

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ACCIDENTS

64 000 workers have died on the mine since the beginning of this century. Every year the mines kill about 800 workers. 12000 others get injured. The bosses do nothing to stop these accidents because they are only interested in production and profit.

WE have got to stop the slaughter of mineworkers!

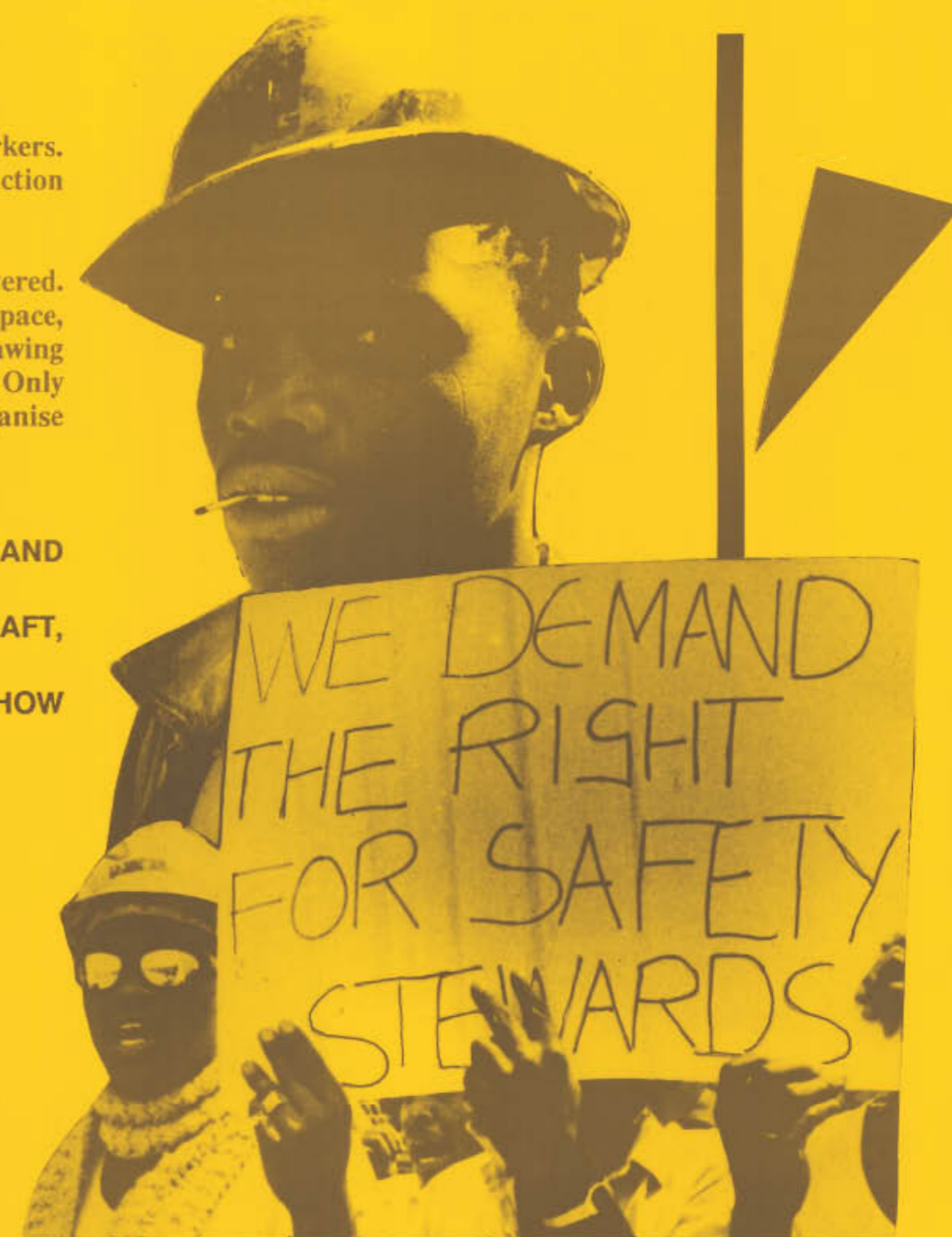
Many accidents are not reported because injured workers are forced to go back to work before they have recovered. The bosses have failed to pay attention to safety because safety costs money. It means working at a reasonable pace, working reasonable hours and reasonable shifts, using the best equipment, training workers properly, withdrawing workers when there are problems with the roof, monitoring dust levels and controlling dust and chemical fumes. Only workers can ensure that these measures are implemented. The NUM calls on its members on all mines to organise around accidents.

THE NUM CALLS ON ALL WORKERS TO:

- FORM CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES IN SHAFTS AND BRANCHES TO MONITOR ALL ACCIDENTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS.
- STOP WORK TO MOURN EVERYTIME A WORKER IS KILLED AT WORK. WORKERS IN EACH SHAFT, BRANCH AND REGION MUST DISCUSS HOW THIS WILL BE DONE.
- HOLD MEETINGS WITH THE BOSSES AFTER EVERY ACCIDENT ON THE MINE TO DISCUSS HOW SUCH AN ACCIDENT CAN BE PREVENTED IN THE FUTURE.
- REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS TO THE REGIONAL OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.
- ATTEND ENQUIRIES
- ENSURE THAT OUR MEMBERS ARE REPRESENTED AT ENQUIRIES.
- TAKE ALL SAFETY RELATED PROBLEMS TO THE BARGAINING TABLE.

LET THE BOSSES BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ACCIDENTS!

ORGANISE OR DIE!



THE KINROSS DISASTER

The Kinross disaster is a terrible symbol of the problems with mine safety. 177 workers died at Kinross. Two hundred and sixty-six were injured. The tunnel walls were lined with a special plaster - polyurethane. Polyurethane catches fire easily and gives off poisonous gasses when alight.

The Kinross management ignored warnings about the dangers of polyurethane. It did not put fire extinguishers at the place of welding, and did not have an alarm to warn of danger.

Our comrades died and lay injured in darkness breathing toxic fumes. The court case and inquiry which followed found that mine management could not be held responsible. The inspectors silenced the union at the Kinross inquiry. Management was not punished for Kinross!

THE KINROSS DISASTER SHOWS US EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE TO OPPOSE:

- NEGLIGENT MANAGEMENT
- INCOMPETENT AND BIASED MINE INSPECTORS
- UNJUST COURTS

Kinross is a reminder of the dangers in the mines, and the hardship suffered by the families of our fallen comrades. Kinross is also a challenge. Kinross demands that we organise for a safer workplace. Mine accidents must be stopped.

Kinross challenges us to take our campaigns forward, to elect our own safety stewards and to put our demands on the bargaining table.

ONLY STRONG AND EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION CAN ENSURE THAT KINROSS NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN!



PROPER COMPENSATION IS OUR RIGHT

Many workers do not get compensation money. We need to demand the money that we are entitled to.

The money we get is too little to support ourselves and our families. We need to fight for compensation money that we can live on and we need to fight for changes in the law.

There are many problems with compensation. More than 12 000 mineworkers are badly injured at work every year. A lot of these workers do not get the compensation or injury money owed to them.

Thousands of workers become ill as a result of exposure to dust and chemical fumes. Many of these cases are not even being taken up. Because black workers earn so little money, the compensation paid out is very low. Compensation money for illness is paid according to race. White workers get up to ten times more than black workers for the same disease.

ONLY THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF WORKERS CAN THESE CONDITIONS CHANGE

- WE MUST ENSURE THAT EVERY INJURED OR SICK WORKER GETS COMPENSATED. EVERY INJURY MUST BE REPORTED. THE DOCTOR MUST EXPLAIN THE PROBLEM AND TREATMENT PROPERLY. HE MUST ALSO WRITE A PROPER REPORT. MANAGEMENT MUST FILL IN A COMPENSATION CLAIM FORM AND SEND IT TOGETHER WITH THE DOCTOR'S REPORT TO THE COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER OR TO RAND MUTUAL HOSPITAL. A UNION MEMBER MUST ACCOMPANY THE INJURED OR SICK WORKER TO HOSPITAL TO MAKE SURE THAT THESE THINGS ARE DONE.
- WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT WE RECEIVE THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF MONEY.
- WE MUST DEMAND THAT MANAGEMENT GIVES A PROPER BREAKDOWN OF THE COMPENSATION MONEY.
- WE MUST START DEMANDING MORE MONEY. WE CAN RAISE PROBLEMS WITH COMPENSATION IN THE BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS WITH MANAGEMENT. WE CAN MAKE DEMANDS WHICH MUST BE RAISED AT THE CHAMBER NEGOTIATIONS. WE CAN ALSO GO TO THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER WITH THESE DEMANDS.
- WE MUST DISCUSS THE LAW AND PROPOSE CHANGES TO IT. ALL RACIST DEFINITIONS MUST BE REMOVED.

WE DEMAND MORE MONEY, JOB SECURITY AND RETRAINING!

