

MEDIA STATEMENT-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEHAWU WELCOMES SECRETARY TO PARLIAMENT SPECIAL LEAVE

Saturday June 10, 2017

The National Education Health & Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] is disappointed that the Secretary to Parliament, Mr Gengezi Mgidlana, is granted a special leave and not suspended due to the enormity and seriousness of the allegations he is facing.

Our view is that this move is a small victory for the workers of Parliament and in particular the members of Nehawu, who fought relentlessly against maladministration, corruption and Mgidlana's dictatorial leadership style.

Although we welcome this special leave, in our view a suspension would have been more appropriate, considering the position that Mgidlana holds in the institution as well as the seriousness of the allegations. However, we celebrate the fact that our long held demand that Mgidlana should stay at home, pending the investigation, has been realised. We hope that ultimately he will be exposed for the liar that he is and found guilty so that he will be gone from Parliament forever.

Once more credit is given to our members who stood shoulder-to-shoulder and displayed maximum unity in the face of adversity and hopelessness. We reiterate our principled position that any manager who treats workers as their mere subjects and runs Parliament as their personal Tuck-shop, as it was the case with Mgidlana, will not be tolerated. We are aware of the existing precedent, in which a number of junior and senior staff were recently suspended by Mr Mgidlana. We will be writing to the POs to seek clarity on the conditions of Mr Mgidlana's leave.

As NEHAWU, we will fully co-operate with the investigation by the independent audit committee, however we are not going to withdraw our genuine and just complaint to the Office of the Public Protector. The investigation by the Public Protector must run its own course.

Issued by NEHAWU Western Cape

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