

# NUM President calls for abolition of slavery on SA mines



NUM President Comrade James Motlatsi calls for abolition of slavery on South African mines

industry in South Africa. It has provided the mine owners with favourable taxation terms and subsidies when it has been necessary to keep mines in production. It constructed a legal system of passes and influx controls so that mine owners could maintain a constant flow of migrants between the mines and the reserves and thus keep black labour cheap and unskilled. Until 1979 government assisted employers to resist the growth of black trade unions and put police and troops at the disposal of mine owners so that

they could crush any signs of dissent.

Mine owners, then, have good cause to be grateful to government intervention. For that reason they cannot reasonably object in principle to our demand that new democratic government of South Africa should also intervene but this time to ensure that mineworkers are rewarded fairly and treated humanely and that the industry should serve the whole community, black and white, and not just one tiny white segment of it. ■

## MINEWORKERS AND COURTS IN 1994

Every year NUM spends thousands of rands in legal battles to save its members from mine repression. Hereunder is a list of pending cases.

### JANUARY 1994

<i>A. Khoza vs Witbank Colliery</i>	WITBANK	31 - 1 Feb
<i>NUM vs Deelkraal/ Mbewu</i>	CARLETONVILLE	17, 18, 19 Jan
<i>E.M Shongwe vs Deelkraal</i>	CARLETONVILLE	31 - 1 Feb
<i>Mkhize &amp; 5 others vs Rand mines</i>	WITS	24, 25, 26
<i>NUM vs Durnacol</i>	DURBAN	17, 18

### FEBRUARY 1994

<i>M. Malatji vs SACE</i>	WITBANK	14 - 15
<i>E. Kolobe vs SACE</i>	WITBANK	24 - 25
<i>P. Mkhwanazi</i>	WITBANK	10 - 11

### MARCH 1994

<i>P. Dibuseng vs Greenside</i>	WITBANK	14 - 15
<i>E. Phetise vs AMCOAL</i>		14 - 15
<i>I. Nkuna vs East D/fontein obo D/fontein Consolidated</i>		28 - 29

### APRIL 1994

<i>Mngxuma &amp; 27 others</i>	WESTONARIA	14 - 15
<i>F. Mokotho vs Greenside</i>	WITBANK	21 - 22
<i>F. Sikota &amp; 4 others vs Winkel</i>	SECUNDA	25, 26, 28, 29

### MAY 1994

<i>S. Mkhabela vs Bank Colliery</i>	WITBANK	2 - 3
<i>J. Mokgolane vs Kinross</i>	SECUNDA	2 - 3

### JUNE 1994

<i>I. Mkhabela vs Goldfields Security</i>	WITS	9 - 10
<i>P. Sgudla vs Eikeboom Colliery</i>	WITBANK	9 - 10
<i>M. Lekgetho vs Kinross</i>	SECUNDA	29 - 30
<i>J. Nkisi vs Kinross Mines</i>	SECUNDA	23 - 24

### AUGUST 1994

<i>Nkomiyaafa &amp; 2 others vs W/Deep</i>	CARLETONVILLE	8, 9, 10
<i>Oubas Leibrandt vs A.A. Research</i>	WITS	1, 2, 3

### SEPTEMBER 1994

<i>L. Thobejana vs Maranda</i>		21, 22, 24
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“It will be the duty of a new democratic government in South Africa to ensure that blacks are never again treated as wage slaves” said NUM president James Motlatsi in his recent address of Sub-Saharan Oil and Mineral Conference held in Cape Town.

The catalogue of oppression that runs through the history of mining reminds us as to what happens when governments and employers are allowed to act in collusion. When the priority is profit making then the interests of workers are sacrificed. When workers are not protected by trade unions they can be treated as slaves, for that is what our history shows. When that happens it is contrary both to humanity and to the technological interests of mining. Slaves are not efficient workers.

It will be the duty of the new democratic government in South Africa to ensure that blacks are never again treated as wage slaves. It will, therefore, have to do two things. First, it will have to guarantee the right of all workers to join the trade unions and force employers to recognise and

bargain with them. Secondly, the government must intervene in the running of the mining industry to ensure that welfare of all of its employees is protected in a manner consistent with increased efficiency.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union we have been subjected to propaganda about evils of communism and the merits of capitalism. Nationalisation, state intervention and centralised planning have all become dirty words. The emphasis is now on the individual, self hep and market forces. But as we have recently been reminded by the Pope, not all is good about capitalism and not all was bad about communism. Our problems of mass employment, widespread poverty, malnutrition, ill - health and dilapidated housing are the legacy of capitalism in our country. It clearly does not have answers to those problems so we have no alternative but to look at such measures as government intervention and state planning.

The government, of course has always intervened in the mining