



# NEHAWU

National Education Health & Allied Workers' Union

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

E-Mail: [Secretariat@nehawu.org.za](mailto:Secretariat@nehawu.org.za)

NEHAWU House  
56 Marshall Street  
Marshalltown  
P.O. Box 10812  
Johannesburg, 2000

Tel: (011) 833-2902  
Fax: (011) 833-0757

Website: [www.nehawu.org.za](http://www.nehawu.org.za)

## MEDIA STATEMENT-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday February 20, 2017

### **NEHAWU STATEMENT ON ITS READINESS AND DETAILS OF THE PLANNED NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST NATIONAL TREASURY AND DPSA, AND JOINT MARCH WITH DENOSA TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SANC**

The National Education Health & Allied Worker Union [NEHAWU] has been mobilising its members for the planned National Day of Action against National Treasury and the Department of Public Service and Administration [DPSA] on Wednesday morning, the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, including a joint march with DENOSA in Tshwane to the Department of Health and South African Nursing Council offices.

The union is organising (five) 5 marches with the main march to Parliament in Cape Town where a memorandum will be handed over to the Minister of Finance, Pravin Gordhan before he delivers the 2017 budget speech. While other marches are to take place in four (4) provinces namely: Eastern Cape (Bisho), KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg), Northern Cape (Kimberly) and Gauteng (Tshwane).

The national union is entirely satisfied with the level of mobilisation that has taken place in the past two weeks towards the success of the National Day of Action. In this regard, we wish to inform the public and members about the details of these marches as follows:

- The main march to parliament – all participants will assemble in Keizersgracht Street (District Six area Next to CPUT) then move to Darling Street before joining Adderley Street through Spin Street then turn to Plein Street straight to Parliament.
- Gauteng - the union with its sister union, the Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA) will jointly march in Tshwane to deliver memorandums to the Department of Health, South African Nursing Council (SANC), National Treasury and the Department of Public Service and Administration. Assemble point is at Marabastad [old Putco depot] then move

via Struben Street turn right (Direction South) into Thabo Sehume Street, (old Andries Street) to deliver the first memorandum at the National Department of Health which is on Thabo Sehume. Then proceed still on the Southerly direction (Thabo Sehume) to National Treasury which is at the corner of Thabo Sehume Street and Madiba Street (Old Vermeulen Street) where a second memorandum will be delivered and proceed straight to Madiba Street (Old Vermeulen Street) towards Acardia to deliver a third memorandum to Department of Public Service and Administration, corner Edmon Street and Hamilton Street. The last memorandum will be delivered at South African Nursing Council in Leyds Street.

- Eastern Cape, members will assemble at 10am in Bisho Sports Field. At 12h00 noon, the march will leave the sports field head towards Link Road, turn left at Independence Avenue and proceed to the Office of the Premier. At 13h00, the memorandum will be handed over to the Premier.
- Kwa-Zulu Natal, members will converge at Dales Park Sport Ground from 9am, depart at 10:30 and proceed straight to Treasury House which is located at 145 Chief Albert Luthuli Street in Pietermaritzburg where a memorandum will be handed-over to the MEC for Finance at 13H00.
- Northern Cape, members will assemble at Kemo as from 09am and depart at 10h00 straight to the office of the Premier which is located at JW Sauer Building, Corner Roper & Quinn Streets, in Kimberley where a memorandum will be handed over to the MEC for Finance.

Amongst the issues to be raised during the day of our national action will include but not limited to, the following:

- Neoliberal macroeconomic policies that undermine industrialisation and job-creation
- Retrenchments, outsourcing and casualisation.
- Immediate engagement on comprehensive social security system
- Imposition of wealth tax
- Demand for a higher minimum wage
- Banning of labour broking
- The total scrapping of e-tolls
- Affordable, reliable, accessible and safe public transport and a stop to the expansion of the Gautrain service.
- Filling of all vacancies in the public service
- Full implementation of national health Insurance
- Absorption of community health care workers
- Non-implementation of Boarder Management Agency

This national day of action comes as a result of gross frustrations and growing dissatisfaction with both departments drawn from their stubbornness and aggressiveness in implementing policies that are anti-workers. In the public sector as a whole, we have begun already to experience directly the impact of this gloomy macroeconomic context and the Treasury's austerity measures.

This year, the Treasury has permanently closed all existing public service vacancies and effectively imposed wage cuts in the public service with a level of wage increase that is below inflation. As a union we have taken this decision to embark on this action because we know for the fact that the decisions that the Treasury announces during the Budget Speech affect the wage increase, job security and conditions of service of workers in the public service and public sector as a whole.

On the 22 February 2017, it is the Budget Day whereby the Treasury shall be presenting the national budget in Parliament. During the 2016 Budget Speech, the Treasury announced the permanent closure of existing vacancies in the public service. Indeed, the closure of vacancies has created more work for fewer workers whilst the rate of pay still remain the same. The 2017 Budget Speech will be delivered by the Minister of Finance on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 hence our march on this day to make a call that all funded vacant posts must be filled immediately, as this (non-filling) has created even more work-overload across state administration and other supportive staff levels such as clerks, cleaners, messengers, potters and other so-called blue-collar workers in all departments and state institutions. The union is aware that this destruction of jobs in the public service is done in the name of reducing the public service wage bill and we shall not accept and shall fight against.

As NEHAWU, we are saying NO to these austerity measures that are only targeted at the low-paid workers in the public service and state institutions. We know that in this year's Budget Speech, the Treasury is going to announce even more austerity measures that are going to affect other section of workers because already it has planned to cut the allocations to the salaries for national and provincial departments by R10 billion in 2017/18 and R15 billion in 2018/19. This means that there would be more closure of vacancies and wage increase that would be below the cost of living. So our demands are clear in this regard:

- Fill the vacancies to improve service delivery - don't close vacancies.
- Improve pay and conditions of service in order to boost morale and performance of the public servants - don't create work-overload with poor pay.

As part of these demands, we are also embarking on this mass action to support the demands of the community health workers and all the workers in the country's points of entry that are going to be seriously affected by the creation of the Border Management Agency. Community health workers must become part of the public service in order for their pay and conditions of service to improve. These workers are extremely exploited whilst they are delivering important public services to our communities and they deserve to be employed in the public service and paid better. Thus, our demands are clear, end the labour-broking of the community health workers by absorbing them into the public service.

The creation of the Border Management Agency is the outsourcing of the public service to the private sector. This means that the jobs of some of the workers in home affairs, SARS, health, agriculture and other departments that are working in

the country's entry points or borders are going to be outsourced to the private sector through the Border Management Agency. Once again, our demands are clear. NEHAWU is saying, we reject the creation of the Border Management Agency, we reject outsourcing and casualization of public service jobs.

This year we shall be taking our mandate from members on the new round of wage negotiation in the public service. Because of the Treasury's decisions some of the demands in the current agreement have not been implemented and as NEHAWU, we are going to fight for their implementation before any new negotiations. In the same way, the announcement of the Treasury in this year's Budget Speech is going to affect our demands in the new wage agreement.

The union as a participant in the Public Service Collective Bargaining Council is aware of many resolutions taken for the public service which are not implemented by government as represented by the Department of Public Service and Administration. It is for this reason that the union will also march to DPSA to deliver a memorandum calling for the implementation of these resolutions as taken in PSCBC in order to improve conditions of employment of more than 1,5 million workers.

In this regard, the national union demand the following:

- DPSA must play its role in ensuring that labour peace and stability exists in the public service.
- DPSA must ensure that all resolutions signed in the PSCBC are implemented by all departments indiscriminately so, including OSD resolution.
- Assist Department of Health in the insourcing of Community Health Workers.
- Speed up the process of reviewal of GEMS to ensure that it meets its initial objectives.
- Table to the Council a comprehensive review of the danger dispensation applicable to the public service and the modality of payment of danger allowance.
- Finalise aspects of Resolution 7 of 2015 e.g. the governance and administration structure of the housing scheme, the employer should cancel the MOU agreement with SA Home Loans through PIC.
- Assist departments in resolving the disputes throughout the country on the payment of the housing allowance, including the R300 for qualifying employees which was held in the Individual Savings Facility.
- Table to the Council the GEPF Board's improved benefits as proposed.
- Assist in the speed up of pension redress payment to the qualifying individuals.
- Ensure uniformity in the salary levels for cleaners, gardeners and drivers.

The joint march of NEHAWU and DENOSA is underpinned by the understanding that all the issues are interwoven and requires a joint effort to vent the dissatisfactions with the Department of health, National Treasury, DPSA and SANC. Therefore, we jointly demand the following:

- Speedy and full-implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI)
- Addressing the severe shortage of nurses and non-absorption of community service nurses at the time when there are high vacancy rates in facilities
- Payment of nurses and suppliers;
- Full respect of nurses in SA as essential service workers;
- Consistent implementation of the Nursing Strategy like provision of nurses uniform by government;
- Implementation of the reopening of previously closed nursing colleges countrywide in line with the undertaking by President Jacob Zuma in his 2011 State of the Nation Address;
- Full transformation at the South African Nursing Council;
- Continuous professional development opportunities for nurses in facilities at a time of gross shortages of nurses
- Decentralization of SANC (Opening of provincial offices urgently)
- Opening of the registration period for payment of annual fees throughout the year, and not only from July to December of each year
- To allow nurses who work for government (who form majority nursing workforce in SA) to choose months that SANC can deduct annual fees, so that nurses don't have to come to Pretoria; and
- Transparency on how the fees are increased and utilized by SANC.
- Consistent implementation of the Nursing Strategy like provision of nurses uniform;
- Review of the benefits for nurses e.g. Occupation-Specific Dispensation (OSD), rural allowance and danger allowance.

The aim of this National Day of Action is to show National Treasury and government as a whole that we are not prepared to accept starvation wage, outsourcing, labour broking and private public partnership.

**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](mailto:khaya@nehawu.org.za) Visit NEHAWU website: [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)

Follow us on   

