

SAMWU APPEAL

Urgent Letter to Social Movements, Faith Based Organisations, Community and Solidarity Campaigns Nationally and Internationally

Dear Comrades and Friends,

We are writing to you to explain the circumstances surrounding our current National Strike Action and to seek your support to help pressurise the employers back to the negotiating table.

Please find attached a statement that we hope explains the perfectly reasonable demands that SAMWU is putting forward. Many of the issues refer to the development of a fair, democratic, transparent and rationale municipal sector. Many of the issues have been on the table for up to seven years!

The employers body, SALGA (South African Local Government Association) have dismally failed to take numerous opportunities to discuss these crucial issues . As a result, our members patience has been tested beyond tolerance. Despite the fact that the 'no work, no pay' rule is in force, they have overwhelming opted for an indefinite national strike regardless of the sacrifices that will have to be made. Our members are saying 'enough is enough!'

As a union within the COSATU fold, we are deeply committed to building strong links with our friends in the community. After all, it is our members who deliver the services that many in our communities depend upon. We understand the frustrations caused by the absence of service delivery, and the corrosive impact of corruption. We have expressed our support to community campaigns and fought tooth and nail all attempts to privatise services for the benefit of the tenderpreneurs. We have also expressed our support for all those who have sought to ensure that xenophobia is not used as an excuse to derail united action.

We are convinced that if we can present a united front based on the need for improved services, provided by properly and adequately paid municipal workers, it will help to undermine attempts to subject our communities to divide and rule. It could also lay the basis for much deeper future cooperation between the communities we serve and are a part of.

We know that our industrial action will have an impact on travel, community healthcare, water, power and many other services, but we hope that having read the attached, you will appreciate why we have been driven to take these measures at this time. Further, that you will feel able to express your support to our campaign and urge SALGA to begin negotiations in earnest towards an agreed settlement.

Please send all messages of support to Stephen Faulkner (steve.faulkner@samwu.org.za) and Tahir Sema (tahir.sema@samwu.org.za). If you should require any further information we would be pleased to hear from you.

In solidarity,

Walter Theledi
Deputy General Secretary SAMWU