

MEDIA STATEMENT-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 January 2017

NEHAWU preparing for a strike at UNISA

The National Education Health & Allied Workers Union [NEHAWU] is preparing for a full-blown strike at the University of South Africa after salary increment negotiations deadlocked.

The union initially placed a demand of 14% salary increment across the board from November 2016 plus the implementation of the Labour Relations Amendments [LRA] on temporary workers. This was declined by the University Management which placed 6% for settlement.

After the deadlock the matter was referred to CCMA for facilitation which set today, the 24th January 2016. During the CCMA facilitation the University Management reduced their initial offer from 6% to 4.5%. The union's view is that this reduction confirms the high level of arrogance and our long held suspicion that the employer has not been negotiating in good faith.

This 1.5% less offer as revised by the employer has angered members and workers in general to a point of agitating them to accelerate and intensify the picketing lines which started yesterday as a building up towards a full-blown strike as a form of highlighting their dissatisfaction against this ridiculous offer by the management.

Our members are disgusted by the fact that just recently Unisa wasted more than R100 million on an IT system to be used for purposes to register students for the 2017 academic year unfortunately this system is unusable and not of benefit to the institution and is regarded as a wasteful expenditure.

In our view this R100 million and in addition to R55 million wasted on a library software which is not user-friendly and also confuses students could have been channelled towards salaries of workers as part of decent wages.

What irritates our members more is the fact that the Vice Chancellor earned more than R5 million last year excluding bonuses while workers earn peanuts. The University is also refusing to pay performance bonuses that are due to workers and withdrew pay progression.

NEHAWU has been permitted to strike from Thursday until the matter is resolved. Further details about the strike action will be communicated timeously.

Issued by NEHAWU Secretariat

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