

Congress Countdown

Regions and delegates are busy preparing for the NUM 8th National Congress in February 1994.

National Congress is the highest decision making body of the union. Delegates will elect National Office Bearers and decide on the policy of the union. The theme of the congress is still under discussion.

Congress will take place from 6 - 9 February 1994 at the Sinodale Conference Centre in Pretoria.

Key issues to be discussed are likely to include:

- Wages and conditions of employment demands for 1994
- Health and safety
- Democratisation of the mining industry
- Affirmative action
- Role of the NUM in the period of

- reconstruction and development.
- The future of the ANC - SACP - COSATU alliance
- Convention of the conference of the left
- Affiliation to International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- Investment and development strategy
- Constitutional amendments and restructuring of constitutional structures
- International relations
- Building a strong National Trade Union Movement

Miners unions invited include those from Germany, Britain, America, Ukraine, Russia, Sweden, Australia, Hungary, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. ■



Delegates raised their hands in 1991 NUM National Congress adopting a resolution

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Gold Fields monster

It is abundantly clear that Gold Fields is operating its mines on conditions similar to those of 100 years ago.

Starvation wages given to workers doing difficult and hazardous work is totally unacceptable by all human standards. The numbers of those killed, clearly reflects the mining house is attitude towards black lives - total disregard of 'cheap' lives.

Year in and year out the bosses smile all the way to the bank with millions of rands produced by sweat and blood of our mineworkers. Even under difficult economic conditions they can still afford to fill their coffers with millions as they own the richest mines like Kloof and still use slave labour.

The campaign to bring an end to this inhuman state of affairs is indeed a progressive step. It is at the same time a great challenge to NUM as the bosses are by nature not giving in

easily to anything aimed at improving conditions of workers lives. Bosses will use everything at their disposal to keep repression intact.

However, we have a just cause to fight and current political changes in our country strengthens our case. Our best forces should be channeled into this effort to ensure that workers activities and energies are properly harnessed to become a real invincible force to batter Gold Fields repressive wall down.

Real power lies in the hands of workers at New Clydes Dale, O'kiep, Deelkraal, Driefontein, Venterspost, Greenside, Libanon, Leeudoorn and Kloof to make the path to their own freedom shorter. It is their unity in action that will ultimately decide when democracy will dawn on Gold Fields mines. Time for action is now!

We must close ranks at all levels of NUM and ensure a resounding victory through this campaign. History demands that we win. ■

Gold Fields miners march against slavery

About 9 000 Deelkraal mineworkers marched to present their memorandum to Gold Fields Deelkraal management. The historic march in Gold Fields mine was led by NUM President James Motlatsi with Regional and Branch Committee members. The memorandum was handed over to Personnel Manager Mr. Grobelaar by NUM President. Comrade James Motlatsi called on Gold Fields management to release its slaves. "Recently at Gold Fields Driefontein so called white mineworkers painted a black miner with a yellow paint in defense of racial discrimination practices," he said.

In the memorandum amongst others workers said the following:-

- The current Induna system must be removed and replaced by a democratically elected hostel committee.
- The change room facilities provided for separate use by black and white mineworkers has no place in our lives. It is plainly dehumanising racism.
- Abandon the trespass system.
- Terminate security harassment of

vendors and hawkers - they are one of the few contacts we have in the real world.

- You can increase security in the store room, where our meagre belongings are kept. Protect our things not us.
- Provide our union with adequate facilities on the mine to co-ordinate and constructively represent our interests and concerns with you.
- Mass meetings provisions to be made to be held at the hostels.
- Apply discipline in accordance with your legislative obligations - fair hearings and the right to representation are probably the best known.
- Pay us all on the same day.
- Early and timeous payment for those going on extended leave.
- Extend the visitation rights for wives, take into account transport problems.

Workers pray that management to meet their demands and have them implemented, changed and corrected within the month of January 1994. ■



Gold Fields' Deelkraal - Mineworkers marched to main offices to present their memorandum to Deelkraal management