

DA trying to hijack our heroes, says minister

THE Democratic Alliance (DA) was never involved in the liberation of South Africans and is associated with oppression, Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa said yesterday.

"The DA wants to label itself as the spokespeople of our people. The party is actually synonymous with the oppression that our people suffered," he said at a Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) Workers' Day rally in Sharpeville.

He said the party had been part of the apartheid regime. "Today they (the DA) want to claim to be part of the liberation of our people. We reject that."

His words were echoed at other Cosatu rallies across the country.

At Durban's Curries Fountain Stadium, Deputy Public Works Minister Jeremy Cronin said workers needed to be wary of vigilante trade unions and the DA's attempts to rebrand itself.

He said the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union was a vigilante union that had been formed by ill-disciplined former members of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Cronin, who is also the SA Communist Party deputy general-secretary, called on Cosatu to be unified and to not allow vigil-

ante unions to undermine it.

He also accused the DA of trying to reinvent itself and change history. He said the party was "hijacking our heroes".

"They can try to turn themselves into prime beef, but will always be donkey," he said, referring to the scandal where donkey meat was found in sausages.

Meanwhile in Cape Town, SA National Civics Organisation chairman Rose Sonto claimed the DA had formed a gang so they could "gang up against the workers". - *Sapa*.

See pictures of Workers Day rallies around the world on Page 8.