

MEDIA STATEMENT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEHAWU LIMPOPO MEDIA STATEMENT POST THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Thursday November 16, 2017

National Education Health & Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] in Limpopo has convened its five regional executive committee meetings throughout its five regions successfully from the 07-10 November 2017 as per the union year planner. The meetings received both the international, political, socio economic and organisational reports.

Political

Generally all the meetings reaffirmed the decision of the Cosatu that the Deputy President of the ANC Cde Cyril Ramaphosa must become the president of the ANC in the ANC's upcoming national conference in December. The meetings received reports of many workers who are making it as delegates to the ANC national conference which further demystifies the myth that workers are not active members of the ANC.

The Elwels Maponya REC [Mopani] appreciated the prevailing views from the BGMs of the ANC which indicates groundswell support of the COSATU decision of endorsing Cyril Ramaphosa as the preferred candidate to become the president of the ANC in the upcoming national conference in December. This is against the false propaganda which paints Mopani region otherwise. The REC is united behind the COSATU decision and has committed to go on the ground in BGMs and contribute towards realizing the COSATU preference in the national conference.

We therefore call on all our shop stewards throughout the province to exercise the highest form of discipline even when faced with threats and insults but remain focused and vigilant in pursuit of the correct decisions in the BGMs.

Socio Economic

The RECs condemned the austerity measures by the government of Limpopo which resulted in the non-filling of vacant posts in particular in the department of health and the department of social development resulting in both department resorting to acting positions in most of the management positions. Workers are the ones who are paying the price because they are made to continue to work in very difficult conditions of shortages of human resource and thereby increasing fatigue and more stress to worker which compromised service delivery. The union will embark on a continuous campaign against these austerity measures which are implemented through treasury notes.

The meetings also reacted with anger on reports that there are departments which refuse to pay pay-progression based on the fact that the employees have benefitted

from the 'irregular' payment of backlog of pay progression since 2012. This is another provocation to workers which threatens labour peace in our workplaces. The union will further engage the premier of the Limpopo as well as MEC of treasury Rob Tooley and demand an intervention on the above issues.

Furthermore the meetings were unanimous in rejecting the decision by the department of health of not paying 100% of overtime worked. This is an insult to workers who are made to sweat for extra hours of work without being compensated and this is having direct effect to service delivery. We are of the view that this decision does not take into consideration the fact that health is a very sensitive sector which has a bearing on people's lives and any lack of ability to render certain services for 24 hours can lead to loss of lives. The union will engage the MEC of health in order to resolve this matter failing which the union will be left with no choice but to instruct our members to engage in a work to rule and stop acting in vacant position and stop doing overtime.

Issued by NEHAWU Secretariat Office

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