2018-05-07

Beste Kollegas, SAOU-lede en Vriende in die Onderwys,

Ons het nog altyd geglo in eerlike en deursigtige kommunikasie en daarom skryf ons hierdie brief aan julle almal.

Die afgelope tyd woed daar 'n storm rondom ons persoonlik. Ons word in die media van wanadministrasie van die sake van die SAOU beskuldig en word julle oorval deur talle e-posse van 'n persoon wat voorgee 'n vriend van die onderwysgemeenskap te wees. Daar word aangedring op forensiese ondersoeke as sou ons aandadig wees aan onregmatige dade. In van die laaste kwaadwillige skrywes is die SAOU se Nasionale Dagbestuur ook betrek omdat hulle nie inval by die wense van hierdie buitestaander wat geen status hoegenaamd ingevolge die SAOU se Grondwet geniet nie. Ons het van meet af aan besluit om nie deel te neem aan 'n oor en weer moddergooiery nie, maar ons kan nie hierdie beskuldigings net bloot ignoreer en nie reageer nie.

Ons word in hierdie onaangename tye bygestaan deur 'n goeie span kundiges en adviseurs wat hierdie situasie voortdurend monitor. Hierdie span kommunikeer ook direk met die Dagbestuur van die SAOU, sodat die verkose bestuur die regte besluite op die regte tye kan neem.

Die SAOU se wyse van optrede is om pro-aktief te wees en om so goed as moontlik vir die toekoms te beplan. Ek, Chris Klopper, het myself toegewy aan die uitbouing van die SAOU en verwante maatskappye reeds vir meer as drie dekades. In die proses is wesenlike vooruitgang gemaak in oorleg en in vennootskap met kollegas en word die SAOU in alle forums erken en gereken as ernstige rolspeler in die Onderwys.

Ek, Louis Swanepoel, President van die SAOU, poog om op verskeie fronte en hoedanighede die onderwysgemeenskap te dien. Daar is egter nog reuse werk wat voorlê en kan ons nie nou bekostig dat ons fokus afgelei word nie.

Gesamentlik is ons ongelooflik trots op die suksesse wat ons oor die jare heen bereik het, alles beleggings vir die toekoms om die belange van u as lede te dien. Daar is soveel geleenthede waaraan die SAOU-span op die oomblik werk. Ons is ook ontsettend trots op die positiewe bydrae wat u as lede en opvoeders in die lewens van leerders gemaak het, en steeds maak. Ons bly glo dat hierdie 'n land vol geleenthede is met baie talentvolle mense.

Des te meer is dit hartseer om bykans op 'n daaglikse basis die ongegronde kritiek, en soms selfs die platvloerse beskuldigings van 'n klein groepie persone wat onder die invloed van 'n nie-lid verkeer, te verduur. Die 2018 ouditprosesse is bykans voltooi en des nieteenstaande die uitdruklike opdrag aan die ouditeure om deurgaans die kwaadwillige aantygings tydens die ouditprosesse te verreken en dubbelseker van elke rekeningkundige rekord te maak, is niks tot op hede gevind om enige substansie aan die aantygings te verleen nie. Ons weet egter waar ons krag vandaan kom en hou vas aan Sy beloftes dat ons onder Sy beskerming staan.

Ons dien steeds onverskrokke die saak en doelstellings van die SAOU en is dit vir ons aangenaam om te sien hoe die bestuurspan van die SAOU daagliks 'n verskil probeer maak deur hard en slim te werk. Ons probeer om die

lesse wat ons oor die jare geleer het aan hulle oor te dra en kan sien hoe die kernwaardes van dink en doen orals in die SAOU groep ‘n vashouplek gekry het.

Nieteenstaande die feit dat daar geen regverdiging is vir die kwaadwillige bewerings van wanadministrasie nie, is daar na afloop van gesprekke met senior kollegas en adviseurs deur die Dagbestuur van die SAOU besluit om ‘n gerespekteerde afgetrede Regter aan te stel om die bewerings volledig te ondersoek en formeel daaroor verslag te doen. Die verwagting is dat die Regter ook die dienste van ‘n onafhanklike ouditeur sal benut. Lede sal binnekort ‘n formele skrywe van die SAOU ontvang sodra hierdie aanstelling en opdrag gefinaliseer is.

Baie dankie vir al die boodskappe van bemoediging en ondersteuning wat ons van vriende en lede dwarsoor die land ontvang het. Elkeen van julle is spesiaal! Dit beteken baie vir ons dat julle saamstaan en beide ons en die SAOU se belange op die hart dra.

Ons wil baie dankie sê vir almal wat die SAOU help bou het en nog verder gaan uitbou vorentoe. Ons is trots op ieder en elk van julle!

Vriendelike Groete,

Chris Klopper
HOOF UITVOERENDE BEAMPTE

Louis Swanepoel
PRESIDENT

2018-05-07

Dear Colleagues, SAOU Members and Friends in Education,

We have always believed in honest and transparent communication. For that reason, we are sending this letter to you.

Over the past while a storm has raged around us personally. We have been accused in the media of maladministration of the SAOU's business and you have been inundated with a number of e-mails from a person claiming to be a friend of the education community. There is a call for forensic investigations as if we were guilty of illegal actions. In some of the latest malicious letters, the SAOU's National Management Committee has also been named because it refuses to fall in with the wishes of this outsider who has no status in terms of the SAOU's Constitution. From the start we decided not to take part in an on-going mud-slinging match but we cannot simply ignore these allegations and not react at all.

We are being supported in these difficult and unpleasant times by a good team of experts and advisors who monitor the situation on an on-going basis. This team also communicates directly with the Management Committee of the SAOU so that the elected management can make the correct decisions at the right time.

The SAOU's modus operandi is to be proactive and to plan as well as possible for the future. I, Chris Klopper, have dedicated myself to the development of the SAOU and related companies for more than three decades. In the process, significant progress has been made in consultation and in partnership with colleagues, and the SAOU is recognised in all forums as a serious role player in education.

I, Louis Swanepoel, President of the SAOU, have strived to serve the education community on various fronts and in various capacities. However, there is still a lot of work ahead and we cannot afford to lose our focus.

Together we are particularly proud of the successes that we have achieved over the years, all investments in the service of the future and interests of you, the members. There are so many opportunities that the SAOU team is currently working on. We are also especially proud of the difference that you the members have made and continue to make in the lives of the learners. We continue to believe that this is a country full of opportunity and many talented people.

This is all the more reason why it is so sad to have to endure the unfounded criticism and often crude accusations of a small group of persons under the influence of a non-member, on a daily basis. The 2018 audit processes are close to completion and notwithstanding the express instruction to the auditors to continually take the malicious allegations into account during the audit process and to double check any accounting record, to date, nothing has been found to give any substance to the allegations. However, we know from whence our strength comes and hold to His promises of protection.

We continue to fearlessly serve the goals of the SAOU and it is heartening to see how the management team of the SAOU continues to strive to make a difference by working harder and smarter. We try to transfer the

lessons learnt over many years to them and we can see how principled ways of thinking and doing have taken root everywhere in the SAOU.

Despite the fact that there is no justification for the malicious claims of maladministration, after the discussions with senior colleagues and advisors, the SAOU Executive Committee has decided to appoint a respected, retired Judge to fully investigate the allegations and to report on it formally. The expectation is that the Judge will also utilise the services of an independent auditor. Members will soon receive a formal letter from the SAOU once this appointment and assignment has been finalised.

Thank you very much for all the messages of encouragement and support that we have received from friends and members from around the whole country. Every one of you is special. It means a great deal to us that you stand with us and care about the interests of the SAOU.

We wish to thank all who helped to build the SAOU and who continue to build it into the future. We are proud of each and every one of you.

Kind regards,

Chris Klopper
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Louis Swanepoel
PRESIDENT