

MEDIA STATEMENT-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONDAY, 30 MARCH, 2015

IT IS COWARDLY AND OPPORTUNISTIC FOR CDE ZWELINZIMA VAVI TO USE THE NAME OF OUR FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY TO FIGHT HIS BATTLES

NEHAWU has noted the underwhelming “big announcement” by the General Secretary of Cosatu, Zwelinzima Vavi. While it is always tempting to respond to Vavi’s self-righteous and inflated rants, we will leave it to the Central Executive Committee {CEC} of Cosatu to do that. Our immediate concerns at the moment are the difficult ongoing public service wage negotiations and other union campaigns, not the theatrics and the phony outrage of a self-important individual.

We have now become used to hearing the Cosatu GS, waxing lyrical about how terribly radical and cutting edge a worker leader he is, while accusing those he considers to be his opponents of being stuffy settled conformists.

What is obvious, from yesterday’s press conference though, is that Cde Vavi is not only a shameless publicist and a self-pitying delusionist but also an angry man. He never misses an opportunity to drag the name of our former General Secretary, Fikile “Slovo” Majola, when he cannot deal with his problems. We find this cowardly and opportunistic.

Cde Majola said all what he said because he was mandated by the union. Thus, with respect to the quotations from Sowetan, our former General Secretary responded to a question in which he echoed a shared analysis and concerns within the union in terms of the risks and challenges that the federation faced. Vavi must stop trying to isolate Cde Majola from NEHAWU, because he communicated the positions of the union with discipline and honesty, something that Cde Vavi is finding difficult to do in his own job.

We are calling on him to leave our former General Secretary alone. He is no longer the General Secretary of the union and is in parliament in line with the Cosatu policy of the swelling of the ranks, in the footsteps of countless leaders of the federation. Cde Majola was also elected into the national leadership structures of the ANC and SACP as an active member of these organisations in his own right. Cde Vavi should be familiar with this, including the resolution of the last congress on building the ANC, something that he previously approved of until recently.

Instead of focusing on our former General Secretary, he will do well to focus on explaining to workers, why the federation is in financial difficulties. He should be busy explaining the reasoning behind the awarding of contracts to people, who are doing business with his wife.

Cde Vavi's primary achievement has been in confusing the public mind with his discourse of conspiracy. Despite the fact that the federation has reached this point of unprecedented internal challenges on his watch, having been its General Secretary for the last 15 years, nothing is ever his fault as far as he is concerned. He has every right to continue making his "big announcements" using whatever medium he chooses, but he should leave Cde Fikile Majola's name out of it.

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