



Democratic Socialist Movement members among Anglo Gold Ashanti workers in a mass meeting on November 4, 2012, Carletonville.

Major breakthroughs for the DSM

by Weizmann Hamilton

The rising tide of workers struggle throughout last year has had its reflection in the growth of the Democratic Socialist Movement. Searching for an alternative and won over by the bold vision of democratic socialism put forward by DSM many workers have taken their place in our ranks.

We have been inundated with requests for membership. Our membership has quadrupled in the space of one year. We now have branches (in some cases several) in all of the key mining areas of Rustenburg, Limpopo and Carletonville. Our members are active in seven provinces and within a matter of months we expect to be a fully national movement.

Our role in bringing together the miners national strike committee has cemented our relationship with this most

militant layer of the class. Dozens of strike leaders have joined our ranks. These workers bring their own experiences and ideas, which, when pooled with the DSM's existing history forms a formidable force.

The thirst for ideas, as workers have sought to politically educate themselves in the course of struggle, has seen thousands of copies of our newspaper, Izwi labasebenzi, sold. Such has been its success that we are taking immediate steps to move to more regular production and an increased print-run.

In early February DSM will hold its national conference. The conference, made up of elected rank-and-file members from our branches, old and new, will debate and discuss our political perspectives, DSM's role in developing the new WASP, elect a new national leader-

ship, and debate ambitious party building targets. (See next issue for conference report).

DSM has stood against the tide through the eighteen years of 'democratic' rule. We have defended the necessity of the political independence of the working class. We have maintained our confidence in a future society based on satisfying the needs and aspirations of the majority and not the greed for profit of a tiny minority – a socialist society. And we have remained steadfast in our internationalism as members of the Committee for a Workers International (CWI) – a world party of revolutionary socialism organised in over forty countries. These ideas are the ideas of the future. If you agree with us, you should join the DSM. Join the struggle! Join the fightback!



JOIN THE DSM!



SMS "JOIN" + your name + your area to 076 977 9997

Funding the revolutionary party

27th April 1994 was an historic day. For the first time in SA history, the black majority, armed with the right to vote, was able to oust the apartheid regime. On the ruins of the white minority regime a new government was elevated into office by the will of the black majority.

19 years later, the same socio-economic problems that fuelled the struggle – poverty, mass unemployment, illiteracy and poor access to decent education, a sick health system, homelessness – remain unresolved. The parties in parliament compete against each other

like celebrity chefs – different cook same meal: capitalism. The working class may have the right to vote, but we are disenfranchised.

That the ANC is the party of the bosses has never been as clear as after the Marikana massacre – it is he party of the capitalist class. That not a single party in parliament condemned the massacre is the clearest evidence that as the working class, we are on our own.

Realising that it is consistently losing support amongst the masses, the ANC is now proposing to increase state funding for political parties whilst continuing to oppose

disclosure of party donors. What are they hiding? The fact that they are funded by big business to implement the capitalist policies that are ruining the lives of working class peoples. He who puts money into the disco machine decides which song must be played.

The DSM is a party funded by working class people. It will oppose increased state party funding. It will be a party funded by the rands and cents of ordinary working class people. Millionaires are pouring millions into the ANC and other capitalist parties. We will not accept donations with strings.

what we stand for:

- ★ **Work**
 - Immediate moratorium on retrenchments
 - Massive programme of public works
 - Retool factories for production of socially necessary goods
 - R12500 minimum monthly wage
 - No to privatisation – for immediate re-nationalisation of all privatised services and assets
 - No time limit for unemployment benefit
 - Abolish labour broking and casual work
- ★ **Health**
 - An accessible, decent single state-funded health service free at point of use
 - Expand training and learning facilities and enrolment of medical and health students; fill all empty posts
 - Nationalise all pharmaceutical companies under democratic worker control
- ★ **Gender**
 - Equal pay for work of equal value
 - Combat gender-based violence, rape – gender-trained staff in all police stations and courts
 - Access to shelters for all abused
 - Decriminalise prostitution – end police harassment
- ★ **Youth and education**
 - Free, quality public education for all – no fees from pre-school to tertiary level
 - End academic and financial exclusions; cancel student debt
 - Restore privatised services to university/ school control
 - Reopen all teacher training colleges – fill empty posts
 - Mass campaign to end illiteracy
 - Stop police harassment of street children – for humane care and shelter
- ★ **Housing and basic services**
 - Nationalise all major construction companies
 - Decent houses, electricity, water, modern sanitation for all
 - Scrap all rent-, rates-, electricity arrears for working class communities
 - No to evictions, water- and electricity cut-offs
 - No to pre-paid meters
- ★ **Transport**
 - An affordable efficient and integrated public transport system
 - No toll roads or privatisation of roads
 - No job losses due to the BRT systems – guaranteed jobs for taxi industry employees
 - Minimum wage, organising and legal rights for taxi industry workers
- ★ **Trade union democracy**
 - Election of all worker representatives – from shop steward to highest decision making structures – subject to right of recall
 - Salaries of officials to be based on average of skilled workers in the sector
 - Close down union investment companies; for democratic control of investment decisions by rank-and-file worker committees
 - For a rank-and-file campaign to reclaim Cosatu's class and political independence
 - Cosatu out of the Tripartite Alliance
 - For a single trade union centre with a socialist programme
- ★ **Workers' unity**
 - Fight xenophobia – solidarity with exploited immigrant workers
 - Trade unions must organise immigrant workers
 - Equal pay, conditions and rights for all
 - No to defending South African bosses against foreign bosses
 - Socialist internationalism and solidarity through direct links of workers and trade unions
 - Joint programmes to defend jobs and conditions across borders
- ★ **Land reform and agriculture**
 - Expropriation and nationalisation of monopoly-owned commercial farms under democratic worker control and management. Compensation on basis of proven need only
 - Restore food security through abolition of import parity pricing; for state-controlled prices for domestic agricultural produce
- ★ **Socialism**
 - Build a mass workers party on a socialist programme
 - Nationalise top-five JSE companies, the Reserve Bank and commercial banks under democratic worker control and management. Compensation only on basis of proven need
 - For a democratically worked-out plan of production for social need, not profit
- End global warming, nuclear energy – no to fossil and for in green technology energy production and transport
- For a socialist SA, a socialist Africa and socialist world

