to James Lang, the shift boss on duty on the night of the accident.



Tsepang Mpota ... at the commission of inquiry yesterday.

PICTURE: JODI BIBER

It was put to Mpota that Lang had earlier testified that no one had reported the fault to him.

"He is lying," Mpota said.

Mpota testified he had, in the two months he had been working in the mine's Level 56, where the accident occurred, pointed out to Lang that the skits sprag - a device used to stop the parked locomotive from moving - was missing.

The first time he had report-

ed the matter, he had been told to continue with his job.

"He (Lang) told me that that won't stop me from doing my job," Mpota said.

He said because Lang had refused to sign the checklist in which he indicated the skits sprag problem, the checklist had not been submitted to the mine captain for more than two months.

He said that the locomotive's lights, hooter and controller had not been in good condition at times.

He said that in the period before the accident, the locomotive's lights were not bright, they were very dim.

On May 9, he found that the battery of the locomotive had been changed, he said in response to a question.

"The locomotive had a blue battery and the charge-boy (battery assistant) was there," he said, adding he knew the battery had been changed.

Vaal Reefs Mine health and safety co-ordinator Robert Proudfoot testified earlier in the inquest that Mpota had worked at the mine since 1987 and been a locomotive driver for three years.

The inquest inquiry may recommend prosecution of those found guilty.

Star 20/9/95

Mine deaths: Court told of faults

(212) CT 20/9/95

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: The underground locomotive, which went through several safety devices and plunged on top of a man cage killing 104 mineworkers at the Vaal Reefs mine on May 10, was faulty on the night before the accident

Speaking at the Vaal Reefs Commission of Inquiry into the disaster in Braamfontein, the locomotive driver and sole survivor of the horrific accident, Mr Tsepang Mpota, said he had found on May 9 that the locomotive would move forward only a short distance before stopping

Mr Mpota said he reported the matter to the "engineering person" on duty, who said someone would come to check on the fault. Mr Mpota said he had also reported the fault to Mr James Lang, the shift boss on duty on the night of the accident.

Counsel for the National Union of Mineworkers Mr Karel Tip put it to Mr Mpota that Mr Lang had earlier testified that no one had reported the fault to him.

"He is lying," Mr Mpota said in Sotho. He said he had pointed out to Mr Lang that a device used to stop the parked locomotive from moving was missing. Lawyers will continue cross-examination today.

Warning before tragedy 'ignored'

Sawetan
20/9/95

(212)

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

Driver of mine disaster locomotive says supervisors were negligent

THE DRIVER of the locomotive that killed 104 miners at Vaal Reefs Mine near Orkney in the Free State three months ago reported defects to the locomotive on three occasions before the accident, but the warnings were ignored by the mine shift supervisor

Mr Tsepang Mpota was testifying before the Leon Commission of Inquiry into the accident

Mpota said he had also told his shift supervisor, Mr James Lang, the night before the accident that the locomotive's brakes, control mechanism, hooter and lights were not working

He told the inquiry that on one occasion he was told that if the loco-

motive could move he should go back to work

Lang allegedly ordered him to go back to work when he reported the faults on the night of May 9, before the accident

Falling locomotive

The 104 miners were killed on May 10 when a lift cage in which they were travelling was hit by a falling locomotive, sending it plummeting to the bottom of the shaft

Mpota said he had not submitted his checklist of defects to the mine supervisor for two months, but nobody had asked him for it

This is a strong requirement in terms of the mine's safety regulations

The inquiry heard that black and white workers travelled in separate lift cages. The one that was crushed by the locomotive carried only black workers

In an affidavit, Lang, who was the shift supervisor at the time of the accident, claimed that nobody had reported a defective locomotive to him on May 9. Mpota maintained that he did

Earlier, Vaal Reefs health and safety coordinator Mr Robert Proudfoot told the inquiry that mine regulations required that the driver of the locomotive should not operate it without an assistant

State doubts locomotive was properly checked

(212)
Ingrid Salgado

S/D
21/9/95

THE driver of the locomotive that plunged down Vaal Reefs' No 2 shaft on May 10, said yesterday that he had performed at least 13 checks on the locomotive immediately prior to the accident.

Tsepang Mpotha told the joint inquest-inquiry into the disaster in which 104 miners were killed, that he had removed a chain attaching locomotive 54B to another locomotive, 26B. He had started checking 54B by fastening its brakes.

However, Riegal du Toit, representing the state, told Mpotha it was "impossible" that he checked 54B to the extent he described.

Evidence submitted showed that the cage in which Mpotha travelled underground had landed at 56 level at 20h13 while the emergency bell, which Mpotha rang, was activated at 20h16.

Judge Ramon Leon said it would have taken Mpotha at least 10 minutes to walk from the cage to the station area where 54B was parked.

Mpotha said the locomotive had jumped away after he inserted its Anderson plug. He got a fright, attempted to reverse 54B and tried to tighten the handbrake. However, the locomotive continued moving towards the shaft. It took a long time for 54B's brakes to work after they were applied. The locomotive had been that way since he started driving it three weeks prior to the accident. He had reported this to his shift boss, James Lang.

Vaal Reefs

driver talks

(2/2) Sowetan 21/9/95

'The locomotive that crushed on the carriage carrying miners moved by itself'

Sowetan Correspondent

THE DRIVER of the underground locomotive that crushed 104 miners to death in Vaal Reefs Mine's number 2 shaft on May 10 said yesterday the handbrake and a lever that was supposed to stop the locomotive failed to operate on the night of the accident

Mr Tsepang Mpota (30) yesterday described to the inquest-inquiry into the disaster the last moments before the accident, saying the locomotive started moving off at great speed of its own accord before it was started properly

Mpota said when he arrived on Level 56 on the evening of May 10 he had found that his locomotive, another locomotive and a seven-metre long carriage used to transport workers underground were inside the shaft station, where they were not supposed to be

After checking that his locomotive was fine he boarded it and tried to plug in the battery cable onto the locomotive

"When I put in the plug the locomotive suddenly moved off at great speed I did not expect it to move towards the shaft," he said

He described how it knocked the main

carriage, which was standing on the same rail track in front of it, three times

"I did not expect such a thing to happen and I was very frightened I tried to use the brakes and then the lever on the control panel to make it move backwards, but it kept on moving I tried the handbrake again, but it did not move," he said in answer to questions by his counsel, Advocate Alec Freund

He said the locomotive jumped over a tank trap - a safety device on the rail tracks - and he decided to jump off

"When the lever and the handbrake did not work I put my hands on my head and said 'Oh, God!' and jumped off I hit my head against the station platform as I jumped off After jumping off I moved towards the Marian cross-cut

"I thought it would be better to ring the alarm I found a stick near the alarm and broke the glass covering it, and hit it

"Just before hitting the alarm I saw that my locomotive was falling into the shaft To be truthful, I did not hear the alarm bell ringing after hitting it," he said, in response to a question by State counsel Mr Riegal du Toit

"There was a big noise when the locomotive went down the shaft I thought it was the sound of bursting pipes," Mpota said

'It moved off at great speed'

Mine loco driver tells his story

Star 21/9/95

(212)

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

The driver of the underground locomotive that crushed 104 miners to death in Vaal Reefs' No 2 shaft on May 10, described yesterday the chain of events that led to the disaster

Tsepang Mpota (30) said the handbrake and a lever which were supposed to stop the locomotive failed to operate on the night of the accident

He said that when he arrived on Level 56 on the evening of May 10 he found that his locomotive, another locomotive and a 7m-long carriage were inside the shaft station, where they were not supposed to be

After checking that his locomotive was fine he boarded it and tried to plug in the battery cable

"When I put in the plug the locomotive suddenly moved off at great speed. I did not expect it to move towards the shaft," he said

"I was very frightened I tried to use the brakes and then the lever on the control panel to make it move backwards, but it

'OH ALMIGHTY, I said, and jumped off as the locomotive moved forward. I was very frightened'

kept on moving," he said in answer to questions by his counsel, advocate Alec Freund

He said the locomotive jumped over a tank trap - a safety device on the rail tracks

"When the lever and the handbrake did not work I put my hands on my head and said 'Oh, Almighty!' and jumped off

"I thought it would be better to ring the alarm I found a stick near the alarm and broke the glass covering it, and hit it

"Just before hitting the alarm I saw that (my locomotive) was falling into the shaft

"To be truthful, I did not hear the alarm bell ringing after hitting it," he said, in response to a question by state counsel Riegal du Toit

"There was a big noise when the locomotive went down the shaft I thought it was the sound of bursting pipes

"There was no one in the vicinity

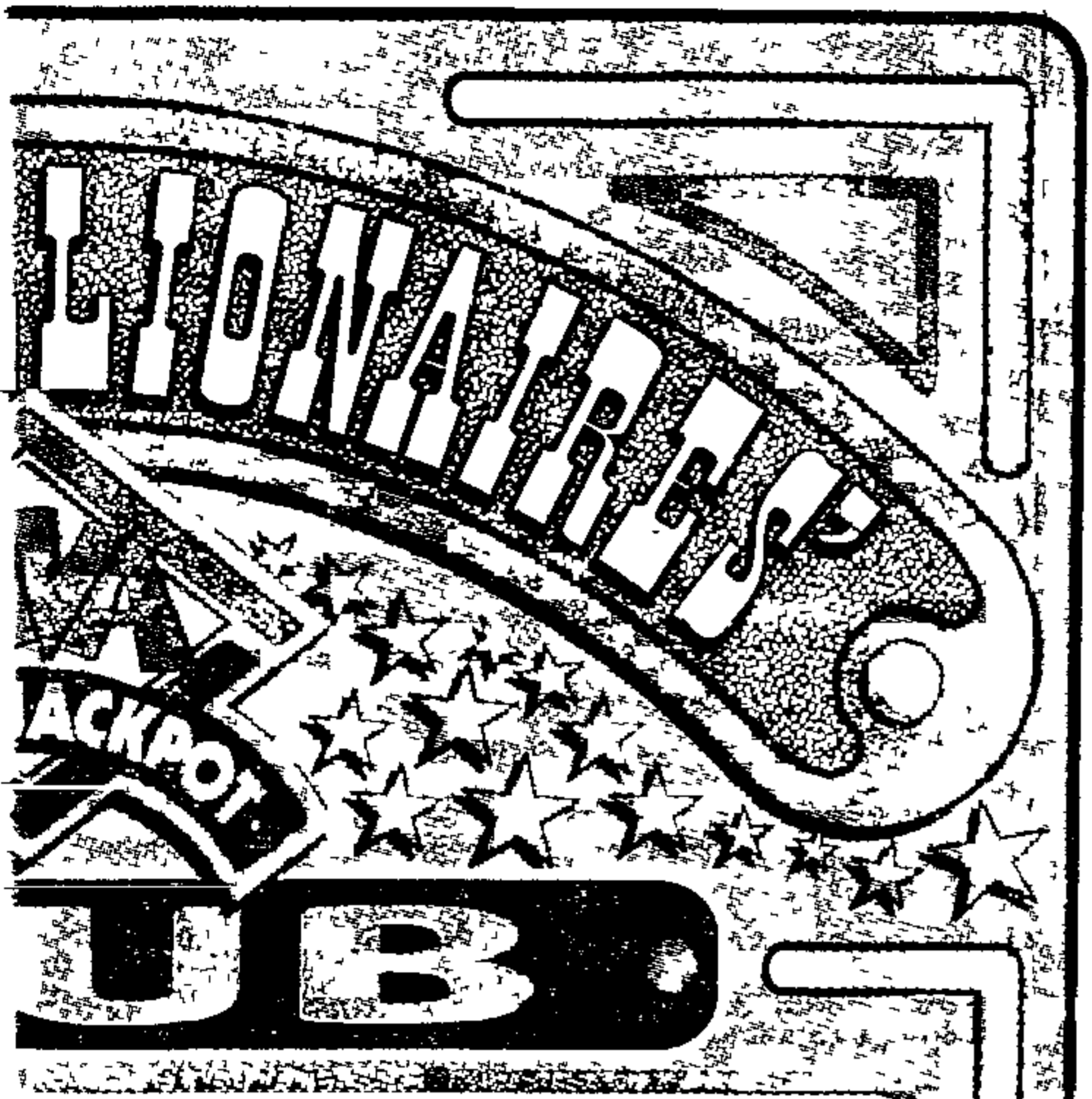
"The first time I noticed a person was when I saw someone looking in the direction of the shaft I saw that it was (locomotive driver and guard Alfonso) Motenekoane"

Mpota said that in the weeks before the accident his locomotive did not have the unique magnetic key that is used to operate the locomotives

In the three weeks that he had been driving the locomotive, he had found that its brakes were not working, and he had reported the matter to his superior

Mpota said he did not agree with some parts of two statements taken from him by a mine security officer and the police on the day after the accident and on May 17

He said that while giving the statements he "could not understand himself clearly"



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Miners' deaths: Brake failed, driver tells court

(212) CT 21/9/95

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: The driver of the underg and locomotive that crushed 104 miners to death in Vaal Reefs mine's No 2 shaft said the handbrake and a lever that was supposed to stop the locomotive failed to operate on the night of the accident

Mr Tsepang Mpota, 30, was testifying before the inquest into the disaster on May 10. The locomotive had moved off at great speed before it was started properly, he said. When he boarded the locomotive at the start of his shift he had plugged in the battery cable

"When I put in the plug the

locomotive suddenly moved off at great speed. I did not expect it to move towards the shaft," he said.

He described how it knocked a carriage, used to transport workers, that was standing on the same track in front of it, three times.

"I did not expect such a thing to happen and I was very frightened. I tried to use the brakes and then the lever on the control panel to make it move backwards, but it kept on moving. I tried the handbrake again, but it did not move."

When the locomotive jumped over a tank trap, a safety device on the rail tracks, he jumped off and ran to set off an alarm.

The hearing continues.

CAPE *news* PAPERS

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Locomotive driver 'governed by fear'

BD 22/9/95

(212)

Ingrid Salgado

THE driver of the locomotive that fell down Vaal Reefs No 2 shaft on May 10 said yesterday he had not unplugged a gadget on the runaway locomotive because he was "governed by fear"

Under cross-examination by advocate Chris Loxton, representing Vaal Reefs, Tsepang Mpotha said he had not thought about pulling out locomotive 54B's Anderson plug. He said the plug had been within easy reach

Mpotha was testifying at the inquest-inquiry into the disaster in which 104 miners were killed when the locomotive and a man carriage plunged down the shaft

Mpotha testified earlier that 54B had jumped in the direction of the shaft when he inserted the Anderson plug.

Mpotha said he was frightened and was not thinking in the same way that Loxton was putting the argument across. He instead tried to reverse the locomotive, but this did not work

He denied he failed to pull the plug because he was not in 54B or that he had inserted it while standing outside the locomotive.

Mpotha said that while checking 54B prior to the accident, he shook a gadget linked to the locomotive's brake shoes. It was stiff, which meant the brakes were fully on.

Mpotha said he jumped off the runaway locomotive near the shaft gate after 54B bumped the man carriage in front of it. He watched the locomotive plunge down the shaft.

Earlier yesterday, Mpotha alleged that his shift boss, James Lang, had assaulted him twice. One assault occurred after he asked Lang for a safety device, Mpotha said

However, G Ackerman, representing the Underground Officials' Association, said Lang would deny this when he testified. Business Day reported yesterday that Mr Justice Ramon Leon estimated it would have taken at least 10 minutes for Mpotha to walk from an underground cage to the station area where 54B was parked. The estimate in fact included the time taken for Mpotha to have checked his locomotive before inserting 54B's Anderson plug. Business Day regrets the omission.

Driver of locomotive blames faulty brakes

'All he had to do was pull a plug'

Star 22/9/95

(212)

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA

The driver of the locomotive that crushed 104 mineworkers to death at Vaal Reefs Mine on May 10 failed to pull out a plug which would have stopped the runaway locomotive because he was not inside it when it started moving, it was suggested yesterday.

In his cross-examination of locomotive driver Tsepang Mpota, counsel for mine-owners Anglo American Chris Loxton, SC, said it was the most natural thing that when Mpota saw that the plug activated the locomotive he should have pulled it out.

"It did not come to my mind to pull out the plug. I was frightened. It was not as simple as you put it," Mpota said.

He said he did not put in the plug while standing outside the locomotive as Loxton suggested. He said when he got on to the locomotive and put in the plug it had moved off at great speed of

its own accord.

Mpota was speaking at the joint inquest-inquiry into the disaster being held in Braamfontein, Johannesburg.

Loxton said Mpota's version of events on the night of the accident "is irreconcilable" with that of Alfonso Motenekoane, the sole witness to the accident. He suggested that if Mpota had jumped off the locomotive at the point he says - when he realised he could not stop it, he would have fallen "practically" at the feet of Motenekoane.

"The difficulty I have with (Mpota's) version is that Motenekoane saw the (locomotive and man carriage) go down (the shaft), then within 30 seconds he saw you come running," he said.

Loxton said there were some very puzzling aspects of Mpota's evidence and he did not know which aspects were the truth.

Counsel for the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Henrie de Vos, put it to Mpota that he

did not check the brakes of the locomotive on the night of the accident. Had he done so there would have been no accident.

Statements put to the inquiry by at least three witnesses, and the driver who had used the locomotive on the shift before Mpota, showed that the brakes were in good condition on May 10.

Mpota said the brakes were faulty and had been so since he had started using the locomotive three weeks before the accident.

Mpota said he had reported this on several occasions but his superior, James Lang, had pushed him away once and hit him on the knee on another occasion, saying he should go back to work. Lang's lawyer said Lang denied these allegations.

Presented with job request forms showing that requests had been made by Lang to have the plugs and the brakes of the locomotive fixed, Mpota said as far as he knew the locomotive's brakes were not working on May 10.

'I was assaulted twice by shift boss'

(212) Sowetan 22/9/95

A VAAL Reefs locomotive driver was assaulted twice by shift boss Mr James Lang, the Iron Commission of Inquiry heard yesterday.

Locomotive driver Mr Tsepang Mpotha said under cross-examination that he had lodged a complaint with the mine's industrial relations department two months ago but nothing had been done.

The first assault occurred when he asked for a skits sprag - a safety device

placed in front of a stationary locomotive. "There was a time when I sat on my locomotive and James sat on my lap and said "Work!" Mpotha said.

At some stage Mpotha had no spare parts for his locomotive and Lang would tell him to "move".

Said Mpotha "Everything was brought to his attention but he would not do anything".

But legal counsellor G Ackerman said Lang would deny the allegations.

when he testifies. He also submitted a statement by locomotive guard Mr Francisco Bela, in which he contradicted Mpotha's earlier evidence that Lang had failed to supply a skits sprag.

"We always had a skits sprag," Bela said in an affidavit made to chief regional mining engineer Mr WJ Koekemoer.

Bela further contradicted Mpotha's evidence that there was no skits sprag available at 56 level. He said he never

saw Lang pushing Mpotha

Asked why Bela would make such a statement about him, Mpotha said "The statement is surprising because I was the driver of the locomotive while Bela was a mere guard."

Mpotha said when he underwent training at the mine's training centre, trainers warned him and other miners of the problems they would encounter with supervisors after completion of the course. "They said we were going

to experience difficulties. After lodging complaints with supervisors they would not sign the check-list. They told us the responsibility was going to rest on our shoulders."

The hearing continues

● The Commission has been hearing evidence into the mine disaster on May 10, in which 104 people were killed when a locomotive plunged down a vertical shaft onto a man cage ferrying workers underground - Sapa

Miner breached safety regulations, inquiry told

Johannesburg mineworker Tsepang Mpotha breached mine safety regulations when he used a faulty locomotive on the night of May 10 when 104 of his colleagues perished, the Leon Commission of Inquiry heard yesterday

It has been probing the circumstances that led to his locomotive falling down a vertical shaft at Vaal Reefs gold mine at Orkney, on to a double-storey

lift, crushing 104 mineworkers being ferried underground

Under cross-examination by assessor A McKenzie, Mpotha confirmed he had received safety instructions not to use a faulty locomotive

In his previous evidence, Mpotha had testified that his locomotive was defective before the accident

Despite its state, he said he had used it because, whenever

(212)
he asked for parts, his shift boss, James Lang, would not give him any, adding that union representatives "did not have the power" to overrule a supervisor

Asked McKenzie "Mr Mpotha, were you ever at any time instructed not to use a locomotive if it is faulty?"

Mpotha: "Yes, I was"

The commission was adjourned to October 30 - Sapa

Star 23/9/95

(212)
5 miners die in gas blast

ARG 27/9/95
JOHANNESBURG. — Five miners died and seven were injured by a methane gas explosion at Elandsrand gold mine near Carletonville today.

An Anglo American spokesman said four of the injured men were receiving special treatment for burns — Reuter

Mine blast - 4 killed

Four miners were killed and eight others injured in an underground explosion at Elandsrand Gold Mine in Carletonville early today. James Duncan, a spokesman for mine managers Anglo American Corp of South Africa, has so far confirmed the four deaths and eight injuries, saying a full statement would be issued shortly -
Reuter

(212) SPAN 27/9/95

Probe into methane explosion at mine

(212)

■ BY MANDLA MTHEMBU

Star 28/9/95
An investigation into the methane gas explosion which claimed five lives and left seven people injured at the Elandsrand Gold Mine in Carltonville on Tuesday night has already begun.

Representatives from the Mineral and Energy Department, National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and mine management conducted a site inspection yesterday, but were unable to visit the entire area because methane gas levels were still too high.

Anglo American spokesman James Duncan said the area had been closed off to production.

The four critically injured workers were transferred to Johannesburg's Rand Mutual Hospital for specialised treatment in the burn unit. Another three are recovering at the Western Deep Levels (WDL) Hospital after suffering burns during the explosion at Level 88 (about 2 500m below the surface) on Tuesday.

Speaking from his WDL hospital bed, miner Mithetheleni Selani, who sustained facial and body burns, said there had been a "funny" smell as they boarded a lift to go underground.

He said several workers had complained about the smell to their supervisor who "told us to continue with our work".

"We had difficulty working with that smell, then there was a huge blast and the area plunged into darkness," he said.

NEWS (212) 9:10
ED 11/10/95

Dump truck kills four Kinross mine workers

FOUR mine workers were killed and four injured yesterday at the Kinross Gold Mine in Mpumalanga when a dump truck rode over its driver and ploughed into a group of workers.

Gengold's Andrew Davidson said the dump unit was being used 1 600m below the surface. The vehicle, the size of a large lorry, ran over the driver and killed him after he fell off, and it then continued another 60m into a small group of mine workers.

A full inquiry into the accident would be launched by mine management and the mineral and energy affairs department.

Locomotive 'smoked'

Ingrid Salgado (212) DD 31/10/95

THE locomotive which plunged down Vaal Reefs' No 2 shaft on May 10 had been smoking on the afternoon of the accident, the joint inquest-inquiry into the disaster that killed 104 miners heard yesterday.

The inquiry resumed after more than a month's adjournment, with ANC secretary-general and former NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa attending for the first time yesterday. His former assistant, Marcel Golding, was also present.

Acting crew supervisor Fernando Mucovele testified that employees of independent contractor Concor — using locomotive 54B on May 10 — told him smoke was coming out of the locomotive's control unit. They also said they would fetch another locomotive, 26B, because of 54B's condition. He did not know the contractors, and had not seen the smoke.

The inquiry heard that locomotive driver Victor Cako had failed to place a skid bar under the wheels of 54B when he attempted to move it that afternoon. The safety device was to act as a brake when the locomotive was switched off.

Cako said the locomotive had been moving fast. He unplugged its Anderson Plug when it came to a stop, and there was a spark. He had not reported this to his supervisors because he was not 54B's driver and it was therefore not his job to do so.

Engineer 'advised' of death train defect

(212)
Renee Grawitzky

SD 9/11/95

ON the night a locomotive fell down Vaal Reefs Mine's No 2 shaft, the general engineering supervisor had been advised that it was not in good condition, but failed to mention this in his statement or notify the mining inspectorate, a joint inquest-inquiry heard yesterday.

The joint inquest-inquiry is investigating the disaster in which 104 people were killed when a locomotive fell down a shaft and landed on a man cage on May 10.

Questioned by Karl Tip for the National Union of Mineworkers, supervisor Henry Peens said he had been advised that night by Frank Khoza, the electrician responsible for fixing the locomotive on the day of the accident.

Khoza told him that certain components of locomotive 54B had been bridged out and that the locomotive was not in a good condition. During earlier evidence Khoza claimed he was not qualified to fix the locomotive.

Peens said he approached Khoza two days after the accident to clarify what he had told him on the night of the accident. After Khoza had repeated his earlier comments, Peens said: "Do you realise you are responsible for the deaths of 104 people?"

Peens said he had been in a state of shock when he said this, and he had apologised to Khoza.

He had, Peens said, only advised his immediate supervisor that Khoza had informed him of the state of the locomotive. Peens said he had made no reference to this information beforehand because he had mentioned it to his boss.

During earlier proceedings, Tip listed a number of accidents where locomotives had fallen down Vaal Reefs mine shafts.

Tip referred Peens to an accident which occurred in July 1992 at No 2 shaft when four material cars, pushed by a locomotive, fell down the shaft.

Peens had been involved in the investigation of this accident and made a number of recommendations including getting an additional "tank pit or booms installed on all stations".

Asked if his recommendations had been implemented, Peens said certain short-term recommendations had been implemented immediately but he could not testify on long-term recommendations.

'Inspectors weren't told of loco's safety defect'

Star 9/11/95

(212)

Engineering manager tells inquest/inquiry that little was done to correct shortfalls in mechanisms at Vaal

Reefs shaft after a similar accident three years ago

BY ADAM COOKE

Two senior management officials were told of a faulty safety mechanism on the locomotive that killed 104 miners at Vaal Reefs gold mine earlier this year, but they did not later pass this on to government inspectors, an inquest was told yesterday.

Testifying at the inquest/inquiry into the disaster, No 2 shaft general engineering manager Henry James Peens said that little had been done to rectify shortfalls in safety mechanisms at the shaft after a similar accident in July 1992.

The inquest/inquiry is hearing evidence on the May 10 disaster at Orkney in North West which saw

the miners fall to their deaths when a locomotive went out of control and plunged down No 2 shaft.

Peens said he had told section engineer Carel Norval during a midnight meeting a few hours after this year's disaster that makeshift repairs which were not foolproof had been made to the safety system on the locomotive. He said he had expressed his concern during the meeting that the makeshift repairs could have been the cause of the accident.

But Peens admitted under cross-examination that he had not disclosed this information during his statement after the disaster.

He said he had been told after the disaster by electrician Frank Khoza that "the locomotive was not

in good condition. There are components that are bridged out."

Peens made a number of recommendations in his accident report after the first accident in 1992, one of which stated that a "second additional tankpit or booms" should be installed on all stations. These had still not been implemented by the time of the accident this year.

However, a stopblock, used to prevent the rolling stock from being pushed down the shaft, had been installed. But the mechanism could restrain only a locomotive pushed by hand.

The locomotive at the time of the accident was power driven, thus proving that the mine could not claim ignorance in the affair, he said.

Safety our priority, probe told

(212)

By ADAM COOKE

Star 10/11/95

Mine management at Vaal Reefs mine near Orkney was questioned yesterday, during the inquest/inquiry into the disaster there earlier this year, on whether it was driven by profit or by safety concerns.

And a vital document – a checklist specifying the condition of the locomotive that plunged down No 2 shaft on May 10, landed on a man cage and killed all 104 of its occupants – has not been traced.

Marthinus van Rensburg, shaft engineer at No 2 shaft, was yesterday asked by state counsel R du Toit why more of the mine's substantial budget was not allocated to safety.

Van Rensburg said safety was the mine's priority and production was secondary. However, because he was the only engineer at the shaft, he had to rely on his colleagues to ensure certain recommendations and safety procedures were implemented.

After a similar accident when a locomotive fell down a shaft in 1992, certain safety measures were improved upon, including the installation of a stopblock – a mechanism used to prevent rolling stock from being pushed down the shaft.

But Van Rensburg admitted that the precaution had not been through "dynamic tests" to see if it could halt a power-driven locomotive. The locomotive, 54B, had been power-driven on the night of May 10.

Van Rensburg also said he did not know of any safety drill at any mine that was foolproof.

Earlier in the day, the probe heard from advocate Chris Loxton, for Vaal Reefs, that a vital checklist could not be traced. It is meant to carry observations made by the driver of 54B on the locomotive's condition. The driver, Tsepang Mpotha, testified earlier that 54B was faulty.

■ Mr Justice Ramon Leon warned the media to report accurately on the proceedings, after a number of queries were raised.

Rockfall kills 2 miners

Two miners died and three were injured yesterday in a rockfall at Western Deep Levels' South Mine near Carletonville in western Gauteng. Mine owners Anglo American said in a statement the rockfall followed a seismic event at 10.20am which measured 0,9 on the Richter scale.

The injured were in a satisfactory condition in hospital. The names of the deceased would be withheld until their next of kin had been informed, the statement said - Sapa.

(212) Star 23/11/95

Arsenic powder at New Consort mine 'lethal'

BARBERTON — Tons of lethal arsenic powder was being stored in ruptured low-grade bags at a gold mine near Barberton, Mpumalanga, National Union of Mine-workers lawyer Richard Spoor said yesterday

Investigators from the department of health confirmed the fine, wind-blown arsenic dust had contaminated grounds within a 3km radius of Anglovaal's New Consort gold mine, African Eye News Service reported

Spoor said residents in the area complained regularly about skin rashes and ran a great risk of suf-

fering respiratory tract cancer
The arsenic acid was being stored in low-grade packaging not meant for the lethal poison but merely for its transportation

Strict regulations in the US prescribed arsenic had to be perfectly sealed in high-grade packaging and then put in secondary containers for transport "But at New Consort mine the bags have ruptured and the arsenic is exposed to rain, wind and sun and is being blown everywhere"

Spoor said mine management had admitted it did not know how to dispose of the arsenic

(212) BD 5/12/95
"The masks that the workers have to wear are not at all suitable to filter out the dust"

The mine is being investigated by mining, government and union officials after high concentrations of arsenic trioxide were found in the community's drinking water on October 26

Anglovaal declined to comment on the issue until investigations were completed

Investigations by the departments of environment, health, mineral and energy affairs, and water were expected to be completed by mid-December — Sapa

Arsenic in water 'claims first victim'

(212) MAG 15-21/12/95
~~381~~

Sharon Hammond
and Hazel Friedman

FOUR years after a high concentration of arsenic was first found in drinking water at Anglovaal's New Consort gold mine in Barberton, Mpumalanga, the poison is alleged to have claimed its first victim.

An investigation into the mine started recently after 2 000 residents were poisoned by drinking water in October. *The Weekly Mail* first exposed poisoning in 1991.

Amos Manzini, a 38-year-old underground mine supervisor, died after complaining of severe stomach pains last Tuesday. And Richard Spoor, legal representative for the National Union of Mineworkers, said two children also possibly died as a result of the poisoning, but that this has not yet been confirmed.

Once absorbed by the body, Spoor said, arsenic was retained and built up until it reached a lethal dosage.

A district surgeon has performed a post-mortem on Manzini, but the result will only be known in a few weeks. Anglovaal representative Julian Gwillim said the mine had no medical records of Manzini complaining about stomach aches or headaches and that he could have died of natural causes. He would not comment on government and mine investigations into the poisonings until they were complete.

Spoor said most of the mining residents complained of numb fingertips and toes, stomach pains, headaches, muscle weakness, diarrhoea and skin rashes, and that there were increased chances of respiratory and other forms of cancer.

At the end of October, the drought forced residents to get their drinking water from boreholes, but arsenic levels as high as 0,7mg per litre were found by mine officials. The legal limit in South is 0,3mg per litre, while in the United States it is 0,1mg.

"The river feeding the mine is flowing again since the rains, and arsenic measurements in the water supply are now 0,2mg," said Spoor.

But he warns the poisoned water supply is not as much of a problem as are the several hundred tons of raw arsenic powder being stored out in the open at the mine in ruptured, low-grade packaging. Arsenic is a by-product of gold mining in the region.

The disposal of arsenic dust was, until the late 1970s, considered so dangerous that prison labourers from Barberton were forced to do the job.

Investigations by the Mpumalanga departments of health, mineral and energy affairs, and water affairs are expected to be completed in mid-December.

● Meanwhile, workers at a Boksburg subsidiary of industrial giant Barlow Rand say they are being harassed by management after the *Mail & Guardian* last week exposed a serious health hazard at the factory.

The *M&G* published details of a confidential occupational health survey which warned management at the Boksburg factory of Barlows Cat of the dangers to workers from poisonous particles emitted during welding operations. The report, completed in May, recommended extensive protective measures. But worker sources claimed management had ignored the report because safety measures were too costly.

This week 23 workers were ordered to appear before a company disciplinary inquiry. Many are welders who had displayed skin rashes to the *M&G*, complaining of pain, lethargy and a foul nasal discharge.

Disaster widows hit by mine pension rip-off

(212)

ST 17/12/95

By PETER De IONNO

THE Vaal Reefs disaster, the most gruesome mining accident in South African history, has led to the exposure of a 20-year scam which has robbed miners and their families of millions of rands.

Investigators believe corrupt Mozambican government officials have stolen benefits due to workers crippled or killed on South African mines.

The National Union of Mineworkers and the Chamber of Mines will now urge the government to cancel a 1964 agreement with the then-Portuguese colonial government which stipulates that all compensation and death or disability pensions due to Mozambican migrant mine workers be paid through that country's department of labour.

The scam was cracked when the plight of eight Mozambican families of Vaal Reefs victims was investigated.

Their breadwinners were among 104 men who were crushed when their lift cage plunged half a kilometre underground in May.

Seven months later, the widows have not seen a cent of the insurance payouts of around R60 000 each, or life pensions of about R1 000 a month, paid to the families of the other 96 victims in July.

A team from Rand Mutual Assurance, the NUM, mine labour organisation Teba and Ernst and Young auditors investigating their case discovered massive irregularities in the payment of death and disability pensions to about 1 000 families in Mozambique.

South African mining authorities are outraged by the rip-off, believed to have been going on for at least 20 years. Tens of millions of rands are believed to have been diverted into the coffers of the cash-strapped Mozambican government and the pockets of corrupt officials.

NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe said it could be assumed that no one was being paid what they were due. "The Mozambican government sees this as a cash cow and its bureaucrats are playing God with the lives of their people," he said.

Rand Mutual Assurance was paying R700 000 a month through the Johannesburg office of the Mozambican department of labour.

"We estimate that only about 10 percent of that is being paid out," said Mr Motlanthe.

The investigators' interviews produced heart-rending accounts of official indifference and exploitation of desperately impoverished people.

"I have never complained because when you try to ask a question they are very rude, so you just thank them for what you get because it is better than nothing," said one pensioner.

George Panas, RMA manager of client services, described the system in Mozambique as "scandalous".

"Theft and corruption are the order of the day. Pensioners, many of whom are illiterate, are at the mercy of unscrupulous, unsympathetic officials. Pensioners are lied to consistently. They are treated with indescribable contempt."

Vasco Chacha, left a paraplegic in a rockfall at Welkom's President Steyn mine, tells of erratic payments of his R900-a-month pension. He did not know how much he was entitled to. He says his first payment was equivalent to R1. After three months he received another R6,50.

Pensioners told of officials saying their pensions had been stopped.

The pension scandal has erupted as the Mozambican government reels from the blow of an estimated two-thirds of its migrant miners being granted permanent residence status by South Africa in the run-up to the local elections. Many are expected to move to South Africa with their families.

To Page 1

From Page 1

Along with Lesotho, Mozambique faces the loss of a crucial input of hard currency from the "deferred pay" system. Mozambicans working on South African mines have 60 percent of their wages paid to their government for collection when they return home at the end of the year. They receive no interest. More than R174-million in deferred pay was transferred to Mozambique this year. Anglo American chief executive Bobby Godsell, who is also the Chamber of Mines labour

portfolio holder, said they would push the government to cancel the "colonial" agreement governing death and disability compensation. Mr Godsell, NUM president James Motlatse and executives from RMA and Teba received a hostile reception from the Mozambican government in Maputo last month when they proposed that the pension payments be handed over to Teba, which administers these payments for workers from Botswana, Lesotho and Malawi. When they met Labour Minister Guilherme Mavilla and Pedro Taimo, the Mozambique

labour representative in South Africa, the delay in paying the Vaal Reefs widows was blamed on postal strikes in Johannesburg. Mozambican officials, who claimed pensions had not been paid because people could not be located reportedly became angry when Teba officials showed that 20 pensioners chosen at random had been found and interviewed. This week Mr Taimo was recalled to Maputo to assist a joint Mozambican-Teba investigation into the scandal. "There is no problem... I can prove that all the money has been transferred to Mozambique," he said.

Government angry over big mine scam

(212) Sowetan 18/12/95

By Khangale Makhado

A GOVERNMENT delegation is soon to meet Mozambican representatives following reports at the weekend alleging that families of mine disaster victims had been fleeced or swindled of millions of rands

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr Pik Botha said in a statement yesterday that the Government viewed the media reports in "a serious light"

He said if they were correct, the Government would have to urgently take the matter up with Mozambique

It was reported in a Sunday newspaper yesterday that there was a scam which robbed families of victims who had worked on South African mines. This follows an agreement in 1964 between the then Portuguese government and South Africa

The scam was cracked after the Mozambican

families of eight victims of the Vaal Reefs mine disaster in which 104 miners died failed to receive their compensation of about R60 000 each

The agreement stipulated that all compensation and death or disability pensions due to migrant mine workers had to be paid through the country's labour department

Botha said that while he believed the original agreement was based on the sound and well-intended principle of ensuring that families and dependents received the benefits, he was concerned that they were instead cheated of such benefits

"We must ensure that the families do in practice receive the benefits due to them, so that wives can sustain themselves and that children can be properly cared for," Botha said

He said he would request Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Alfred Nzo to take up the matter with the Mozambican government

Probe into miners' pay scam

(212) Star 18/12/95
BY JUSTICE MALALA
Labour Reporter

High-level talks between South Africa and Mozambique will begin next month to try to end a suspected 21-year scam that may have robbed thousands of Mozambican miners of millions of rands

The Chamber of Mines and the National Union of Mineworkers have expressed their outrage over the suspected scam.

NUM secretary-general Kgalema Motlanthe said yesterday the agreement whereby benefits were paid to Mozambican miners via that country's officials should be scrapped or reviewed

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said he would be approaching Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo urgently to take up the matter with the Mozambican government

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Pay scam probe

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Star 18/12/95
The alleged scam, in which corrupt Mozambican government officials could have stolen benefits meant for workers crippled in South African mines or for the families of those killed, was discovered when officials of the Vaal Reefs disaster fund visited eight Mozambican families whose relatives were killed in the recent mine disaster

The families had still not received benefits due to them.

"Some workers who were meant to receive up to R1 000 a month were paid the equivalent of R1. There are such pathetic cases. It is unbelievable," Botha said

Government acts on mine scam

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Sawetan
19/12/98

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

MINISTER OF MINERAL and Energy Affairs Mr Pik Botha yesterday called for all transfers of insurance and pension money to Mozambique to be temporarily stopped while South Africa and that country discuss the current indemnities scam under which miners have allegedly been robbed by their government for 21 years

Botha's call comes after media reports that Mozambican government officials pocketed millions of rands in insurance and pension payouts owed to that country's migrant workers

The two governments are to meet at an unspecified date next month to try to resolve the matter

Botha said South Africa might have to review or cancel the 1964 agreement between the two countries under which pension, insurance and other benefits were paid to Mozambique's department of labour, which in turn paid families of the victims of mine accidents

"This law was intended to protect families of mineworkers from that

SA and Mozambican officials meet next month to discuss the scam

country It was aimed at ensuring that their families received indemnities. It is ironic that the opposite is happening," said Botha

The scam was discovered after insurance investigators recently found that families of eight victims of the May 10 Vaal Reefs Mine disaster near Orkney, Free State, received no payments

At least 104 mineworkers were killed when a runaway locomotive fell on to a lift cage carrying workers, sending it plummeting to the bottom of the 2 103 metre deep shaft

Most of the victims were from Lesotho, while others came from Mozambique, Swaziland and the Eastern Cape

A mass funeral, attended by high-ranking politicians, union officials and the clergy, was held in Orkney where the mangled bodies were buried

A total of R10 million was pledged

by both the mine management and Government to help alleviate the plight of the families left behind

Mine officials discovered that families of eight of the victims from Mozambique had not received a single payment since May this year, while another family had been paid the equivalent of R1

Insurance investigators also found that 1 000 other families had been robbed by the Mozambican government for 21 years

This comes after scores of Mozambicans, who have been in this country for years, could qualify for permanent residence in what was seen as a victory for the National Union of Mineworkers. NUM has continually fought for black migrant workers to be given the same rights as their white counterparts who received full citizenship after five years as stipulated by the Aliens Control Act

Mineworker dies as piece of metal pierces carriage

By TAMSEN DE BEER

A mineworker died and another was injured at JCI's Randfontein Estate gold mine when a piece of metal struck a man-carriage carrying 75 workers

Yesterday's incident comes only a week after the mine achieved 2 million consecutive fatality-free shifts

Chief executive for JCI gold division John Brownrigg said a thin steel plate was dislodged and fell down the shaft after being struck by a rockwinder at 2 45pm yesterday

He said a three-deck man-carriage lifting about 75 workers out of the mine at the end of their shift had been damaged by the plate which knocked a hole in the up-

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permost deck

One man was killed and another admitted to the mine's medical centre with broken legs

Brownrigg said the Inspector of Mines and National Union of Mineworkers representatives visited the scene yesterday

He said the last accident at the mine occurred in April, when one man died

Star 22/12/95

Miner's death breaks long safety record

(212) Star 23/12/95

A mineworker died and another was injured in an accident at a Johannesburg Consolidated Investment gold mine on Thursday, the company said yesterday.

A spokesman said the accident at Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company Witwatersrand Ltd was serious in light of the 2 million accident-free shifts at the mine.

There had been no upset in production, the spokesman said.

National Union of Mineworkers health and safety coordinator Fleur Plimmer said in a statement "People need to be safety aware at all times."

"This accident highlights the need for the industry to embark on a risk management programme as soon as possible and to start implementing the proposed Health and Safety Bill now" - Reuters

Search for miners continues

(212) Star 29/12/95

BY MATTHEW BUCKLAND

The search continued today for two missing miners after a rockburst 3,4 km below the surface at Western Deep Levels' East Mine yesterday

The rockburst killed one miner and injured five others. Two of the injured miners have been admitted to the Western Deep Levels Hospital with "slight injuries". An Anglo American Gold and Uranium Division spokesman

said the blast measured a "fairly big" 3,5 on the Richter scale

"Rockblasts are fairly frequent in deep level mining, but not in every case are miners injured. Rockblasts are a factor of deep level mining, we try to monitor active areas, but don't know where the next one is going to strike. They are part of everyday life on the goldmines," she said

The name of the dead miner is being withheld until the next of kin have been contacted.