



# NEHAWU SUPPORTS THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET ANTI-AUSTERITY MARCH TO PARLIAMENT

## MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Monday October 19, 2026**

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] fully supports the Anti-Austerity March to Parliament on Wednesday 21st October 2026.

The march is convened against the background of the 2026 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement [MTBPS] to be presented in Parliament by the Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana on the 21st October.

**JOIN THE ANTI-AUSTERITY MARCH TO PARLIAMENT TO DEMAND:**

- AN END TO BUDGET CUTS
- IMPLEMENTATION OF WEALTH TAX
- PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN DECENT JOBS
- IMPLEMENTATION OF BASIC INCOME GRANT
- FIX THE STATE • DON'T SELL IT

**WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2026**

**Time: 9AM**

**Gathering Point: Hanover Street (next to CPUT)**

**DEPLOYEE  
CDE PATRICK MAKHAFANE  
1ST DEPUTY PRESIDENT**

**FIX THE STATE • DON'T SELL IT**

**AUSTERITY IS A POLITICAL CHOICE. OUR COMMUNITIES MUST NOT PAY FOR A CRISIS THEY DID NOT CREATE.**

The anti-austerity march, brought together under the principles of a People's Budget, represents a united front of progressive forces comprising of trade unions, social justice formations, activists and community organisations.

The annual demonstration is united in the common objective that demands our economic system places the needs and interests of workers and the poor above those of the elites and the privileged few.

Our support for this march is rooted in the daily struggles confronting workers and the broader working class, who continue to bear the devastating consequences of the rolling programme of austerity imposed by National Treasury.





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Our support for this march is also rooted in the daily workplace struggles our members and public sector workers face. The consequences of austerity are particularly devastating for workers in the public service, who are expected to deliver quality services under conditions of mass staff shortages, inadequate resources, deteriorating infrastructure and increasing workloads. The freezing of posts, failure to fill critical vacancies and budget cuts across government departments weaken the public service and compromise the quality of services to the working-class.

This annual demonstration illustrates our resolve to fight and struggle against the continued implementation of neoliberal macroeconomic policies that undermine the developmental capacity of the state.

Lastly, as NEHAWU, we reaffirm our longstanding opposition to austerity measures, privatisation, outsourcing and agentification. We are calling for an end to a National Treasury that is acting unilaterally with no mandate from the masses and that is actively privatising and weakening state capacity impacting its ability deliver basic constitutionally enshrined obligations.

We remain convinced that quality public services, decent work and development can only be achieved through a capable developmental state driven by the interests of the working class and the poor.

END



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