



**05 October 2016**

## **FEDUSA SALUTES OUR EDUCATORS ON THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD TEACHER'S DAY**

The Federation of Unions of South Africa (FEDUSA) today salutes and celebrates World Teacher's Day under the theme "*Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status*" in honour of the crucial role that teachers play in the education system worldwide. 2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO / UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, in line with the new Global Education 2030 Agenda adopted by the world community one year ago. The National Development Plan (NDP 2030) stipulates that education, training and innovation are central to South Africa's development, in order to build strong and coherent institutions to deliver quality education to serve the needs of the society. Undoubtedly, teachers have a crucial role to play in the foundation of achieving this goal and ensuring that as South African's we are able to transcend the barriers that are currently preventing us from reaching our full potential, said Chris Klopper, FEDUSA Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the Suid Afrikaanse Onderwysers Unie / South African Teachers Union (SAOU).

World Teachers' Day represents a significant token of the awareness, understanding, and appreciation displayed for the vital contributions that teachers make to education and development. Our teachers inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning that perpetuates epistemology, allowing them to compete as active contributors in the global arena. FEDUSA will therefore continue to be an active advocate of the 2030 Education Agenda, pledging to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all", emphasized Klopper.

FEDUSA acknowledges that in executing this crucial function, teachers must be adequately trained, recruited and remunerated, motivated and supported within well-resourced, efficient and effectively

governed systems. Similarly, the federation believes that the teacher salaries should reflect the importance to society of the teaching function and should also provide teachers with the means to ensure a decent life and an extension of social protection. Undoubtedly, teachers and lecturers alike are driven by an unwavering passion to educate and transfer knowledge and skills and should be empowered through the provision of decent working conditions, well-resourced, safe and healthy working environments. However, FEDUSA denounces any forms of intimidation, attacks and deliberate sabotage attempts to erode the profession of its worth and raid committed students of achieving their ambitions. Learning must continue, and FEDUSA will ensure that the Departments of Basic and Higher Education remain committed to co – constructing inclusive and workable solutions to escalate the nobility of the profession and extend world class education to our learners, argued Klopper.

FEDUSA will continue to engage Government to ensure the provision of developmental programmes that will address teacher and learner support for a more qualified, motivated and professionally supported population of teachers and lecturers, that will shape our future generations for the next 50 years, concluded Klopper.

[460 Words]

- ENDS -

***FEDUSA is the largest politically non-aligned trade union federation in South Africa and represents a diverse membership from a variety of sectors in industry. See [www.fedusa.org.za](http://www.fedusa.org.za) for more information.***

**For interviews:**

**Chris Klopper  
FEDUSA Vice President  
083 708 7733**