SAOU MEDIAVERKLARING
11 April 2018
EMBARGO: ONMIDDELLIK

Lesufi vra ouers se hulp met dissipline

Die SAOU (Gauteng) is geensins verras oor die inligting oor misdaad in skole wat deur die LUR vir Onderwys, mnr Panyaza Lesufi bekend gemaak is nie. 'n Mens kan nie anders as om te wonder oor die korrektheid van die inligting nie. Twyfel bestaan of alle gevalle van geweld wel gerapporteer word want in baie gevalle voel opvoeders dit is nie eers die moeite werd om geweld te rapporteer nie. Die afgelope paar jaar bestaan reeds kommer oor die toename van geweld in skole en het die SAOU dit reeds op verskeie forums aangespreek. In 'n meningsopname deur die SAOU in Oktober 2017 het dit baie duidelik geblyk dat 85% van die respondente al hoe meer aan uitdagende en geweldadige gedrag van leerders uitgelewer is.

Alhoewel alle skole gedrags- en dissiplinêre kodes het voel SAOU-lede dat die kodes geen effek op klaskamerdissipline het nie. Klasgroottes en gebrek aan ondersteuning deur departementele amptenare takel opvoeders fisies, emosioneel en psigies af. Opvoeders verlaat die onderwys as gevolg van dissipline probleme en 'n groot meerderheid opvoeders voel gedemotiveer en voel dat hul werksprestasie negatief beïnvloed word.

Dit is duidelik dat die stelsel van dissipline nie suksesvol is nie. Leerders wat wel geskors word, word net weer 'n ander skool se probleem. Die veiligheid van opvoeders en ander leerders word nie regtig aangespreek nie. Die vraag ontstaan of mnr Lesufi werklik dissipline van leerders as een van die departement se top prioriteite beskou.

Om meer funksionele skole daar te stel wat kan staatmaak op ondersteuning deur die departementele amptenare behoort 'n prioriteit te wees. Die LUR het by verskeie geleenthede hom tot die lewering van kwaliteitsonderrig verbind. Getraumatiseerde opvoeders in oorvol klasse kan moeilik hul beste gee.

Die vakbond doen 'n beroep op mnr Lesufi om daadwerklik op te tree, die onderwysbegroting verantwoordelik te begin bestee, opvoeder tekorte aan te spreek, nuwe skole te bou in areas waar daar dringende behoeftes is.

As vakbond het die SAOU al verskeie opleidingsgeleenthede gehou waar ons opvoeders bemagtig en sal voortgaan om opvoeders te bemagtig en te ondersteun. Dit bly egter die GDO se verantwoordelikheid om opvoeders te ondersteun en te bemagtig.

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SAOU MEDIA STATEMENT
11 APRIL 2018
EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

Lesufi asks parents for help with discipline

The SAOU is not surprised at all concerning the information about violence in schools that has been announced by the MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi. We cannot but wonder about the correctness of this information. Doubt exists as to whether or not all incidents of violence are reported because in many instances the educators feel that it is not worth reporting an incident. Over the past few years there has already been great concern about the increase of violence in schools and this has been addressed by the SAOU on many occasions in various forums. In an opinion survey conducted by the SAOU in October 2017 it was clear that 85% of all respondents have experienced an increase in insubordinate and violent behaviour in learners.

Even though all schools have Disciplinary Codes of Conduct the SAOU members feel that they have no impact on classroom discipline. The size of classes and lack of support by departmental officials affects educators on physical, emotional and psychological levels. Educators leave the profession because of disciplinary challenges and more and more educators feel demotivated and feel that work performance is influenced in a negative way. It is very clear that discipline in schools is not successful. Learners who are suspended simply become a problem for another school. The safety of educators and learners alike is not properly addressed. This begs the question: Does Mr Lesufi really see learner discipline as one of the top priorities of the department?

To establish more functional schools that can rely on the support of the department should be a priority. The MEC has, on many occasions, committed himself to the delivery of quality education. Traumatised educators in overfull classrooms cannot give their best.

The SAOU calls on Mr Lesufi to immediately take action, to start spending the budget responsibly, to address shortages in educator numbers and to build new schools in areas where the need is critical.
As a union, the SAOU has already provided numerous training opportunities in an endeavour to empower educators in regard to discipline and we will continue to empower and support educators. It is, however, still the responsibility of the GDE to give educators effective support in matters of discipline.

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