

NUM REPRIMANDS MYNWERKERS UNIE

We are deeply concerned about the recent public pro-nouncements by white miners belonging to MWU threatening violence in an attempt to stop the emergence of a new democratic South Africa.

Threats of this nature cannot be taken lightly especially when considering their easy access to commercial explosives. Commercial explosives have been used in the past against our own organisation when our OFS regional offices were burnt to ashes.

A few months ago commercial explosives were used in Bronkhorstspuit where one of the suspects held by the SAP was a white miner.

The mining industry with its racial antagonisms rooted in its Apartheid past has never been immune to racial and factional violence. It is against this background that we find utterances of the MWU which is purported to serve the interests of workers totally abhorrent.

A true trade union will always strive for unity of workers and the betterment of the quality of people's lives in general. These noble ideas can not be achieved through the use of violence and terror against other people.

We urge all peace-loving workers in the mining industry to disassociate themselves by words and deeds from any form of violence for the sake of peace, stability and progress for all of us irrespective of race, skin colour, creed or ideological beliefs.

The stony silence on the part of the Chamber of Mines regarding this matter cannot go unchallenged. The Chamber has a major role to play in

ensuring that a new society evolves without bloodletting and loss of lives.

If the Chambers' mine explosives are likely to be used to maim and kill other human beings, then they as employers have a moral obligation to state their position in this regard. Failure to do this might be misconstrued as tacit approval of the contemplated dastardly deeds by MWU.

The time has come for the Chamber to join hands with our union and other peace loving people in the mining industry to sign an agreement on peace monitoring structures to prevent any possible eruption of violence. ■



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1. NUM Acting General Secretary Kgalema Motlanthe
2. NUM General Secretary Cyril Ramaphosa
3. Comrade Paul Nkuna - National Treasurer of the NUM
4. NUM President Comrade James Motlatsi - Addressing mass meeting
5. Some of the NEC members who ran NUM activities since last Congress
6. Comrade Marcel Golding - Assistant General Secretary
7. ANC Secretary General, Cyril Ramaphosa with both NUM President & the Vice President Elijah Barayi sing Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika at the opening of the NUM Training Centre