

DEPARTMENT OF WATER & SANITATION WORKERS



GET READY STRIKE IS ON!

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) is calling on all its members in the department of water and sanitation to join a full blown nation-wide strike starting from Thursday, 08th March 2018 until all our demands are met. The strike comes as a result of the department's failure to meet our demands. The employer's blatant refusal to find lasting solutions to myriad challenges facing workers has left us with no choice but to down tools.

After 12 months of negotiations, the employer has shown disregard to the plight of workers and demonstrated high level of intransigent and arrogance beyond reproach coupled with a harden attitude towards us as workers. The department has not been negotiating in good faith as it continued to make unfulfilled promises at the Departmental Bargaining Chamber. In this regard, the union declared a dispute which resulted into a certificate to strike. The outright disregard of our members' demands in the department clearly indicate that the employer has no interest in resolving challenges yet workers are expected to provide quality service.

The union has always maintained that at the centre of the employer's lack of cooperation and arrogance is continued looting of resources, rampant corruption, maladministration, wasteful expenditure and outsourcing of services to mention a few. The union shall not stand idle whilst the plight of its members and workers in general are not taken serious by the department.

Our members and workers are the ones at the receiving end of these problems engulfing the department. It is communities that are not receiving quality service and the working class that is directly affected by these shenanigans occurring in the department of water and sanitation. At this point, we want to remind the department, in case it has forgotten, that it is a custodian of South Africa's water resources.

NEHAWU wants to send categorically a vivid message to the department leadership and management that it won't retreat unless issues in dispute are resolved favourable to workers.

The following are issues in dispute:

- Failure to sign off new conditions of employment for construction employees which were agreed upon two years ago.
- Payment of merit bonuses and promotions retrospectively from 2017.
- The demand for construction workers to receive their merit bonus on December 1st every year.
- Failure to ensure that the contracts of Project based workers are linked to the life span of the projects.
- Failure to create a conducive working environment and provide better working conditions for our members in the form of clean offices and tools of trade.
- Stop outsourcing of projects in building dams as it renders construction directorate redundant and leads to job losses.
- Address safety challenges of water control aides/officers.
- Implementation of arbitration award on cleaners, drivers and grounds man.
- Stop unilateral process of establishing the Single Catchment Management Agency and consult labour.
- Stop irregular appointments and account for the money spent on a manager in Mbombela who was booked in a hotel for more than 12 months replacing a manager transferred to Pretoria from the same office.

All NEHAWU members and workers in general in the Department of Water and Sanitation to the front line as the battle is on come Thursday, 08th March 2018.

Forward to the Strengthening Workplace Organisation
Forward to the Deepening of Class Consciousness
Forward to Advancing Internationalism
Amandlaaaa!!!!!!!!!!!!

"STRENGTHEN WORKPLACE ORGANISATION, DEEPEN CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS AND ADVANCE INTERNATIONALISM"