



MEDIA STATEMENT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEHAWU AND SASCO JOINT STATEMENT

Monday January 8, 2018

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] and the South African Students' Congress [SASCO] had a bilateral meeting over the weekend to discuss issues of common interest and draw up a program of action in relation to the implementation of free education and the roll out of the Right to Learn Campaign.

The aim of the meeting was to strengthen relations between the two strategic organizations operating in the higher education sector. NEHAWU organises workers in this sector while SASCO is championing working class interest in the higher education sector. The meeting highlighted the importance of strengthening relations between the two organisations for the benefit of both workers and students in institutions of higher learning.

NEHAWU congratulated SASCO for convening a successful 20th National Congress held at the University of Johannesburg Soweto Campus last year December under the theme "*2017; the year of Oliver Tambo, the year of free education. Dismantling the doors of learning and culture*". The national union vowed to work closely with the newly elected leadership collective to deepen the struggle to transform the higher education sector in the country.

The joint meeting extensively discussed the issue of the announcement of free education by President Jacob Zuma late last year. The meeting raised critical issues that might derail the implementation of the free education; top of the list being the standardisation of fees, curriculum overhaul, lack of access for some students to the Department of Higher Education and Training's Central Application Clearing House, and the refusal for some universities to accept walk-in applications. In this regard, the two organisations reiterated their commit to transform education within the

context of the overarching South African vision on Education: "*People's Education for People's Power*".

A discussion also took place on the conceptualisation of the free education as announced by the President vice versa the clause of people's education for people's power as contained in the Freedom Charter. Both parties agreed that education is a socio-economic issue that should be use especially by the working class and the poor to bring betterment into their lives.

The meeting also underscored the need for the private sector as the biggest consumer of skills to fund free education through social responsibility programs not in a form of loans but grants and bursaries. A meeting will be demanded with government before the delivery of the budget speech to speak to issues of funding and implementation of free education.

At its Central Executive Committee meeting held 12th to 13th December 2017, NEHAWU took a decision to visit all its structures in institutions of higher learning and TVETs. The visit will coincide with the SASCO Right to Learn Campaign in all campuses across the country. A joint program will be implemented to look at the following issues:

- A smooth process of application and registration of students. This will include helping with walk-in applications as well as we expect a huge influx of students since the announcement of free education.
- Assist students with accommodation and settling in. The campaign will seek to eliminate vulnerable students from unscrupulous private accommodation people.

The success of this campaign will rest entirely on the hard work that our organisations will put in. We are more than ready to hit the ground running and ensure that we double our efforts for the benefit of NEHAWU members in institutions of higher learning and the student community.

Issued by both NEHAWU Secretariat and SASCO

Zola Saphetha (General Secretary) at 082 558 5968; December Mavuso (Deputy General Secretary) at 082 558 5969; Khaya Xaba (NEHAWU Media Liaison Officer) at 082 455 2500 or email: khaya@nehawu.org.za Visit NEHAWU website: www.nehawu.org.za or Avela Mjajubana (SASCO President) at 078 253 8406; Lwando Majiza (Secretary General) at 073 763 9099



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

Follow us on   