

PR-STRIKE ACTION

SAPA PR-THE COUNTRY'S MASSIVE STRIKE ACTION IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE BY THE ILC AND COSATU AFFILIATES IS UNDERWAY.

ISSUED BY: NUPSAW

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS

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After four months of countless ineffective salary negotiations meetings between the employer and the unions, the employer refuses to meet the union's demands. As a result the unions have resolved to embark on a strike action; with the overwhelming majority of the members voting in favour of a strike from balloting conducted by NUPSAW.

Last week in a meeting held in Midrand, with the Minister of Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), the minister requested postponement to consult with the mandating committee on his intention to reconsider the housing allowance offer. Despite the union's best effort to co-operate with the employer and also in upholding our end of the bargain not to disrupt the country's biggest soccer event. The employer still continues his attitude of disrespecting and disregarding the unions. NUPSAW issued a certificate to strike to the PSCBC.

Initially 3-core demands were tabled by the union as follows;

- 1. Salary increase: 11% - with the implementation on April 01st, 2010**
- 2. Housing allowance: increase from R500 t R1650**
- 3. Equal medical-aid subsidies offer to all employees in public sectors**

The employer responded with a counter-offer of **5.2%**, and after much deliberations he changed his offer to a mere **6.5%** with no offer on medical-aid subsidies. The unions in a compromise put a revised demand of **9%** on the table and still the employer could not budge.

This strike will bring public service industry to a standstill; it involves teachers, nurses, police and state workers. We note that PSA has prematurely issued their call for strike but this has no bearing on NUPSAW's preparations, therefore our members shall wait until those teacher unions who have requested more time to ballot finalised their balloting; hopefully by the end of this week.

We will give government 7-days notice from Monday so that the strike can commence next Monday, 1 August.

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