

Bongani Manyoni

F: This is an interview with Bongani Manyoni, we're in Durban, the date is 16 October 2012 interview is done by Brown Maaba. Comrade thanks very much for your time. Just kindly give me your background, where do you come from and how you ended up in unions?

R: I'm coming from a long way. Firstly I am a mine worker, before that I worked for the government. I worked for the University of Zululand because what happened is ..., maybe let me give you my background. I studied at Mahlathini, eMpumalanga Boarding School. From there I went to Technikon Natal, now it's DUT, I did Bio-Technology which is the Bio-Chemistry or Applied Science field. After completing I worked at UT as a technician in training. From there I went to the University of Zululand and worked there as a laboratory technician. I then joined unionism. But when I was at Technikon Natal we were involved in student strikes, SASKO and so on. Then worked at the University of Zululand, and then I went to FOSKO which is the chemical industry, I worked there and became a unionist. In 2001, I worked for a company called Gumba, it was Tigo by then, the company then changed to Exarro then I became the leader of the union there as the secretary in the branch. I became full time until last year.

Then while I was the secretary of the branch I became the secretary of the local at the North coast of KZN, I became the secretary of the branch and the secretary of COSATU. Last year I was elected as the Provincial Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers.

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