

MEDIA STATEMENT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEHAWU NORTH WEST STATEMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 01 December 2017

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] in the North West Province successfully convened its fourth ordinary Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) of the 11th Provincial Congress on the 29th and 30th November 2017 at Ikanyeng Guest Lodge.

The PEC was attended by delegates representing regions of the union in the province except for one region. The meeting received reports covering all four pillars of the organisation which includes International assessment, Political assessment, Socio economic assessment and Organisational assessment. The meeting also assessed progress made in terms of implementing the union's minimum programme for the period under review.

The PEC noted that it is the final preparations by branches of the ANC for the 54th national conference. The meeting equally noted the disputes that have been raised by branches on the way to the 54th national conference. It is clear from these disputes that there is a grouping in the ANC that is un-ANC and hell-bent on undermining the constitution, policies and processes of the ANC in order to perpetuate their tendencies of amassing wealth at the expense of the majority of this country and against ANC policies.

The PEC also noted the recent Provincial Congress of the SACP and its outcomes and therefore, want to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected PEC of the SACP. We commit to work with this leadership collective including through joint political programmes.

Early in the New Year we will convene a Provincial Political Commission to analyse the political situation in the province and by extension, nationally including internalizing the outcomes of the ANC 54th national conference. This work will assist the province in developing a political programme for the first half of the year. The PEC also agreed to have bottom up discussions of the state of our federation in the province including the Provincial Congress to take place in 2018.

We have noted the unbridled corruption that is taking place in the public service under the disguise of outsourcing, public-private-partnerships and privatization. In response to this pandemic of corruption the union in the province will embark on a service delivery campaign. The campaign not only seeks to uproot corruption but also to assist our government to deliver services effectively and efficiently. As part of our service delivery campaign we will also embark on a provincial march against outsourcing, privatization, and other forms of atypical work in both the public and private sectors.

The meeting also made an assessment of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the union in the province and agreed that, despite minor challenges, the provincial 30th anniversary celebration was a success.

We also welcome the recent visits by our national office bearers to our regions and branches in the province. Indeed, that is a clear indication of a union leadership that is closing the social distance between national leadership and membership as part of the COSATU Back to Basics Campaign. We are indeed inspired.

Prior and post our branch congresses in 2018 we will work on reviving and strengthening our regional paralegal teams as part of servicing our members.

The PEC also noted the conduct of many provincial government departments in relation to the union – NEHAWU. We want to state it categorically that we will not be dissuaded by such conduct from fighting for the rights of our members in particular but of workers in general including the working class. We are saying those who are hell-bent on fighting the leadership of the union and victimize its members that we too, as workers belonging to NEHAWU and COSATU, we will run our own Comrades Marathon, as comrades who are ready to take to the road together, membership and leadership, refusing to be discouraged by the recognition that the road is very long, the inclines very steep and that, at times, what we see as the end is but a mirage.

We will strengthen our organisers' forum and step up our recruitment campaign in the New Year. We will also ensure the training of our shop stewards and members on relevant issues.

The PEC has mandated the secretariat in the province working with regions, to begin preparations for "The Year of Branch Congresses".

We wish each and every member of NEHAWU in the North West province, together with their families, a safe and merry Christmas and a fruitful and prosperous 2018. Let us all ready ourselves for the work lying ahead.

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For more information, please contact: **Patrick Makhafane (NEHAWU North West Provincial Secretary)** at 018 381 4585 - 082 455 2486 or email: patrick@nehawu.org.za or Deputy Provincial Secretary, Toffies Moemi @ 073 064 9300 Visit NEHAWU website: www.nehawu.org.za



KHAYA XABA

Media Liaison Officer

Tel: +27 11 833 2902 Ext: 60636

Mobile: +27 82 455 2500

Email: khaya@nehawu.org.za

NEHAWU HEAD OFFICE

National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union

56 Marshall Street | Marshall Town | Johannesburg

PO Box 10812 | Johannesburg | 2000

Tel: +27 11 833 2902 | Fax: +27 11 833 0757 (Secretariat)

Website: www.nehawu.org.za

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