

INDEPENDENT LABOUR CAUCUS

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MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR CAUCUS ON WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2010

PUBLIC SERVICE SALARY NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PSCBC PARTIES UNABLE TO BREAK DEADLOCK

Regrettably the public service unions and the State as employer could not reach an amicable settlement during the process of formal conciliation. The conciliator that attempted to facilitate negotiations could not succeed and was compelled to issue a certificate of non-conciliation earlier today.

The ILC and other public service unions declared formal disputes on 24 May and 9 June 2010, and in terms of the constitution of the PSCBC had to resolve the dispute within 30 days. As a result of the State's inability to improve on its offer, the conciliator had no other option but to declare that the dispute remains unresolved. In terms of the Labour Relations Act, parties are now entitled to exercise their rights, including a possible strike, and/ or attempt to resuscitate negotiations.

In the light of various collective agreements that have been concluded during the past few weeks, with specific reference to parastatals, the demand of the ILC was for a 8.6% (initially 11%) general salary adjustment, R1,000 pm (initially R1,650pm) housing allowance, and the equalisation of medical aid subsidy for members of medical schemes other than GEMS. The State's offer that was tabled on 7 June, was a 6.5% general salary adjustment and R620 pm housing allowance. The State is not prepared to discuss the principle of the equalisation of medical aid subsidy.

The ILC is extremely disappointed with the latest developments as the ILC participated in absolute good faith and did its utmost to reach an amicable settlement. The hope is expressed that the State will reconsider its offer and table a more reasonable offer and not push unions in the direction of confrontation. The latest developments however leave unions with a very limited list of options. The ILC is convinced that the present developments is not in the interest of South Africa.

A meeting of the principals of the ILC has been arranged for Friday, 2 July 2010, where after a joint meeting with the principals of the COSATU unions will take place. The purpose of these meetings will be to determine the most appropriate options available to convince the State as employer to return to the bargaining table with a more acceptable offer. The ILC records its commitment to good faith bargaining and its determination to reach an amicable settlement.

End of statement

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NAPTOSA (National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa), **NPSWU** (National Public Service Workers' Union), **NUPSAW** (National Union of Public Service and Allied Workers), **PEU** (Professional Educators' Union), **PSA** (Public Servants Association), **SAOU** (Suid-Afrikaanse Onderwysersunie), **SAPU** (South African Policing Union), **UNIPSAWU** (United National Public Servants Association of South Africa And Allied Workers Union) **Observers:** **HOSPERSA** (Health and Other Service Personnel Trade Union of South Africa), **NATU** (National Teachers Union), **SAPTU** (South African Parastatal and Tertiary Union)