

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

UDF UNITESI APARTHEID DIVIDES!



NATIONAL OFFICE

KHOTSO HOUSE
42 DE VILLIERS STRE
JOHANNESBURG
P.O. BOX 10366
TEL: 29-1916
29-1917

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINEWORKERS ON DAY OF MOURNING FOR KINROSS DEAD

September 30 1986

On this sad day of remembrance for all those who died at Kinross, the United Democratic Front expresses its deeply felt sympathy to the families and friends of all our comrades who died while producing wealth for the mine bosses.

We all know that their deaths could have been avoided. We refuse to accept that there was nothing the bosses could have done to prevent that deadly fire or that they did not know of the lethal dangers involved in the use of polyutherane. Once again they made use of cheap materials which had been banned in other countries - regardless of the potential cost to workers' lives.

We accuse the mine bosses of pre-occupation with the never ending chase for super-profits at the expense of the well-being of those who toil to make this wealth possible.

The deaths of the 177 are also very much a direct result of the legacy of racist mining procedures which have permeated the core of South African society. As a result of apartheid labour practices and especially job reservation which is still in force on the mines, it is the black mine workers who are forced to do the most dangerous and least paid jobs. It is the black mineworkers who so often have to pay for apartheid with their lives.

The UDF stands by the National Union of Mineworkers and the Congress of South African Trade Unions in their demand that the union has a say in all matters related to the health and safety of their members on the mines.

For us the deaths of the 177 will serve as a source of inspiration in the on-going battle for a living wage and better working conditions in every sector of the economy and in the mines in particular.

Together we must strive for united Action against oppression and exploitation. It is the working class in alliance with all progressive sectors of our society that will pave the way to a South Africa free of oppression and exploitation of man by man.

PHAMBILE NOMZAMELAZI WABASEBENZU

 (MURPHY MURIBE) Acting Publicity Secretary

Presidents: Albertina Sisulu,
Archie Gumede
Executive chairperson: Cumick Ndlovu

National Treasurer: Azhar Cachalia
National Publicity Secretary: Mosiuoa Terror Lekota
National Secretary: Popo Molefe