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SALHA 146:NUMSA

Bosses on the attack! Workers fight back!

THE bosses' system is in crisis. In the auto, tyre, metal and motor sectors, bosses say that they can't make enough profits.

So what is their solution? They say we must help them solve their crisis - by sacrificing our jobs and wages.

In every sector where NUMSA is organised the bosses are saying the same thing: **"There can be no job security or moratorium on retrenchment - workers must be retrenched. There can be no decent or living wage - workers must accept wage increases well below inflation (16%)."**

The bosses say there can be no compromise on these things if the industries are to survive. They are going ahead with their plans to restructure industries. Their aim is for fewer workers, who earn less money, to produce more for them.

Retrenchments

Last year in the metal industry 35 000 workers were retrenched. Metal workers only got a twelve and a half percent increase (12,5%) even though inflation was 14,5%. This means that workers got poorer. This year more than 6000 metal workers have already been retrenched - that's 2 000 workers a month.

In the auto and tyre sectors, bosses can't retrench because of the moratorium on retrenchments. But they are saying they need to retrench thousands. Already

many auto workers are working short time and being paid less. In Samcor, over 4000 workers are only being paid 66% of their wages because they are only working 66% of normal time.

Wage increases

Auto bosses have refused to discuss a wage increase until we have given up the moratorium on retrenchments. Tyre bosses have offered a R1,00 across-the-board increase. Metal bosses have offered a 6,4% increase - this is way below inflation of 16%. Negotiations with motor bosses start at the beginning of May and it looks like things will be tough there too.

What do we do?

Comrades, our situation is clear. **EITHER** we submit to the bosses' plans - many thousands of us will lose jobs and those left working will work harder for less money.

OR we fight the bosses' plans by standing together to defend every job and make sure we use all our strength to win the living wage we need.

NUMSA can't stand back and let the bosses destroy us because of their own mismanagement. We have to stand together and fight for our needs as workers. If the bosses want a war over our jobs and our wages then we will give them what they want!

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