SAOU
DIE VERANDERING IN ONDERWYS
THE CHANGE IN EDUCATION

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Nasionale Nuusbrief / National Newsletter

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SMEAR CAMPAIGN

"The truth shall prevail"

This was the reaction of the National Standing Committee of the South African Teachers Union (SAOU), comprising the president and the nine provincial chairpersons, in response to media articles and inquiries related to a smear campaign driven by a businessman in regard to the ethical and financial management of the Union. The businessman is facing various serious court cases in the near future relating to defamation and a claim for damages on the grounds of libel and untrue allegations that he is spreading about the SAOU.

This is likely the reason for the continuation and increased intensity of the smear campaign. A radio interview immediately following the recent repetition of some of the allegations originally made early in 2018, which were comprehensively and repeatedly addressed and refuted at the time, was broadcast nationally in response to the first of the recent smear reports. Despite this, a second smear article was published on 4 July 2019.

In further response to the new onslaught, the National Standing Committee draws the attention of members to the following:

1. A full judicial investigation lasting more than six months of the SAOU and SAEF was conducted during 2018 by Judge Hartzenberg. The full

SMEERVELDTOG

"Die waarheid sal seëvier"

Dit was die reaksie van die Nasionale Dagbestuur van die Suid-Afrikaanse Onderwysersunie (SAOU), bestaande uit die president en die nege provinsiale voorsitters, rakende die mees resente media artikels en navrae oor die smeerveldtog wat gedryf word deur 'n sakeman insake die etiese en finansiële bestuur van die Unie. Die sakeman staar verskeie ernstige hofsake in die afsienbare toekoms in die gesig wat verband hou met 'n klag van teistering en 'n eis vir skadevergoeding op grond van lasterlike en onware bewerings wat hy ten opsigte van die SAOU versprei.

Dit is waarskynlik die rede vir die voortsetting en verhoogde intensiteit van die smeerveldtog. Ten spyte van 'n nasionaal uitgesaaide radio-onderhoud onmiddellik na die onlangse herhaling van aantygings wat reeds sedert vroeg in 2018 gemaak word, en wat omvattend en herhaaldelik aangespreek en weerlê was, was 'n tweede smeerartikel gepubliseer op 4 Julie 2019.

In reaksie op die nuwe aanslag teen die SAOU, verwys die Nasionale Dagbestuur na die volgende:

1. Regter Hartzenberg het 'n volledige geregtelike ondersoek in 2018 ten opsigte van die SAOU en SAEF gedoen wat meer as ses maande geduur het. Die volledige verslag is al vir ongeveer agt maande beskikbaar op die SAOU se webtuiste.

report is available on the SAOU's website, as it has been for the past eight months. http://www.saou.co.za/saou-smeer-veldtog-saou-smear-campaign/

2. A full independent forensic audit on the insistence of Judge Hartzenberg was also undertaken during the same period. It is incorporated in the report of the Judge.

3. Furthermore, the forensic auditor provided an additional sworn affidavit. Click here

4. The radio interview held on 26 June 2019 wherein comprehensive responses on the allegations are provided. Click here

In both documents which are in the public domain, the SAOU and its office bearers were exonerated of any maladministration or fraud in the handling of the affairs of the SAOU.

Furthermore, the recent media reports allege that the SAOU is under investigation by the Hawks and the Department of Labour. When the matter of the Hawks was originally raised, the SAOU also made its own inquiries and discovered that the allegation regarding an investigation by the Hawks referred to a fictitious police officer and that there was in fact no case number. Senior officials of the Hawks were consulted and the SAOU's full co-operation was offered, and will continue to be offered, should a real investigation materialise.

In regard to the involvement of the Department of Labour, the SAOU confirmed that all inquiries made by the Department of Labour were responded to comprehensively during 2018 and that subsequent to the submissions some time ago, there has been no further correspondence received from the Department.

The SAOU further confirms unequivocally that unqualified annual financial statements with no reservation whatsoever expressed by the auditors, were provided to the Department of Labour for the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years.

The SAOU is fully aware of the identity of the individuals behind the smear campaign and wishes to reiterate that in the light of the overwhelming evidence which refutes all the allegations, it regards the matter as closed.

http://www.saou.co.za/saou-smeer-veldtog-saou-smear-campaign/

2. 'n Volledige onafhanklike forensiese oudit was op aandrang van Regter Hartzenberg uitgevoer gedurende dieselfde periode. Dit is ingesluit as onderafdeling van die Regter se verslag.

3. Verder, het die forensiese ouditeur 'n bykomende beëdigde verklaring beskikbaar gestel. Kliek hier

4. Die radio-onderhoud wat op 26 Junie 2019 gevoer is en waarin volledig op die aantygings geantwoord word. Kliek hier

In bogemelde dokumente, wat in die publieke domein beskikbaar is, word die SAOU en sy ampsdraers vrygespreek van enige wanadministrasie of bedrog rakende SAOU-sake.

Verder beweer die onlangse media artikels dat die SAOU ondersoek word deur die Valke en die Departement van Arbeid. Toe die saak van die Valke geopper was, het die SAOU het ook sy eie navrae en ondersoek gedoen en ontdek dat die bewerings van 'n Valke-ondersoek verwys na 'n fiktiewe polisie beampte en dat daar nie 'n saaknommer bestaan nie. Senior beamptes van die Valke was deurlopend geraadpleeg en die SAOU se volle samewerking is aangebied, en sal dit steeds aangebied word, sou 'n werklike ondersoek materialiseer.

Wat betref die betrokkenheid van die Departement van Arbeid het die SAOU gedurende 2018 volledig gereageer op alle navrae van die Departement. Sedert indiening 'n geruime tyd gelede van die SAOU se reaksie op die navrae, het die SAOU geen verdere kommunikasie van die Departement ontvang nie.

Die SAOU bevestig ook onomwonde dat ongekwalifiseerde jaarlikse finansiële state, waarin geen voorbehoud hoegenaamd deur die ouditeure uitgespreek is nie, aan die Departement van Arbeid verskaf was ten opsigte van die 2017/18 en 2018/2019 finansiële jare.

Die SAOU is ten volle bewus van die identiteit van die individue wat agter die smeerveldtog is, en beskou in die lig van die oorweldigende bewyse van weerlegging van die aantygings, die saak as afgehandel.