

MEDIA STATEMENT-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEHAWU Preparing for a strike at NSFAS

The National Education Health and Allied Workers Union {NEHAWU} in the province of Western Cape, representing more than 80% of the workers in the Bargaining Chamber of the National Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) will be downing tools as from Thursday the 02nd February 2017 at the employer Head Offices based in Wynberg, Cape Town.

This comes as a result of the employer's unwillingness to take serious the concerns raised by the union about its flawed performance assessment process which then culminated to the CCMA issuing a certificate of non-resolution, paving a way for the union to engage on strike action.

Since the beginning of this year, the union has been in various engagements with the institutional management which so far have produced nothing. The employer has been making empty promises that matters will be resolved and that an agreement to avert the strike will be tabled for both parties to sign, but to no avail.

As a result of these empty promises, the union decided to press ahead with the total shutdown of NSFAS operations as communicated to NSFAS management as we have an experience of the employer making empty promises as a way of buying time, and in the case of NSFAS the intention is to deliberately cause delays until the critical process of registration of students in all Universities and TVETs has been finalized.

The union has since called on its members in the sector to withdraw their labour power by the 2nd of February. The strike will only come to an end once an agreement has been signed with the employer.

The decision to strike has not been an easy one as it affects students who are from poor background but the union cannot accept poor deals whereas our members are expected to provide quality assistance and support to the same students in a country that continues to grapple with the commodification of education.

Issued by NEHAWU Western Cape

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