

COSATU CONGRESS

On the 15 July the biggest Congress in our labour history took place. There were 1438 delegates from every corner of our country and every industry. For three days worker leaders debated crucial issues confronting workers.

The night before the Congress, the mood was set when delegates were entertained by a powerful display of workers' culture. Various workers' choirs performed backed up by the band, BAYETE.

The next morning, busloads of delegates arrived at the Flower Hall at Wits University. The 524 NUM delegates sang freedom songs, all dressed in their yellow and black track-suits.

The hall was draped with banners stating COSATU's policies. Each union brought its own banner. There were flags, posters and lots of union literature.

The Congress started with the singing of the National Anthem and this must have echoed across the country. It was powerful and electrifying.

The President of Cosatu comrade Elijah Barayi in his opening speech paid tribute to workers "who have been willing to set aside differences, old allegiances and even old rivalries; who have been willing to look beyond labels and names in order to build our formidable organisation of worker unity.

Many issues were debated which are of great importance to us. We must discuss and implement all the resolutions that were adopted, in all our regions and branches.

The election was the highlight of the Congress. Great jubilation broke loose when all the office bearers were re-elected unopposed. Comrade Barayi was re-elected as President, Comrade Dlamini 1st Vice President, Ledwaba 2nd Vice President, Comrade Xulu Treasurer, Comrade Naidoo General Secretary and Comrade Mafumadi Assistant General Secretary.

What Comrade Barayi said in his opening speech came true at the end of the day when

delegates came out more united than ever before and even more determined to translate the important resolutions into action. These were: Political Policy, International Policy, Namibia, Sanctions and Disinvestment, Education, National Industrial Unions, Domestic Workers, Unemployment, Rents and Repression.

Some resolutions could not be debated because of time constraints and were referred to the CEC for finalisation.

Because of the present state of emergency the rally planned after the congress could not be held. This did to stop workers from flowing in from as far afield as Cape Town, Namaqualand, Phalaborwa and other remote areas of the

country to attend the Cultural Day held on Saturday the 18th July 1987. This event displayed the emerging workers' culture that reflects the lives of workers at their workplaces and their homes. This was done in the form of poetry, music, plays gamboots-dancing and others.

**ONE
UNION
ONE
INDUSTRY**



NUM delegates participate in the singing at the COSATU Congress.



Gumboot dancers from Matla Colliery perform at the COSATU Cultural Day



These women from SADWU were beating the big drums and dancing in rythm for the large crowd of 10 000 who attended the cultural day

