MEDIAVERKLARING DEUR DIE SAOU
21 September 2016
EMBARGO: ONMIDDELIK

Kan die onderwys stelsel die onrus bekostig?

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Onderwysunie (SAOU) se Dagbestuur het met ernstige kommer kennis geneem van die toenemende en ondermynende invloed wat die voortgesette onrus en wanorde van die #FeesMustFall veldtog wat op universiteite heers, op die lewering van basiese onderwys het. "Skole kan dit eenvoudig nie bekostig dat hierdie ontwrigting oorspoel nie. Dit sal al die vordering wat oor die afgelope paar jaar gemaak is, vernietig. Ons kan nie toelaat dat 'n atmosfeer van vernietiging en onrus wortelskiet nie. Dit sal skoolleerders van hul reg op basiese onderwys ontneem. Om die eenogige houding in te neem wat huidiglik op plakkate verkondig word, 'Ek verander dinge wat ek nie kan aanvaar nie', en om dit op 'n oproerige en somtyds gewelddadige wyse te doen, is beide ondemokraties en onkonstitusioneel. Eweneens, is onderwys maar te deeglik bewus van hoe maklik die situasie vir spesifieke politieke gewin, uitgebuit kan word," sê Chris Klopper, HUB van die SAOU.

Met verwysing na die onlangse bohaai wat by hoërskole ontwikkel het aangaande haarstyle vir dogters, het Klopper gesê dat daar altyd verskille van opinies was, en sal wees, in verband met haarreëls vir dogters. "Haarreëls kan nie onder die benadering van 'een grootte pas almal' val nie en moet die gevolg wees van samesprekings op gemeenskapsvlak. Sodra die reëls egter deur die gemeenskap soos verteenwoordig deur die Beheerliggaam van die Skool bepaal is, moet dit streng toegepas word en leerders en ouers moet daaraan gehoor gee. Die rede hiervoor is voor die hand liggend. Daar is 'n direkte verband tussen dissipline, redelike skoolreëls en kwaliteit onderwys. Die uitbuiting van 'n algemene atmosfeer van onrus om onredelike eise van 'onregverdigheid' en 'rassisme' op 'n ander vlak te bevorder, getuig egter van politieke opportunisme wat geen plek het in die lewering van kwaliteit basiese onderwys nie. Die Minister van Basiese Onderwys moet ondersteun word in haar versoek aan provinsiale onderwysowerhede om skole te help om gedragskodes wat die ondersteuning van transformasie sal verbeter, te ontwikkel, terwyl die positiewe vooruitgang gehandhaaf word wat reeds in die onderwys behaal is." sê Klopper. Hy het egter gewaarsku dat sulke liggame moet saamwerk met skole en nie in die versoeking kom om betrokke te raak buite die grense van hul amptelike jurisdiksie nie.

Dit is noodsaaklik dat skole toegelaat word om te funksioneer as geordende, kultuursensitiewe en gedissiplineerde instellings wat 'n onontbeerlike diens aan die gemeenskap en land lewer. Die SAOU doen 'n beroep op gemeenskappe, skole, onderwysers en leerders om te fokus op die kern van hul besigheid, en dit is om 'n kultuur van leer en onderrig te handhaaf en te verhoed dat inrigtings vernietig word deur onnodige ontwrigting.

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SUID-AFRIKAANSE ONDERWYSERSUNIE
SOUTH AFRICAN TEACHERS' UNION

SAOU

Nasionale Kantoor / National Office

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EMBARGO: IMMEDIATE

Can the education system afford the unrest?

The South African Teachers' Union (SAOU) has noted with grave concern the growing and undermining influence that the on-going unrest fomented by the #FeesMustFall campaign at tertiary education level is having on the delivery of basic education. "Schools can simply not afford to have a spill over of disruption from higher education. It would destroy all the gains that have been made over the past few years. We cannot allow an atmosphere of destruction and unrest to take root. It robs learners of their right to basic education. Adopting the unilateral attitude currently being touted on some placards that 'I am changing the things I cannot accept,' and doing so in an unruly and sometimes violent manner is both undemocratic and unconstitutional. Also, education is acutely aware of how easily the situation can be exploited for specific political gain," Chris Klopper, CEO of the SAOU said.

Citing the recent furore that developed at high schools regarding hairstyles for girls Klopper said that there have always been and always will be differences of opinion in regard to hair rules for girls. "Hair rules cannot fall into a 'one- size-fits-all' approach and must be the result of discussion on community level. But once the rules have been determined by the community as represented by the School Governing Body, they should be strictly applied and learners and parents must abide by the rules. The reason for this is obvious: There is a direct relationship between adherence to agreed, reasonable school rules and quality education. However, exploiting a general atmosphere of unrest to make unreasonable claims of 'unfairness' and 'racism' at a different, level smacks of political point-scoring that has no place in the delivery of quality basic education. The Minister of Basic Education is to be supported in her request to provincial education bodies to help schools to create codes of conduct that aid and enhance transformation while maintaining the positive advances in education that have already been achieved." Klopper said. He cautioned, however, that such bodies should work co-operatively with schools and not be tempted to impose rules or structures that fall outside the parametres of their official jurisdiction.

It is imperative that schools be allowed to function as ordered, culturally sensitive and disciplined institutions that provide an indispensable service to the country as a whole. The SAOU calls on communities, schools, educators and learners to focus on their core business, that is, to teach and learn and to avoid destroying what has been positively built to date, through unnecessary disruption.

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