

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

02 February 2017

### **NEHAWU suspends strike action at NSFAS**

The National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU) has suspended its strike action at the National Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) Head Offices that was scheduled to begin this morning.

The decision to suspend the strike was taken after the NSFAS management and the union signed a settlement agreement in the afternoon of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017, addressing all concerns raised by members regarding the performance assessment process. Failure to implement the principles of the agreement within five (5) working days then the union will be left with no option but to uplift the suspension to continue with its total shutdown of the institution.

From now on, our members will work hard and with vigour in ensuring that the students who depend on NSFAS funding are not jeopardized, however if the agreement is not implemented as signed by the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 then all members will down tools in the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 including those who are currently deployed in universities across the country shall withdraw their labour power until the principles of our agreement are realized.

The unity shown by workers, which led to everyone's willingness not to be deterred by deductions coming through "*No work, No Pay*" should teach NSFAS Management in particular, and employers under our scope that employers need to listen attentively to workers' demands as dictated by the legislative framework regulating labour relations as part of ensuring labour peace and stability.

The situation which led to the strike notice being issued to NSFAS is that employers must appreciate that trade unions as representative of workers are very important in maintaining sound labour relations hence both parties must do all in their power to ensure enough space for engagement on all matters without any arrogance.

Issued by NEHAWU Western Cape

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