

# The launch of

May 1, 1986, King's Park Stadium, Durban



Cover: Chief M G Buthelezi arriving at Kings Park Stadium, May Day 1986 Photo: Ken Oosterbroek



# UWUSA



**M**ore than 80 000 people packed King's Park Stadium in Durban on May 1 for the launch of the United Workers' Union of South Africa (UWUSA). This overwhelming show of support for the new union as well as for the President of Inkatha, Chief M G Buthelezi, who delivered the opening address, had several messages for the labour movement in South Africa as well as internationally.

Firstly, by turning up in such large numbers, a significant block of black workers in South Africa made it known that they are not happy with being politically manipulated — particularly by COSATU who held a rival rally on the same day at a venue close to King's Park. It should be noted that COSATU rallied far less than 10 000 people that day.

Secondly, when asked if they wished UWUSA to support disinvestment and sanctions in their name (as COSATU is doing) they rose as one to their feet and roared "no". This was recorded by the national and international media present.

There can no longer be any doubt that the tactic of disinvestment does not have the support of the majority of black workers — as claimed by COSATU (who have never held a general ballot on the issue) and churchmen such as Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Rev Allan Boesak.

There has also been an obvious backlash to the "pirating" of black union members for party-political purposes by COSATU and its support for the pro-violence ANC Mission in Exile.

COSATU's national and international campaign of denigration against the 1.3 million-member Inkatha liberation movement has also angered workers supportive of the organisation's stand for peaceful change and negotiation and against violence and disinvestment.

This issue of Clarion Call highlights UWUSA's aims and aspirations and attempts to put into perspective the reasons why black workers have shown such massive support for this new union.