

## **MEDIA ALERT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NEHAWU LIMPOPO MEDIA STATEMENT FOLLOWING CABINET RESHUFFLE**

Thursday October 26, 2017

The National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] in the Limpopo Province notes the reshuffling of the cabinet by the premier of Limpopo, the honourable Chupu Mathabathe, yesterday which involved five departments. We note that the reshuffle did not remove anybody from the executive but merely shifted his MEC's to new responsibilities.

Analysis of any reshuffle is always influenced by two things namely:

1. How will the reshuffle enhance service delivery
2. How will the reshuffle advance the interest of the workers in the province

A cabinet reshuffle always carries with it a potential to disrupt service delivery due to the fact that as a new political head comes into the department everything is halted and for several months and in many instances delegations are withdrawn and the department is rendered to be in a state of comatose which is detrimental to service delivery. It is therefore important to make a call that the premier must insure that while such measures are important to avoid those who will try to mislead the new MECs that must be correctly measured against the level of disruption to service delivery and minimize such consequences as much as possible.

This reshuffle comes in the midst of continued implementation of austerity measures that is wreaking havoc in the public service in this province. Healthcare is collapsing in our face due to non-filling of vacant and funded posts and turning our hospital to resemble dump sites due to treasury refusal to replace workers who exits public service. Due this reality almost one worker ends up doing the work of almost five workers and hence compromising the quality of service delivery.

This reshuffle comes at a time when government is dragging its legs in implementing the collective decisions regarding the erase all accumulated arrears which are as a result of the u fair rental fees in particular affecting public works and roads departments and mostly employees who are at the foot end of the salary scale. This reshuffle also comes in when as a union we are engaged with the public works department around the outcome and recommendations of the investigative report.

This reshuffle also comes in the midst of a labour court battle between Nehawu and government in Limpopo on the matter of the unfair implementation of incentive policy which resulted in discriminating workers when paying them pay progression since 2012. In fact this matter remains a thorn in the flesh on public servants in Limpopo.

We have as Nehawu and as well as Cosatu handed over several memorandum highlighting these demands as well as others and therefore any cabinet reshuffle for must be able to assist to resolve these issues.

While we welcome the reshuffle we call on all the new MECs to open room engagements with the union with immediate effect to resolve workers' demands in this province.

**Issued by NEHAWU Secretariat Office**

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