



COSATU

CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS

TELKOM
Western Cape
358 Salt River Centre
4 Floor
Victoria Road
P.O. Box 471
SALT RIVER
Tel: (+27) (021) 448-0045/4
Fax: (+27) (021) 448-0047
E-mail: "Western Cape"cosatu@wn.apc.org

COSATU Press Release

COSATU noting the unfolding education crisis within the Western Cape has called for a stayaway of all of its members and supporters in the Western Cape in support of its demand for measures that will guarantee quality public education, should the Provincial Government fail to meet the demands detailed.

COSATU will refer this matter to NEDLAC for its consideration.

While a stayaway is an extreme measure and a decision not easily arrived upon by COSATU, the actions of the Provincial Government has left us with no option but to resort to extreme measures to impress upon them the fundamental nature of the crisis on working people, the poor and their children.

One needs only to do a comparison between a school in Guguletu / Manenberg and a school in a previously white area eg. Rhodes High to realise that the playing field is not level. Schools who have benefited from apartheid are still at a major advantage in relation to those that suffered under apartheid. Central to any resolution of education in the Province is the need to take this fact into account in the funding formulas, a fact the Provincial Government refuses to take into account. The only reason for this can be the defence of white privilege.

COSATU believes that the extent of the education crisis in the Western Cape is to a large degree orchestrated by the Provincial Government for Party Political gain.

Parliamentary Office 10th Floor 6 Church Square Hse Spur Street CAPE TOWN 8001 P.O. Box 18819 Violeton CAPE TOWN 8018 Tel: (021) 461-3804 Fax: (021) 461-4034 Cell: 082 776-5018 E-mail: cosabla@wn.apc.org	White Region Stand 213 Shop No 7 25 Park Road GERMISTON 1401 Tel: (011) 873-2610/1 Fax: (011) 873-1272	Western Transvaal 87 Church Street 4th Flr. Sunnam Property Bldg KLERKSDORP 2570 P.O. Box 11308 KLERKSDORP 2570 Tel: (018) 482-2406 Fax: (018) 482-3408 Fax: (018) 482-3993	Northern Transvaal Pryns Building 83A Bok Street PETERSBURG 0700 Tel: 0152-291 2981/2/3 Fax: 0152-291 3232	Mpumalanga 2134 Zwane Street P.O. Box 463 MBALENHLE 2285 Tel: (017) 685-4217 (017) 685-1711 Fax: (017) 685-4737	Northern Cape/OFS 19th Floor Trek Building Conner Vontrekker & East Burger St. BLOEMFONTEIN 9300 P.O. Box 2021 KIMBERLEY 8300 Tel: (0531) 447-5230 Fax: (0531) 447-5803 E-mail: cosatunc@wn.apc.org	KwaZulu Natal 10th Floor Liberty Lbs 265 Smith Street DURBAN 4001 P.O. Box 4765 DURBAN 4000 Tel: (031) 304-1690 (031) 304-4005 Fax: (031) 304-1622 (031) 304-2767	Western Cape 4th Floor Salt River Centre 358 Victoria Road SALT RIVER 8001 Tel: (021) 448-0045 Fax: (021) 448-0047 E-mail: "Western Cape"cosatunc@wn.apc.org	Eastern Cape 4th Floor Mutual Building Ternhuus Street EAST LONDON 5200 Tel: (0431) 431-9512 Fax: (0431) 436-334
---	---	--	--	--	--	---	--	---

The attitude of the Provincial Government demonstrates a clear reluctance to transform and redress education in the Province. The features of the crises reflects this reluctance to transformation i.e.

- * The crisis is effectively one that affects the working class areas in the main
- * White education by virtue of its privilege background is effectively isolated from the unfolding events
- * The Provincial Government's blessing of the monopolisation of resources by previous white schools reflects their lack of commitment to redressing the imbalances
- * The Provincial Government's refusal to accept assistance from National Government reflects their complete disregard for those areas affected by the crisis.

COSATU demands that the following measures be put in place to contribute to the resolution of the Provincial Education Crisis.

- * Provincial Government must accept the financial assistance from National Government and use these finances to remedy the funding crisis in education.
- * The Provincial Government must re-prioritise its budget to ensure that it reflects the prioritisation of education in Black working class areas.
- * Provincial Government must not withdraw any support measures to disadvantaged communities e.g. the buses used to transport children to school.
- * The Provincial Government must continue to fund all municipal costs of schools.
- * The Provincial Government must guarantee equality in public education by ensuring that no overcrowding occurs and manageable learner:educator ratios of 1:32 are implemented.

- * The Provincial Government must develop and implement measures to address the imbalances caused by apartheid between historically Black and White schools.
- * The Provincial Government must enter into good faith bargaining with the Labour movement to resolve the crises in the interest of Working class communities.
- * The Provincial Government must refrain from passing on any additional costs to schools and consequently to parents for the funding of education.
- * The Provincial Government must put in place a funding mechanism that redresses the disparities between Black and White Schools.

COSATU and its members are more than willing to contribute in meaningful ways to the provision of quality public education and the assurance of equity.

The results of the National Party education policy can be seen in the present distortions in the South African labour market. Our present levels of industrial efficiency is a direct legacy of apartheid education policies. While education under apartheid was used to ensure white privilege we will not allow present education policies to exclude our children from occupying meaningful roles in the labour market / world of work.

Failure on the part of the Provincial Government to comply with the above demands will lead to COSATU referring these demands to NEDLAC in terms of Section 77 of the Labour Relations Act of 1995.

Should NEDLAC fail to resolve these demands COSATU will call on its members, supporters and the whole of the Western Cape who has an interest in the provision of quality public education to embark on a protest action.

COSATU retains its rights to make further submissions that it believes could resolve the education crises in the Western Cape. It will call on parents, students and other sectors of society to collaborate in the quest for equity and quality public education.

COSATU will be calling meetings with all sectors of society to further develop a programme for the broad objectives outlined above.

COSATU in the Western Cape also calls upon the National Government to make more finances available for education specifically and to impose norms and standards on the Provinces for the expenditure thereof.

For further information please contact Tony Ehrenreich @ 448 0045