

## **NEHAWU Northern Cape Press Statement**

Monday November 13, 2017

The National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] in the Northern Cape Province convened its Provincial Strategic Management Team Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2017. The meeting was attended by all Regional Secretaries and the Provincial heads of service centers of the union. Amongst its work, the meeting considered and reflected on the state of readiness for the upcoming Provincial Day of Action that will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 directed to the office of the speaker of the Legislature and the Premier.

The meeting appreciated and welcomed the good work done in convening successful general meetings of all union members across all 78 Branches of the Union in the Province, as part of our back-to-basics campaign. These general meetings were attended by and echoed the voices of more than 8 000 members in the province drawn from both the public sector and the private sector who understand their role in building a developmental state that is united against corruption, super-exploitation of workers in government, particularly the state administration, parastatals, both public and private health and private and public social development.

This culminated in the convening of our town-based member's general meetings in all our four Regions, Kimberley, Upington, De Aar and Kuruman, which were addressed by the National Office Bearers of the Union. Our town-based member's general meetings further reflected on the state and progress made by the ANC led government in improving the lives of our people. This includes but not limited to quality health care, decent jobs, provision of quality education and working conditions as well as dealing with corruption.

Members of the union have expressed their total disgust at the high levels of corruption that have become a permanent feature within society, particularly within our government departments and state owned institutions. However, it is the lack of appetite and political will from those given the Political responsibility and oversight to improve the socio-economic conditions of the working class and the poor that is highly irritating.

We have noted during the general meetings high level of intimidation and victimization of our members by intransigent management, we will not tolerate any form of union bashing, will act decisively to protect union members at the different workplaces.

We further noted through engagements our members a disgusting phenomenon of the Executive Council lead by the Premier, failures to implement signed agreements at the Public Service Coordinating Bargaining Council and its Chambers General Public Service Sectoral Bargaining Chamber and the Public Health, Social Development Sectoral Bargaining Chamber.

The weakening of security cluster in the country by President Zuma is amongst the reasons why thieves continue to torment and victimize our members in the workplace who speak out against corruption. Like the Gupta-Gang, the corruptor and the corruptee in the Province continue to loot State Resource while bringing our movement the ANC into disrepute. As a result the Union has taken a decision to approach the office of the Public Protector amongst

others to help in rooting out corruption in the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature and other government departments.

We have noted with tremendous disdain that quite an exorbitant amount of tax payers' money has been misused and mismanaged but no practical steps are taken to stop the rot. We believe that there is a growing tendency in government including parastatals (Eskom, SAA, and DENEL, SABC etc.) to spend public funds and not account, even to consider public interest.

Since 2009, we have witnessed one commission after the other being set up by the President to "investigate" various matters which should be dealt with by the relevant institutions. This trend has given hope to corrupt officials and politicians to steal from the working class and the poor with the knowledge that they will not face any prosecution.

We have always witnessed the grossly unfair administration of government services and a gross violation of Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and Public Service Act (PSA) whereby the choice of the service delivery mechanisms that are preferred are usually profit driven service delivery mechanisms instead of being needs driven. We believe that outsourcing and labour broking is a choice among many mechanisms used to enrich the few at the expense of the masses of our people and the poor working class. As a result we hope that the ANC as the leader of government will wake up from its slumber and reclaim its place as an organization of the people, for the people.

The Provincial Office Bearers are confident that all members of the Union will be joining the action on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017, together with our Federation COSATU, the vanguard of the working class, the SACP, COSAS, SASCO and the YCLSA.

The Provincial Day of Action will take place as follow:

Time: **9am**

Starting Point: **Galeshewe Arena, Kimberley**

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For more information contact Sabata Jonas NEHAWU Provincial Secretary at 082 455 2286 or William Sikali NEHAWU Provincial Deputy Secretary at 071 168 8275 visit NEHAWU website at: [www.nehawu.org.za](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.nehawu.org.za)

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