The national union {NEHAWU} convened an Agricultural Research Council National Bargaining Forum on the 3rd May 2019, Parktonian Hotel, Johannesburg. The national bargaining forum was convened amongst others to make an assessment of the Agricultural Research Council Full-blown Strike.

ARC Strike

The full-blown strike at ARC comes after having received a certificate for a strike after a dispute that arose on the 9th of March 2019 and the matter was referred to CCMA on the 12th of March 2019. The matter was set-down for conciliation on the 10th of April 2019 at the CCMA and parties failed to break the wage deadlock. The certificate of outcome of dispute was issued on the 15th April 2019.

Dispute Issues

The following are the issues that are in dispute which have resulted in the national union obtaining a certificate for strike:

• Salary Increase of 12.5% across the board.
• Single Term Agreement.
• Housing Allowance: R2000.00 per month.
• Medical Aid Allowance: R1500.00 per month.
• Performance bonus to be applied in 2019.
• Implementation of pay-progression/notch system.
• Medical insurance cover for employees whilst travelling for work purposes.
• GG13 & 14 (non-management) to be included as part of the bargaining unit of the National Bargaining Forum.

In all the demands that we have tabled, the employer has arrogantly offered nothing to our members and workers, clearly indicating to us that the employer does not have the interest of workers at heart and as such as a fighting transformative national union, we will fight for the interest of our members.
The national bargaining forum received reports from all our provinces and as a national union, we are more than ready for a full-blown strike at ARC as our members are highly mobilised and geared for a fight against an arrogant employer until all our demands are resolved.

On Monday, 6th May 2019 we will intensify our strike and members must ensure that all ARC offices are totally shutdown. From Monday, members must report to the picket lines and distribution of strike material (T-shirts) will be done at the picket-lines.

The national union shall not settle for anything less and shall wage a relentless war on behalf of its members until all our demands are fully met by ARC. It cannot be that its workers on the ground that must suffer when they demand decent wages.

Members have been mobilised throughout the country to ensure that by 6th May 2019 ARC offices are experiencing a total shut down.

Amandla!!!!