

# SACP welcomed as party of the workers

THE South African Communist Party re-emerged as a legal political party of the working class after 40 years to the tumultuous welcome by 80 000 people at Soccer City, near Soweto.

The mass rally coincided with its 69th birthday, 29th July.

Urban and rural workers, women, youth and students in came in their thousands to witness the historic occasion of introducing some of the Central Committee members forming the Internal Leadership Group.

ANC Deputy President, Cde Nelson Mandela re-affirmed the SACP - ANC alliance.

## Side by side

"We are here today participate with you in the public launch of the Communist Party, 40 years after it was banned. We do this because during the nearly 70 years of its existence, the Communist Party has distinguished itself as an ally in the common struggle to end the racial oppression and exploitation of the black masses of our country.

"It (SACP) has fought side by side with the ANC for the common objective of the national liberation of our people, without seeking to impose its views on our movement. It has been and is a dependable friend who respected our independence and our policy.

"Its members have been devoted congressites who, as



COSATU general secretary Jay Naidoo, SACP general secretary Joe Slovo and NUM vice-president Elijah Barayi together at a COSATU workshop

members of the ANC have propagated and defended the policies of our movement including the Freedom Charter, without hesitation.

"They have therefore given strength to our own movement, whatever their separate perspectives might be as an independent political formation".

The main speaker of the occasion, SACP general secretary, Cde Joe Slovo speaking after Cde Nelson Mandela, attacked the racist National Party regime for its hatred of communists.

"They hated us because communists were always in the frontline of the struggle for freedom even unto death. They hated us for the ideas which

became the bread and butter of the liberation struggle.

They could not forgive the Communist Party for being the first to demand majority rule. But their greater reason is to fear socialism like the devil."

Paying tribute to the role played by communists in the liberation struggle, Cde Slovo said, "In 1961 communists were among the first to volunteer for MK. Since then one hundred party members lost their lives on the gallows in police cells, at the hands of assassination squads and in battle.

## Lives lost

"Thousands of communists suffered prison, detention, bannings and exile. The party

interim leadership we are announcing, between them, spent 137 years in prison. It is because of the sacrifices by communists and many thousands of non-communists patriots that we are closer to a people's South Africa." Cde Slovo flayed the apartheid regime for its demand for protection of white privilege.

## Power over economy

"We will never accept the so called democracy which prevents the majority from having real power. Real power is more than putting a cross on voting papers once every five years. It is power over the economy.

# Coal wages accepted

COAL mine workers accepted the revised coal wage offers after strike ballots on nearly all mines.

The NUM called for higher coal wages for its 35 000 affected members because of increased coal profits, and because higher productivity was not reflected in wages.

The increases in coal wages average out at about 17, 3 percent.

At Amcoal Grade 1 surface workers received an increase of R74 (18.64%) and underground workers in Grade 1 received R83 (19.1%).

At Genmin surface workers in Grade 1 received an increase of R 102 (30.8%).

Underground workers at Genmin in Grade 1 received R103 (28.5%).

At GFSA surface workers in Group 1 accepted an increase of R55 or 17% while underground workers in the same category took an increase of R58 or 17%.

At JCI surface workers in Group 1 accepted a rand

increase of R66 a month or 17.5 % and underground workers now take home R72 or a 17.5 % increase.

At Rand Mines surface workers in the Group 1 category surface received an increase of R78 or a 15.7 increase and underground workers a increase of R83 or 15.6 %.