

**Blitz 54/2017 – 14/11/2017****SAOU - Lei, Leer & Inspireer / Lead, Learn & Inspire****This Movember, grow your moustache for men's health****EENTALIGE SKOLE MOET WYK –
OPMERKING VAN DIE LUR VIR
ONDERWYS****Die SAOU reageer soos volg:**

Die SAOU het werklik met skok kennis geneem van die ondeurdagte opmerking van die LUR vir Onderwys in Gauteng onder die opskrif van die Beeld-artikel, "Eentalige skole moet wyk". Hierdie is tipies van sy politiek-gedrewe onderrok wat uithang. Hy wil so graag 'n opmerking maak dat hy nie dink oor dit wat hy sê nie. Dit is jammer dat die SAOU nie om kommentaar genader is nie.

Daar is meer as 25,500 skole in Suid-Afrika waarvan meer as 15,000 eentalig is met Engels as die onderrigtaal. Dit is die keuse van hierdie 15,000 skoolgemeenskappe om Engels as die taal van leer en onderrig te hê. Wat hy eintlik wil sê, is dat hy nie dieselfde reg vir gemeenskappe gun wat graag 'n minderheidstaal soos Afrikaans wil hê nie. Daar moet in gedagte gehou word dat daar ongeveer landswyd 1,200 enkeltaal Afrikaanse skole is. Dit is ongeveer 4.5% van die totale getal skole in Suid-Afrika.

Al slaag hy en van sy ander politiekgedrewe herontplooiende kaders daarin om al die Afrikaanse skole tot niet te maak, sal dit geen werklike verskil aan die ernstige en ooglopende probleme in die onderwys teweegbring nie. Ruim 70% - 80% van skole is onderpresterend wat niks met die taal van onderrig en leer in die skool te make het nie. Dit sal hom veel beter baat om eerder tyd en energie te spandeer om hierdie probleme aan te spreek. Die vermoede bestaan egter dat dit nie politiek gediensig is om dit aan te spreek nie.

'n Ander aspek wat duidelik blyk uit sy opmerking is dat enige vorm van teenkanting die Basiese Onderwys Wysigingswetsontwerp vir hom onaanvaarbaar is. Die feit dat die Wetsontwerp

**"SINGLE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS MUST
GO" – COMMENTS MADE BY THE MEC
FOR EDUCATION IN GAUTENG****SAOU Response**

The South African Teachers' Union (SAOU) noted with grave concern the ill-considered front-page comments made by the MEC for Education in Gauteng, Panyaza Lesufi, under the headline "Single language schools must go", carried by the Afrikaans press on 14 November 2017. Once again the MEC's politically driven proverbial 'slip' is showing. He is so anxious to make his voice heard on the national response to the proposals contained in the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill that he does not stop to think about what he is saying.

There are more than 25,000 schools in South Africa of which more than 15,000 have English as the single language of instruction. The school communities themselves of those 15,000 schools, made the conscious choice to have English as the language of teaching and learning in their schools. What Mr Lesufi actually wants to say is that he does not want to grant the same right of choice to a community that would like to have a minority language, like Afrikaans, for example as their language of choice. It should be borne in mind that there are some 1,200 schools, countrywide, that have Afrikaans as their single language of instruction. Those schools make up 4.5% of the total number of schools in South Africa.

Even if Mr Lesufi and some of his politically driven, redeployed cadre friends succeed in destroying the Afrikaans schools it will make little if any difference to the obvious and very serious problems that currently beset education. A hefty 70%-80% of schools are under-achieving; a fact that has nothing to do with the language of instruction. He would do far better to expend his energies to address the legitimate

poog om onderwys terug te neem na 'n model waar die skool 'n suiwer verlengstuk van die politieke gesag van die dag is, val hom nie op nie. Dit sal vir hom beter wees om 'n suiwer staatskoolbedeling te hê as 'n model van openbare skole waar elke skool 'n demokratiese verlengstuk van die betrokke gemeenskap is. Die Wetsontwerp sal ongetwyfeld weer die onderwysbedeling wat gegeld het ten tye van die 1976 studente onluste weer vestig. Dit is gewis 'n terugwaartse stap en die vernietiging van die edele beginsels van demokrasie, vennootskap en eienaarskap wat die 1996-weergawe van die SA Skolewet gevestig het.

Dit is hierdie tipe politieke onverdraagsaamheid en verpolitiserings van die onderwys sonder om op die werklike probleme van die onderwys te fokus wat daartoe gelei het dat die standaard van onderwys tans is wat ons tans beleef. Dit sal vir hom veel beter wees om alle skole eerder af te trek na die laagste gemene deler in plaas van om goed presterende skole as voorbeeld te gebruik en die onderpresterende skole op te trek na die hoogste gemene deler.

Dit is 'n bewese feit dat dit veral Afrikaanse skole is wat die beste model van transformasie in Suid-Afrika se skoolstelsel is. Daar is bykans 1,000 voorheen enkelmedium skole wat uit eie beweging parallel- of dubbelmedium uit eie keuse geword het. Hierdie skole gaan voort om onderwys van hoogstaande gehalte te lewer. Dit is 'n bewese feit dat gemeenskappe se demografiese samestelling met tyd verander en dat skoolgemeenskappe dit verreken op 'n onderwyskundige en opvoedkundige wyse. Waar probleme al ondervind is, is in die gevalle waar politici probeer het om sosiale manipulering te bewerkstellig.

Die SAOU is op rekord dat die Wetsontwerp die heel verkeerdste ding is wat onderwys die afgelope 10 jaar getref het. Daar is niks in die Wetsontwerp wat enigsins die kwaliteit van onderwys sal verbeter nie. Al wat dit behels is superbeheer deur politiekgedrewe en magsbehepte politici.

Dit is ongelukkig 'n realiteit van ons Grondwet dat die reg op vryheid van uitdrukking en spraak 'n integrale deel is. Die SAOU sal voortgaan om die gapings in politici se onderwysuitsprake uit te wys.

education issues. The suspicion that perhaps it might not be to his political advantage to do so does, however, come to mind.

Another aspect that is suggested by his comment is that any form of resistance to the Basic Education Amendment Bill is unacceptable to him. The fact that the Bill attempts to take education back to a model that makes a school nothing more than an extension of the political authority of the day, seems not to have occurred to him. It appears that it would be more desirable for him to have a pure 'State School' model than one in which public schools are a democratic extension of the communities that they serve. The Bill will undoubtedly establish the education system that existed during the 1976 student unrest. This is surely a step backwards and destroys the noble principles of democracy, partnership and ownership that the 1996 version of the SA Schools Act established.

It is this type of political intolerance and politicising of education - without focusing on the real problems facing education - that has led to the standard of education that the country is currently experiencing. Again, it appears that Mr Lesufi would prefer to reduce all schools to the lowest common denominator rather than using high achieving schools as an example to raise low achieving schools to the level of the highest common denominator.

It is a proven fact that especially Afrikaans schools present the best model of transformation in the South African school system. There are approximately 1,000 previously single medium schools that on their own initiative, chose to become parallel- or dual-medium schools. These schools continue to deliver education of the highest standard. It is also a proven fact that the demographic composition of communities changes over time and that those communities take this into account in a professionally educational manner. Where problems are indeed experienced is where politicians have tried to apply social engineering.

The South African Teachers' Union is on record as saying that the Amendment Bill is the worst thing to have happened to education in the last 10 years. There is nothing in the Amendment Bill that in any way whatever, will improve education. All that it reflects is a desire for super-control by politically driven, power-obsessed politicians.

Unfortunately for them, freedom of expression and speech is integral to and enshrined in our Constitution and the South African Teachers' Union

	<p><i>(SAOU) will continue to rigorously expose the gaps in the questionable pronouncements of politicians on education.</i></p>
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