

MEDIA STATEMENT-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONDAY, 01 JUNE 2015

NEHAWU MEMBERS WORKING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES WILL BE PICKETING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TOMORROW

NEHAWU members working for the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will be embarking on a national campaign ,that will include marches and demonstrations tomorrow, **Tuesday, 2 June 2015**. The workers will be demonstrating against the delays and unwillingness of DAFF top management to resolve outstanding worker's demands that date back to a period before the amalgamation of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 2009.

In Cape Town the workers will picket outside **Parliament at 12:00 until 13:00** and in Pretoria they will be picketing outside the **Union Buildings from 14:00 until 15:00**. There will also be demonstrations in all DAFF offices throughout the country.

At centre of the worker's grievances is the demand for improved service delivery and reduction of unemployment. The non-filling of vacancies by DAFF has caused unacceptable delays, in processing and issuing of permits to DAFF stakeholders, whose livelihoods solely depends on them.

The unacceptable delays in the filling of vacant posts and the abolishment of critical positions at DAFF has resulted in the department introducing a new turn-around time of fifteen (15) working days for processing and issuing of permits. Therefore DAFF will no longer take seven (7) working days to issue permits. These delays have been felt severely by the industry and the situation is likely to worsen.

In response to this, NEHAWU members at DAFF have therefore taken a resolution not to perform any duties beyond their scope of work, until the DAFF management act to resolve these long-overdue grievances.

We find it unacceptable that DAFF returned almost three R300 million rand to National Treasury and yet claim not to have funds to fill vacancies. It is now time that organised workers and industry stakeholders join hands and assist government in rooting out laziness

among the DAFF top managers, and demand value for money for services rendered by DAFF.

It is now time for the top management ,to account for billions of rands wasted, under the guise of the programmes such as CASP, Fetsa-Tlala, etc. Its unacceptable that the department is unable to account for these grants and in certain instances, they are allocated to people who are untraceable.

A detailed memorandum of demands will be handed to the Minister or his representative and Deputy Minister or his representative at **13:00 in Parliament** and at **15:00 in Union Buildings**. All the progressive organisations and Industry players are invited to support these marches and pickets.

Members of the media are invited to cover the activities.

Issued by NEHAWU Secretariat