



## UDF statement on Kinross mine disaster

The United Democratic Front expresses its condolences to the families of the 177 mine workers who tragically lost their lives in Kinross last week.

The Kinross mine disaster should never have happened. Whatever other explanations that are being given, Gencor is in the final analysis responsible for the health and safety of all the workers it sends underground to mine its wealth.

We join the NUM and Cosatu in holding Gencor fully responsible for this tragic loss of 177 precious lives, lives that have made possible the millions in riches that the mining bosses have today.

Once again, because of greed, 177 miners have been sacrificed at the altar of super-profits. Despite all the profits accruing from mining proceeds, South Africa still has the worst record for mine disasters and deaths. It came as no surprise to us that this disaster happened at a Gencor mine, a company that has become notorious for ignoring worker rights and for employing union-bashing tactics as during the Marrivale strike.

The R2 million mooted as compensation for the deaths of these miners can never replace the damage done through obvious negligence by the mine bosses. With racism still rampant in the mines we suspect that the compensation will tend to be less favourable to the families of the black miners.

The UDF pledges its support to the NUM in whatever call it makes to mourn and pay homage to those gallant miners who died in Kinross.

Murphy Morobe  
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