

## **MEDIA STATEMENT-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TUESDAY, 24 MARCH, 2015**

### **WORKERS WILL NOT SUBMIT TO THE FEEBLE THREATS OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HOME AFFAIRS, MKHUSELI APLENI**

NEHAWU has noted the public statements made by the Director General of the Department of Home Affairs, Mr Mkhusele Apleni, threatening workers with disciplinary action, if they continue with their lunchtime demonstrations. This is nothing more than a desperate mechanism, by the Director General, whose aim or purpose is to intimidate, bully and coerce workers into submission.

Workers will continue with their legal lunchtime demonstrations, in all branches of the Department of Home Affairs, as a build up to a planned full blown strike action. We reiterate our demand for the department to reconsider its unilateral decision to change working hours. Our union has never and will never lead workers on illegal strike. The ongoing lunchtime demonstrations are perfectly legal.

The union has declared a mutual interest dispute and will be going for conciliation with the department to try and resolve this issue. In an event, we fail to find a resolution to the impasse; we will then get a certificate for a legal strike.

It is unfortunate that the Director General has substituted leadership with abrasiveness and threats. We reiterate our position that we will not allow this shameless bullying of workers to prevail. Workers have two primary choices in this situation; they either accept the conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them. Our union has taken the decision to change this unacceptable situation, because we know that, as workers, we lose the rights we do not defend.

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