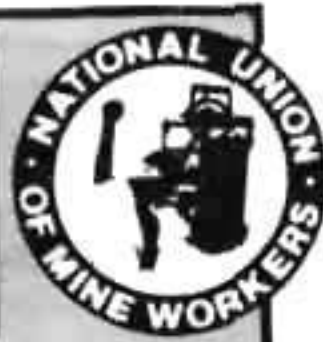


NUM NEWS



Official newsletter of the
National Union of Mineworkers
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Miners make their mark



A solemn salute for the Kinross comrades during the memorial service at Cosatu House.

ABOUT 325 000 mineworkers supported the National Union of Mineworkers' call for October 1 as a Day of Mourning.

They were joined by over 300 000 workers from Cosatu affiliates -- some who stayed away, while others observed one to three hour stoppages.

This was the biggest action of its kind in South Africa labour history. Mineworkers showed clearly that the comrades who died at Kinross gold mine will not be forgotten.

The widespread support showed clearly that:

* Mineworkers regard safety as very important.

* The miners are prepared to take action when called to do so.

* The NUM is the most representative union in the mining industry.

The police and mine security took action at various mines.

150 union members were arrested by police at the union's regional offices after workers marched from President Steyn mine carrying placards calling for "Safety before Profits".

At Witbank police arrested seven workers and one NUM official for holding an illegal meeting. They appeared in the Witbank Magistrates' Court on charges of sedition. All have been released on bail of R500 each.

At Winkelhaak gold mine workers were attacked with teargas by mine security leaving a miner injured after being hit by a cannister.

At Vaal Reefs shaft No 9 and Kloof gold mine, workers were attacked by mine security who tried to force them to go to work.

About 200 people attended a memorial meeting at Cosatu House, Johannesburg. Speaker after

speaker attacked safety practices in the mining industry.

Comrade Paul Nkuna, regional secretary of the Wiatersrand region of the NUM, said we have mourned our dead for too long.

"The time has come to end the mourning. How long are we going to mourn. In 1960, 1976, 1980 and now again we are mourning our dead."

He said the workers must

build up their organisations so that they could confront the bosses and the state.

He said the major enemy was the capitalist system because the bosses "put profits before safety."

Comrade Jay Naidoo, general secretary of Cosatu, said the working class must fight to control the means of production.

"It is racism and greed which killed thousands of

workers in the mining industry. We must fight to ensure that safety is put under workers' control."

Rev. Beyers Naude, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said the deaths were unnecessary and could have been avoided.

"How many more workers have to die before all the necessary safety precautions will be taken?" he asked.

