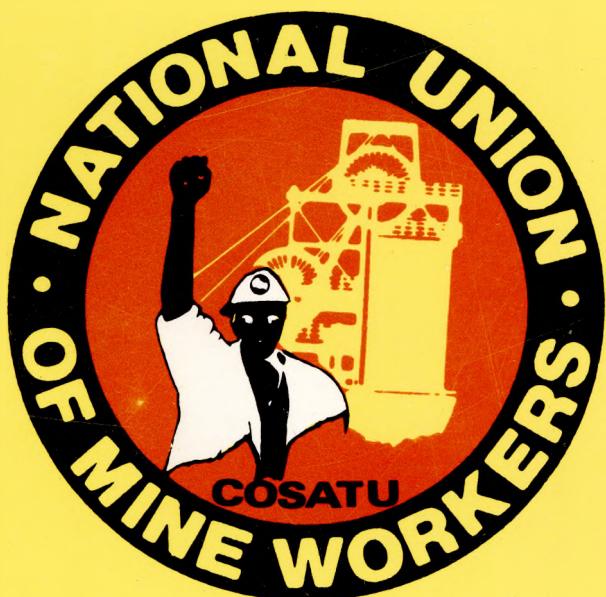


All Mineral Wealth To Workers!



10
Fighting Years
1982 — 1992

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OPENING ADDRESS

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the formation of our Union the NUM has participated in a number of campaigns ranging from local and union specific to national political campaigns

Some campaigns have been more successful than others. Some problems identified with NUM campaigns in the past are:

- No campaign structures
- Weakness of branches and regions
- Lack of communication and co-ordination
- No proper planning
- Lack of information

2. IMPORTANCE OF CAMPAIGNS IN THE UNION

Importance of campaigns in the union campaigns can be the lifeblood of the union or drain its resources.

Successful campaigns can be boost union recruitment and membership participation. We must use campaigns or a method of struggle to bring together different branches and regions in our union. A campaign must focus the combined energy of our forces, i.e. shafts, branches, regions, unions, Cosatu, MDM etc.

The reason why we take up campaigns is to change a particular situation. This may be by placing pressure on either the state or capitol e.g.

- Anti LRA
- Living Wage
- Retrenchments

The extent of success will depend on:-

- The organisational work and preparedness of workers on the ground
- Clear strategic aims and objectives
- Critical evaluations of all campaign activities
- Full participation by union members

3. CAMPAIGN DEPARTMENT

This department has been entrusted with the task of co-ordinating all campaigns within the union. The department is like a main battery of a car. In the past we could not exactly establish what the short coming was. It must be come the rain driving force within the union. We can only strengthen organisation and increase the confidence of our members through successful campaigns.

The other task of this department is also to:-

- ensure that there is proper co-ordination between the different departments within the union

- co-ordinate all Cosatu campaigns within the union
- oversee the implementation of joint activities of the ANC, COSATU, SACP alliance.

4. COSATU CAMPAIGNS

Cosatu has identified three major campaigns for 1990. These are the Anti-Labour Relations Amendment Act Campaign, the Workers Charter and the Living Wage Campaign.

Cosatu has also set up a National Campaign Committee to which each union sends 2-4 representatives. This committee meets 4 times a year to monitor the progress of the campaigns. Individual unions are also expected to participate through their regional and local Cosatu structures.

Each campaign has a working committee to which each union sends at least 1 representative.

2.a. LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

This campaign also incorporates the anti-Barlow Rand and anti-privitisation campaign.

The main focus of this campaign is monitoring and promoting the progress of Cosatu and affiliates around the core demands of a Living Wage, an end to Privitisation, Job Security and Centralised Bargaining.

2.b. ANTI-LRA CAMPAIGN

This campaign has been making real progress over the past two years and has involved both

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negotiations with the bosses and the state and actions such as the Workers Summit, marches and stayaways.

2.c. **WORKERS CHARTER**

The objective of this campaign is to collect workers demands around worker and trade union rights in a future South Africa, and draw up a Workers Charter.

5. **CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION**

We are meeting at a momentous time in the history of struggle for liberation from white supremacy and domination by the power of bosses.

The changes our society is experiencing are so rapid to stun even the politically conscious detachments.

It is under these conditions that we have to situation our struggles as mineworkers for if we struggle in isolation from the broad masses of the oppressed we might find ourselves at odds with progress without conscious descision on our part. It is also the case with all sections and classes of the oppressed.

Our position, concretely understood is that of the nationally oppressed working class. As mineworkers we form the strategic section of this class by virtue of the role of mining industry in the entire economic structure of our society.

While South Africa is on the verge of a major rupture the outcome of our efforts depends on our correct understanding if the nature of all the forces at play.

History has taught us that no single class in society has ever brought about a major socio-economic transformation on its own. This dialectical principle makes our struggle no exception.

Our conditions have reduced the majority of our people to more servants of the white minority. The social position of blacks is basically that of the partyless mass.

The working class has a historical role of leading the entire mass to a South Africa free from oppression and exploitation. However, the working class cannot lead itself to freedom while other non-working classes are taken as our enemies.

It is historical fact that all major sectors of the South African economy - mining, manufacturing, finance agriculture and services - are dominated by a handful of white owned conglomerates i.e. AAC, SANLAM, OLD MUTUAL, REMBRANDT and BARLOW RAND.

Reliable estimates show that over 80% of the capital value of shares quoted on the Johannesburg by the big six. As if our impoverishment was not enough the apartheid state no nationalised other key industries in the interest of white supremacy. The so-called free market economy was in this way killed. It is monopoly capitalism that forms the basis of apartheid tyranny today.

Tens of millions of South African, black and white are labouring to enrich these few blood - suckers. Small business class is living under constant threat of annihilation by the monopolists.

Truly speaking the working class, hence the correctness of

politics of united front against apartheid colonialism. Of cardinal importance is the leadership role of the working class in their alliances. This is only guarantee to ultimate victory over domination by capital.

CONCLUSION

We can only be successfull in our objectives if the union has proper structures for campaigns and regular assessments in terms of progress must take place. We must also be critical of the way campaigns are co-ordinated but also try and provide solutions.

All union campaigns must also motivate all members, NEC, constitutional structures and officials of the union members and officials must also be actively involved in all campaigns.

The success of each campaign will depend on the extant of mass support and how it is taken foward by our members.