

# **MEDIA STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE PEC**

**DATE: 17 APRIL 2012**

## Introduction

The provincial executive committee of KwaZulu Natal met on 13-15 April 2012. This meeting was attended by all representatives from the regions and members of the provincial working committee representing more than 60 000 education workers. The meeting was excited to receive a moving address by the Vice President for Gender on behalf of the National Working Committee. The PEC made diagnosis of the international and local political and socio-economic situation as well as organisational matters, all within the ideological framework of our 2030 vision as well as different strategic documents of the alliance and broader MDM structures.

The following resolutions were taken:

### **1. RUEL KHOZA ATTACK TO THE GOVERNMENT**

Within the context of the international political and socio-economic environment the PEC made a thorough analysis of the recent statement by the above individual. The statement was viewed as a well calculated and orchestrated programme to undermine, chastise and tarnish the integrity of the government voted in by the majority of South Africans. The statement by Khoza does not only seek to undermine the present leadership of both the ANC and government but it also insults the intelligence of the majority of South Africans who still believe in the present leadership.

The campaign by Khoza should not be isolated from the campaign presently run by the anti-majoritarian liberal offensive backed by some section of the media whose primary motive is to use legitimate concerns and frustrations of the poor to project our government as a failure. We believe that while his utterances are unscientific and unfounded but they have done a lot to tarnish and put in doubt the image of our country before the international community and that reckless statement is likely to scare off investors. We believe that Khoza and his NEDBANK should have first considered that they service people from the cross section of society the majority of whom voted this government into power and therefore Khoza (on behalf of NEDBANK) should have treaded with caution.

We are also disturbed by the conspicuous silence of all those in charge of NEDBANK including Old Mutual as a largest shareholder in NEDBANK. Notwithstanding the meeting yesterday between the Secretary General of the ANC Gwede Mantashe and Ruel Khoza, the PEC resolved as follows:

- a) That major stockholders owning NEDBANK must with immediate effect remove/expel Ruel Khoza from NEDBANK.
- b) That failing which we in KwaZulu Natal will request our members who are with NEDBANK to reconsider their stay in this institution and lobby the national office of SADTU to make this a national campaign.
- c) That Old Mutual as our long standing partner must demonstrate unwavering support of the South African government and take a lead on this matter.
- d) That meanwhile we call for all SADTU members in the province who had an intention take NEDBANK as their bank of choice to consider otherwise.

## **2. INCENTIVES FOR EDUCATORS**

That we convene an urgent meeting with the department of education and demand that all those who qualify must have these incentives extended to them with immediate effect.

## **3. ACCOMMODATION FOR RURAL BASED EDUCATORS**

In 2010 budget speech as well as the speech for MEC for Education, the announcement was made as a response to our demand on the issue of accommodation for our workers who trade their services in rural areas and in the process take responsibility for renting accommodation. This further reduces the social wage of workers. We recently had a meeting with KwaZulu Natal Treasury and were informed that education and other cluster departments are deliberately dragging their feet in coming with a model to address the above.

The PEC resolved that a meeting between the department, SADTU and Treasury is held with immediate effect and a agreement be concluded forthwith. By the end of June 2012 the agreement must be ready for implementation.

## **4. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS ON QLTC**

The PEC is concerned about the drop in matric results from 70.1% in 2010 to 68% in 2011. Our union has been for a long time requesting the department to call a meeting for all stakeholders for the purposes of analyzing reasons that led to the decrease in performance so that a corresponding programme could be put in place so that we regain our 2010 position and possibly better it.

We are concerned that we are now approaching May and there is no matric intervention in place. The PEC resolved that we demand the department to avail budget for this year's intervention and that teams for that purpose be put in place so that by May the programme shall have begun.

## **5. SADTU LAUNCHES SUBJECT COMMITTEES**

As one of the initiatives to improve quality public education, SADTU KwaZulu Natal has isolated the issue of continuing teacher development as yet another area to be attended to this year. To that effect SADTU has indentified its member to lead its sub-committees. The sub-committees cover foundation phase, intermediate phase, senior phase and FET Band. To that effect about 500 subject specialists based in school and office have been identified. The responsibility of these specialists would be to work with all educators in KwaZulu Natal in improving their subject content and pedagogical content knowledge. Such an initiative will not only benefit under and un-qualified educators but they will form part of onward development for all teachers.

The date for the launch is the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2012.

## **6. UNDERFUNDING OF EDUCATION IN KWAZULU NATAL**

The PEC was also concerned with the fact that education in KwaZulu Natal is underfunded. We believe that the R2 billion increase is not sufficient to respond to the basic demands of education. To that extent the right of workers are the first to be sacrificed. Education generally fails to project itself as a priority.

The PEC resolved to request the assistance of COSATU in the province in approaching both the Premier and Treasury to look into the matter.

## **7. FILLING OF VACANCIES**

The PEC noted with disturbance a number of unfilled vacancies in both departmental offices and schools. Our investigation has discovered that about 800 office based posts have been vacant for the past five years and this includes critical areas like Maths Science and Accounting. We have also discovered that about 1000 school based posts have been vacant for the past two years and that covers HOD, Deputy Principals and Principals posts.

We however believe that such is not related at all to the act of underfunding since these are vacancies arising out of budgeted posts. We demand that such vacancies must all be filled by end of July 2012.

## **8. ILEMBE DISTRICT MANAGER'S VACANCY.**

The union is disturbed by gross incapacity by the management of the department of education in KwaZulu Natal to an extent that their commitment to ensuring stability in education is in doubt. We are concerned that despite three months notice given to the department by the former district director to date the entire district is still without a director.

We are further disturbed by the unsavory behaviour by the department of education in demonstrating discrimination, nepotism and favouritism by failing to appoint according to the results of the recent interviews on the above post. In pursuit of favouritism, the department of education would rather sacrifice more than 700 office based personnel, more than 1500 principals and more than 14000 educators of the above district who today have been left directionless. What concerns us in the main is that in the process it is workers who suffer in the following ways: at the moment more than 200 teachers have not been paid over the past four months, more than 150 UTE's have not been reinstated and more than 100 schools are without sufficient number of educators.

We call upon the department of education to immediately make an appointment in terms of the recent process undertaken.

## **9. DISPLACED EDUCATORS**

The PEC expressed its concern that more than 300 educators which include members of the school management team remain displaced. We acknowledge that this displacement cannot be apportioned to the present departmental leadership including the MEC. We know that most of them dates as far back as during the IFP rule.

We are disturbed by the posture by the department of education who seem to shift the blame to the very displaced educators. We still confirm that displaced educators had always wanted to be at their original schools if it were not for the communities who entered into a barbaric exercise of removing them. We are concerned that education seems to be the most undermined among all government departments and in the main by certain communities since the same cannot be done to workers working in community clinics, police stations and other community based departmental institutions.

While we appreciate the MEC's attempt to address the above matter but we strongly believe that such a challenge should be dealt with as a systemic problem than an isolated individual crisis. To this effect the PEC resolved that the MEC and his department be met so that we all must contribute to coming up with lasting solutions to the problem and this must include the process that has just been agreed upon at the KwaZulu Natal Education Labour Relations Council.

## **10. The un-repented behaviour on the ANCYL**

We continue to be angered by the behaviour of the Youth League who in their imaginary world think that they are a decisive competitor of the African National Congress. We call upon the entire alliance to combine both in words and action in condemning such excessively foreign tendencies by the Youth League. We call upon the appeals committee to quickly put a conclusion on this matter so that the ANC and its alliance can start focusing on more important and major programmes to benefit the working class and the poor.

## **11. CONDOLENCES**

We take this opportunity to pass our condolences to all the victims of road carnage since January through Easter holidays including yesterday's carnage at KwaMsane (Mtubatuba).

On the question of the road carnages the PEC had resolved to work together with the department of Transport and Education to take forward the education campaign on this matter.

### **PREPARED BY PEC KwaZulu Natal FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**

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