

NUM News



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL UNION OF MINEWORKERS
JULY 1989 Congress reports

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SOLIDARITY
WITH
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Mineworkers on the march

The sixth national congress of NUM held in Johannesburg from 12 to 16 April proved beyond doubt the union is ready to face all challenges. About 80 resolutions in line with the congress theme of "Defend and Consolidate NUM", were voted on by 601 delegates from sixteen regions. A full report starts on page 5.

TOUGH WAGE TALKS

But new wage policy advanced

MINEWORKERS agreed to reasonable wage increases this year after tough negotiations between the NUM and the Chamber of Mines.

The union said it was "satisfied". It pushed up Chambers' initial offers and all increases are now above inflation.

Several small victories advanced the union's new wage policy but the union has not yet broken the back of the Chamber's racist wage policy or achieved a national minimum wage.

However, for the first time the Chamber was forced to negotiate in money terms and not percentages.

General secretary Cyril Ramaphosa warned that future industrial action might be necessary to eliminate the continuing wage differences between the mining houses.

Surface workers in grade 1 at Anglo gold mines are now to get increases of R62 (18.4%) bringing the minimum monthly wages up to R399 and underground workers in grade 1 are now to get R70 more (18.2%) bringing

wages up to R455 a month.

Surface workers in grade 1 at Anglo coal mines on the surface are to get an increase of R59 (17.5%) and underground workers in grade 1 are to get R64 (17.3%) bringing monthly minimum wages up to R434. See tables on page 2 for other increases.

Mineworkers had unanimously rejected the first offers of the mine bosses for a disgusting low wage offer of 11% increase on gold and collieries on all job categories.

In cash terms collieries had offered a minimum wage increase of R29 and R37 for surface and underground workers respectively. Gold mines had offered a wage increase minimum of R37 surface and R42 underground.

DEFEND AND CONSOLIDATE NUM!

FORWARD TO COSATU CONGRESS!