

PEU 'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO SACE 'S LAUNCHING OF TEACHER'S RIGHTS ,RESPONSIBILITIES AND SAFETY PROGRAMME HELD AT THE ST GEORGE HOTEL IN IRINE, GAUTENG PROVINCE, ON 05 MARCH 2019

- The Professional Educators' Union (PEU) congratulates SACE and further pledges her unqualified support on the launching of safety programme in our schools, for issues of safety can only be **realised** and **enhanced** through active participation and plurality of voices by all role players in our education. It must , however, be indicated that today's launching is **long overdue**, as it comes at a time when our schools are already **replete** with a number of **safety hazardous factors**, **impacting negatively** and **mitigating against** objectives upon which schools have been established for, with teachers becoming immediate victims circumstances, **by virtue of being located right at the coal phase** of our education.
- PEU remains firmly ascribed to an adage that **schools are microcosms of communities they found themselves in**, and many a times, the **violence** manifesting itself in our schools are symptomatic to the community's moral decay which spills off and reduces our classrooms as mere havens for criminal activities, thus, the involvement of communities and tapping on their

consciousness on issues in schools as enabling environment for learning and teaching can never be overemphasized.

- PEU further identifies the following safety hazardous factors , which are of course,under our internal locus of control, and only need our collective **proactiveness** rather than **reactiveness**, are **dilapidated classrooms** with **bare electric wires** hanging over learner's heads as well as **unhygienic toilets** that are not only **unsafe** but **dehumanizing**.
- Without sounding **oblivious** and **trivializing** numerous **daily challenges** and **life-threatening conditions** we work under, the **tragic** and **inescapable truth** is that , as teachers, we remain **workers of the mind** and **shapers of destiny** in the lives of our learners, and by extension, our communities. We are thus ,have to remain focused to our roles and responsibilities, that of discharging **feudiciary duties** to the nation, amidst any **adversarial condition** confronted with. We remain duty bound to continue with enlightening our respective communities, as they will one day mellow down and permeate to reasoning and see the value of revolving differences amicably.
- PEU holds a firm view that teachers will **forever remain the voice of reason in communities they serve**, and is for this reason, that communities always look upon teachers to provide solutions to a number of their daily challenges. As loco parents,

we have to reciprocate and be equal to the task in our line of duty, and avoid at all cost, from defining ourselves outside challenges affecting the learners in front of us. Communities should know, that nothing can , and will replace teachers ,and that **communities that hate teachers hate their future.**

- As we launch programme today, may we make an earnest appeal to SACE, that as a leader of this noble exercise, that we all jealously guard that this doesn't degenerate into another **academic exercise.** Let us **collectively** and **collaboratively** breathe life and inject more more energy in it , for issues of safety in our schools can no longer afford any further postponement.

Thank you .

By Ben Machipi
General Secretary

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