SAOU MEDIAVERKLARING
14 September 2018
EMBARGO: ONMIDDELLIK
LEERDER VERMOOR ONDERWYSER
SAOU DOEN 'N BEROEPE OP DIE MINISTER OM NA AKSIE OOR TE GAAN

Die SAOU wil die Regering se Onderwys LURe gelukwens met die sterk bewoorde verklarings wat in die media aangehaal is oor die geen verdraagsaamheid teenoor geweld in skole in 'n reaksie op die moord van 'n onderwyser deur 'n leerder en teenoor geweld teen opvoeders in die algemeen.

Ongelukkig is dié soort reaksie na die sinnelose moord van 'n onderwyser deur 'n leerder maar die gewone, populistiese stellings van ambisieuse politici wat die publiek nou al male sonder tal in die verlede ook gehoor het .

Praat is goedkoop, Mnr die LUR vir Onderwys Gauteng.

Sekerlik goedkoper as die groot bedrae geld wat dit sal neem om die werklike probleme wat onderwys in Suid-Afrika ondervind, aan te spreek en soos reeds deur baie verslae aandui, verspil word op 'n verskeidenheid van projekte waarvan onder andere die versuim van die bou van formeel-beplande skole, die ondeurdagte verspreiding van tablette aan skole sonder internetverbindings (nie om te praat van geen elektrisiteit en geen behoorlike toiletgeriewe nie) en 'n werksmag wat geensins bemagtig is om die instrumente effektief te gebruik nie. En dan het mens nie eers die sekuriteitsaspekte van die projek oorweeg nie.

Die tyd het lankal aangebreek om die probleem trompop aan te spreek. Dade spreek harder as woorde en ons onderwysstelsel het daadwerklike optrede nodig as dit enigsins sal slaag.
Byvoorbeeld:

- Waar is opvoedkundige verantwoordbare posvoorsieningsnorme wat kleiner klasgroottes sal verseker?
- Waar is al die nuutgeboude skole wat vir die afgelope fiskale jaar beplan is ? Die voorsiening van die korrekte hoeveelheid skole is sekerlik van kardinale belang. Om opvoeders met meer leerders per vierkante meter te oorlaai is ongesond en opvoedkundig beslis onverdedigbaar. Dit mag 'n gewilde toegangspad vir beide leerlinge en die politici wees wat betrokke is by die vervulling van hul politieke aspirasies, maar dit spreek geensins die kwessie van die lewering van gehalte onderwys aan nie. En gehalte onderwys is elke leerder se droom.
- Waar is die behoorlike en toepaslike fasiliteite / hulpbronne vir die lewering van goeie, onderwys? Is daar enige waardigheid daarin om 'n putlatrine te gebruik en dit na 20 jaar se leëbeloftes?
- Waarom is die klaskamers wat reeds bestaan nie van opgeleide (en / of opgegradeerde) professionele en verantwoordbare onderwysers voorsien nie?

Dit is nou die tyd is om 'n gerespekteerde kultuur van onderrig en leer te vestig, gebaseer op professionaliteit, verantwoordbaarheid en aanspreeklikheid; 'n stelsel wat doeltreffend geadministreer word en wat inderdaad geen kind agterlaat nie en waarop die nasie werklik trots kan voel.

Dit is die faktore wat die SAOU glo 'n beduidende verskil sal maak om die skrikwekkende toename in geweld, die nie-respek vir orde en aanspreeklikheid in skole te bekamp – 'n toename waartoe die huidige Suid-Afrikaanse Onderwysstelsel tans indirek bydra deur sy gebrek om werklike aandag aan die probleme binne sy mandaat te verleen.

Die SAOU doen 'n beroep op die Minister van Basiese Onderwys om beheer te neem en om te fokus op wat in die beste belang van die kinders / jeug van Suid-Afrika is en nie toe te laat dat politici onderwys gebruik om hul ambisieuse politieke loopbane te bevorder nie.

EINDE

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SAOU MEDIA STATEMENT
14 September 2018
EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

TEACHER MURDERED BY PUPIL
SAOU CALLS THE MINSTER TO ACTION

The SAOU congratulates the Government's education operative on the strong statements quoted in the media regarding zero-tolerance in response to the murder of a teacher by a learner and of violence against educators in general.

However, as usual, this kind of response to the senseless stabbing to death of a teacher by a learner has drawn all the usual populist statements that the public has heard from ambitious politicians over the past several years.

Talk is cheap, Mr MEC for Education Gauteng.

Certainly cheaper than the amounts of money that it would take to address the real issues facing education in South Africa and which, by all reports, have been squandered on a variety of projects not the least of which is typified by non-building of planned schools and ill-conceived plans for the distribution of tablets to schools with no internet connectivity (not to speak of no electricity and no proper toilet facilities) and a workforce generally not sufficiently empowered to use the instruments effectively. And then one has not even started to consider the security aspects of the project.

The time has long ago come to face the facts and address them effectively. Actions speak louder than words and our education system needs real action if it is to truly succeed.
For example:

- Where are educationally accountable post provisioning norms that will ensure smaller class sizes?
- Where are all the newly built schools planned for the past fiscal year? Surely building the correct number of schools required is essential? Overloading spaces and educators with more learners per square metre than is healthy let alone educationally sound, may be a popular access move for both pupils and the politician concerned by fulfilling political aspirations but it does not in any way address the question of the delivery of quality education: every learners dream.
- Where are the proper and appropriate facilities/resources for the delivery of good, sound education? Where is the dignity after more than 20 years of promises, in having to use a pit-latrine?
- Why have the classrooms that do exist not been provided with the required numbers of properly trained (and/or up- graded) professional and accountable teachers to manage the classrooms?

The time is now to build a respectable culture of teaching and learning based on professionalism, responsibility and accountability; a system that is efficiently administered and which indeed leaves no child behind and of which the nation can feel truly proud.

These are the factors that the SAOU believes will make a significant start to curbing the terrifying slide into violent non-respect for order and accountability that the current South African Education system is currently indirectly abetting through its lack of REAL attention to the problems facing its mandate.

The SAOU calls on the Minister of Basic Education to take firm control and focus on what is in the best interests of the children/youth of South Africa and not allow arrant politicians to use Education to smooth their ambitious political careers.

(The Statement which was published over the weekend, was widely distributed to media across the country, including all the affiliates of FEDUSA).

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