

MEDIA STATEMENT-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEHAWU PREPARING FOR STRIKE AT UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

Thursday 18 May, 2017

The National Education Health and Allied Workers Union [NEHAWU] has served the management of the University of Pretoria with a notice to strike on Monday, 15 May 2017 as required by law.

A deadlock by the two parties was declared in April 2017 and subsequently the union secured a certificate to strike from CCMA on 19 April 2017. Since then the union has been patient with the employer hoping that the university will unlock the deadlock by presenting a new offer on the table for consideration unfortunately that was not a case.

As a result, the union was left with no option but to mobilize its members and workers in order to exercise their constitutional right to withdraw their labour power after serious attempts to reason with the employer failed.

Indeed, workers are ready and the strike kicks off as from tomorrow morning, 19 May 2017 towards a full blown and complete shutdown of the university until our demands are met.

Our demands to the University management are as follows:

- Our initial demand was 10% and we later moved to 8% while the employer offered 7% plus R3000 once off
- We demand the introduction of 13th cheques and the offer is to introduce it in 4years and the employer is refusing to bargain on modalities
- We demand the introduction of more medical aid scheme options as there is currently only one option which is very expensive for the workers. The employer want to impose schemes without the input of labour
- We demand the review of Post-retirement medical aid, the employer is refusing as it currently benefits only white staff members

The un-avoided situation is a culmination of unwillingness and intransigent management which does not take seriously concerns raised by the union about the slave wages paid to workers and their perpetual refusal to address the medical aid debacle. Countless engagements with management has not yielded results thus we chose the option of a total shutdown. Our members will not return to work up until all these issues are resolved and an agreement is signed.

Issued by NEHAWU Secretariat

Bereng Soke (General Secretary) at 082 455 2713; Zola Saphetha (Deputy General Secretary) at 082 558 5968; Khaya Xaba (NEHAWU Media Liaison Officer) at 011 833 2902 - 082 455 2500 or email: khaya@nehawu.org.za Visit NEHAWU website: www.nehawu.org.za