NUM News July 1989

FOCUS ON SIXTH NATIONAL CONGRESS







Our sixth national NUM congress held at Nasrec, Johannesburg from 12 to 16 April was a resounding success.

The theme was "Defend and Consolidate NUM". The congress was attended by 601 delegates from sixteen regions.

There were scores of guests including union representatives from the Miners International Federation (MIF), Botswana, the United States of America and other European countries.

A wide range of messages of support included solidarity messages from the exiled South African Congress of Trade Unions (Sactu), the SA Communist Party (SACP) and other national and international organisations.

The nearly 80 resolutions debated by delegates will shape the political and economic policy to be followed by the union over the next two years.







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12 to 16 April 1989 CONGRESS

Major resolutions looked at repression on the mines, wage policy, the future of the mining industry, the need to debate the ANC constitutional guidelines, the necessity for broad unity and an anti-apartheid coalition, and support for the people of Namibia.

As the largest single affiliate of Cosatu, the NUM resolutions are bound to impact on the Cosatu congress to be held in Johannesburg in July.

The congress was opened by NUM president comrade James Motlatsi who said mineworkers have set themselves the task of fighting the hated migrant labour system, undemocratic structures in the hostels, racist conditions, unsafe working conditions and wanted the right to organise freely.



Standing beneath the Freedom Charter are the newly elected office bearers of NUM (from left): MARCEL GOLDING (Assistant General Secretary); ELIJAH BARAYI (Vice-president); JAMES MOTLATSI (President); CYRIL RAMAPHOSA (General Secretary) and PAUL NKUNA (Treasurer)