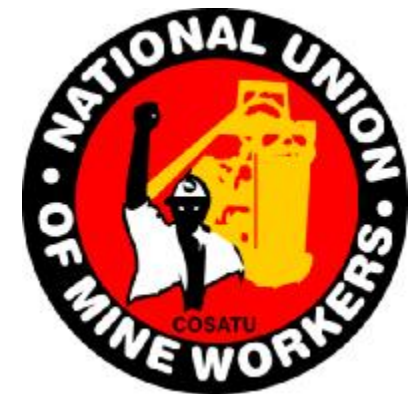


MINTEK 75-A CELEBRATION OF TECHNOLOGY “NUM AND TECHNOLOGY”

**Presentation by:
Frans Baleni
General Secretary
National Union of Mineworkers**

5 June 2009



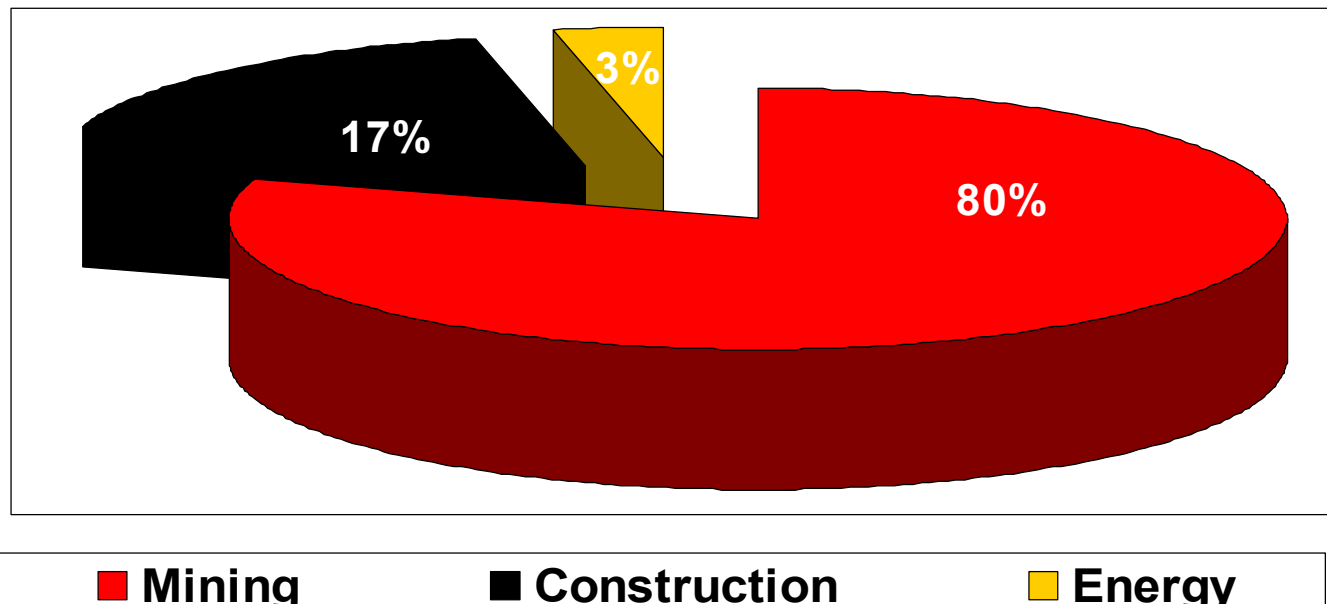
Presentation Road Map

- Background of NUM
- Mineworkers vs Technology
- Technological Innovation
- Conclusion



Background of NUM

- Formed in 1982 after 96 years of struggle
- Organising Mining, Construction & Energy
- 300 000 members



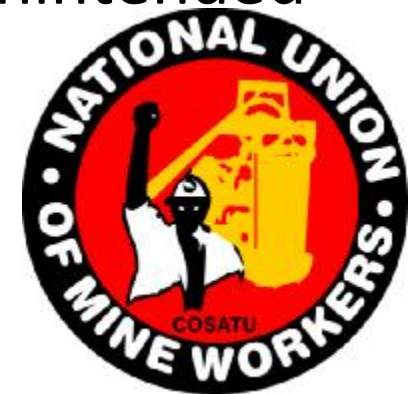
Is technology a curse or a solution

- Absence of consultation.
- Imposing ideas, even necessities can be ignored if there is no consultation.
- The Eastern Cape village water scheme vs the young women's experiences.
- No decision should be taken on our behalf if it has an impact on us.



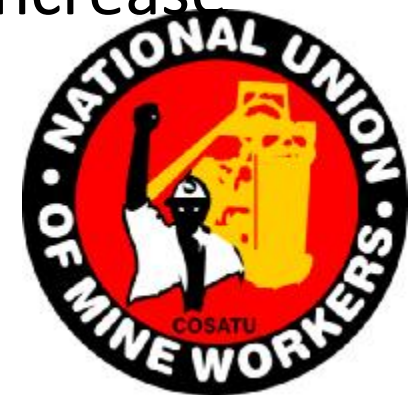
Mineworkers vs Technology

- Employed in the greater good in society, the working class and the poor.
- Technology is a resource that is not equally distributed in society.
- As a union we mitigated these unintended consequences and will continue to do so.



Technological Innovation

- In the field of mineral processing, pyrometallurgy, hydrometallurgy.
- Successive improvements in metallurgy enabled profitable extraction of minerals from what was once unprofitable deposits.
- Technological negativity can result to an increase of unemployment.



Mechanisation

- Shift in production methods has led to massive job losses.
- Mining absorbing fewer workers while also shedding employment.
- The challenge is to ensure skills acquisition by historically disadvantaged South Africans.
- To ensure that the digital gap is narrowed if not closed.



Health and Safety

- Health and Safety is number one priority of the union and technological can be handy to improve safety at the workplace.
- In 2000, NUM send a HS delegation to Poland to learn how technology could be employed in rescue and safety mission.
- Gon-Glop detection device system proved beyond doubt that miners trapped could be detected and rescued in the shortest time to save lives.



NUM and Technology

- We do not believe that it is the absence of technology that has failed mineworkers but rather the prevalent attitudes and mindset that mining is inherently a risky and dangerous industry.
- We believe that technology is possible that can detect tremors that lead to rockfalls and thus prevent before they occur.
- The NUM is not religiously opposed to technology we welcome it.



Conclusion

If you don't manage change, change will mismanage you!

Thanks

