

UNITED action to defend and consolidate organisation was an important Congress theme.

The tone was set by our president, Comrade James Mofutsi in his presidential speech when he urged mineworkers to extend their experiences beyond the mine and hostels into the community.

Regression on the mines is characterised by mass dismissals, detentions, physical assaults, harassment and intimidation of high intensity against union members.

But the brutal naked terror is not only confined to the mines.

Four years after the declaration of a permanent state of emergency, the state is still bent on continuing with its vicious programme to destroy the mass democratic movement and thus reversing the hard-earned gains the people made over the years.

It is imperative in the face of the state's relentless efforts to crush the mass democratic movement that workers should defend their organisations and consolidate the gains they have made.

Lay the groundwork

Comrade Mofutsi told the 600 delegates and scores of guests at our Congress that mineworkers' involvement in community issues will lay the groundwork for the building of mass-based, participatory democratic organisations country-wide which will give direction to the various campaigns of our people.

He warned that the building of unity is a crucial task which cannot be undertaken effectively unless workers have a clear understanding of the struggle.

One of the most important lessons we have learnt from our struggle is that organisation, democracy and unity remain the pillars for effective struggle and the only defence we have against the brutal naked terror the regime has im-

posed against our people in the township villages, schools, mines and factories.

Recruitment

He said workers must, as a matter of priority, patiently persuade all mineworkers to become NUM members. Every worker in the hostel rooms, blocks, shops, shaft and mine must be drawn into our structures and we must encourage participation, critical debate and discussion at every level of the organisation.

"Without organisation we will not be able to defend our members and the mass movement as a whole. In the present situation we have critical responsibility," comrade Mofutsi said.

He said mineworkers have major tasks of uniting the mineworkers into an effective national union, playing a leading role in strengthening the unity of COSATU and the trade union movement and forging unity of the working class movement by uniting all other formations around the demands of the Freedom Charter.

"To achieve unification of the working class movement we have to relate to all sections of the working class. We cannot confine ourselves only to the task of trade union work. But we must never forget that if we ignore the tasks of mine and local organisations, we do so at our peril," he said.

Broad unity

"To build broad unity and the anti-apartheid coalition, we need to strengthen the structures of our allies at local, regional and national levels."

"This means the reviving and strengthening of grassroots youth, civic, women, student and other structures, according to Comrade Murphy Morobe, former acting publicity secretary of the restricted UDF.

Comrade Morobe said it is important not only to build our democratic organisation, but to build them in such a way that they are able to withstand state

harassment and regression.

Co-ordination

He emphasised that we need to build strong local, regional and national co-ordination between various components of the Mass Democratic Movement thus deepening resistance to apartheid through local and national campaigns.

In this way the regime will be isolated and deprived of any possibility of regaining the political initiative and at the same time ensuring that the ideological falling apart of the ruling class leads to its political demise.

The NUM's slogan "DEFEND and CONSOLIDATE" is not a slogan of management boardrooms or pure intellectual fantasies, but a slogan about seizing the strategic initiative for the final push against racist oppression and exploitation.

He said consolidating whatever political gains we've achieved through struggle is a political imperative. For the whole democratic movement to adequately contend with the demands of the popular advance against racism and exploitation, the concept of the united front must represent a new and highly dynamic approach to our understanding of the tasks facing the Mass Democratic Movement.

Anti-apartheid coalition

This drive against apartheid and exploitation must be deepened at all levels. A coalition of all forces eager to see the ushering of a new society free from exploitation and oppression is therefore necessary.

This coalition must be made up of all the forces of change presently making up the South African equation of struggle.

This means bringing together the widest possible range of all forces against apartheid, even though these forces do not necessarily agree on all matters of strategy and tactics, said comrade Morobe.

The forces for change can be identified as the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) and its allies,

forces which are neither pro nor anti the MDM, forces which are ready to break with apartheid but whose long term interests are not the same as that of the MDM and forces which are opposed to both apartheid and the MDM.

Between these forces should run a unifying perspective which recognises both the grievances and immediate interests of these forces. Included in this perspective should be the following positions:

- One person one vote in

- a united South Africa;
- The lifting of the State of Emergency;
- A living wage for all;
- Freedom of association and expression;
- Press Freedom;
- The unconditional release of political

- prisoners;
- The unhampering of the ANC and other organisations.

The main objectives of this coalition would be to maximise our unity in action against apartheid, and

isolate the regime even further.

What is of paramount importance is to realise that the building of the coalition is a process and not a single event.



BUILD UNITY, DEFY APARTHEID!



The challenge facing the mass democratic movement is to intensify the struggle. We must mobilise, organise, and defy apartheid at every opportunity.

Mass campaigns

THE Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) has identified several tasks and campaigns which need to be taken up at a national level.

A recent paper on the State of the Nation said the size and influence of the MDM has grown a lot. "We need to take up more campaigns and keep the pressure on the regime." The paper said tasks should be identified at the local, regional and national levels.

Conditions were ripe, said the paper, for an all-round onslaught on all aspects of oppression and exploitation.

PEACE IN NATAL: Too many lives have been lost in Natal and the MDM should spare no effort in achieving peace in Natal. The task of finding ways of stopping the fighting in that region should not only be the task of the people of Natal, but all patriots.

ANTI-APARTHEID COALITION: The efforts to isolate and neutralise elements of the ruling bloc need to continue. The uniting of all anti-apartheid forces should be part of the ongoing struggle, and incorporated into all campaigns.

LABOUR RELATIONS ACT: All efforts must be made to unite workers against the Labour Relations Amendment Act.

STATE OF EMERGENCY: The

recant hunger strikes and release of prisoners should be determined can bring changes. The MDM must take up the fight against the Emergency. Many activists are also under severe restrictions and we need to challenge this.

SAVE THE PATRIOTS: All forces should be mobilised against the apartheid hangings.

RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS: The struggles of the people have pushed the state to a point where it has released some of the leaders of the people and may release more. But we need a campaign for the further release and welcome of our leaders at the local, regional and national levels.

BODIES OF MINORITY RULE: The October town council elections showed that the town councils are not supported by the majority of the people.

BUILD LOCAL CAMPAIGNS: There are many local issues which need to be taken up such as the fight against petty apartheid, removals.

New ways of organising the rural areas to withstand repression need to be found. Structures must be reorganised, and street, block and area committees established. Shaftstowards councils and COSATU locals need to be strengthened.