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Office of the Secretariat

National Education Health & Allied Workers Union

P O Box 10812

Johannesburg, 2000

Dear Cde

**SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO NEHAWU ON ITS NATIONAL STRIKE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF
WATER AND SANITATION**

Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) would like to extend its unwavering support to our fellow comrades at NEHAWU. It is our deep-rooted belief that the welfare of every employee is paramount to the life of any society. A country is only as prosperous as its working class and thus the rights of the working class should be jealously guarded.

Capitalism, in its decadent phase, has already proved to be incapable of improving the lives of the workers. It is thus incumbent on the working class, in unity, to unite in their strife; to do so relentlessly without fear and bravery. Trade Unions are an important means of mass organization, bringing together the working class against the struggle against capitalism and neo-liberalism. It is through their strength in numbers that the working class can bring their influence to bear upon the sins of capitalism and neo-liberalism.

Today comrades, we stand in unity with you in your quest for human rights, in this case, workers' rights. We stand tall and undaunted with you as you fight for social justice and respect for the rule of law. Your daily struggles, as are ours, are aimed at attaining one definitive goal: the liberation of the working class from all their hardships, through the destruction of the capitalism and the construction of an inclusive and equal society that guarantees the welfare of all. Your national strike scheduled for today (8 March 2018) is but one-step towards our liberation as the working class. This day will be marked in the annals of history as the day the cause of the working class saw a brighter day scamper into the horizon.

We stand with you today because we understand that unity is critical to strengthen workers in their struggle and deliver them the salvation they need. Key to your success, or rather our success is to address the consciousness of the masses to the struggle against oppression. The working continues to live under the pain of the capitalist's boot on its neck. The Trade Union movement should thus fight against this institutionalized form of modern slavery. No man can truly be free unless they are economically free. Our freedom as the working class rests on our ability to attain economic freedom. This highlights the importance of your national strike today. It is more than a symbolic action but a show of commitment to the struggle of the working class.

We, as part of the international community, further reaffirm the fundamental right of the workers as espoused in numerous ILO conventions. Further, we reiterate the need for all to respect the rule of law. We thus denounce any move or overture to suppress the ends of justice. Failure to implement arbitration awards represent an assault on the rule of law. The struggle of the working class can only prosper in the absence of anarchy and in the presence of the rule of law and a working democracy. Any assault on the rule of law is a major blow to democracy and an assault to our struggle.

In conclusion, BOPEU calls upon the international community to join us as we stand hand in hand with our fellow comrades at NEHAWU as they extend our cause. It is only our unity, as the working class, that can deliver us success. Our support to your cause is unwavering.

Yours In Struggle



Topias Marenga

GENERAL SECRETARY