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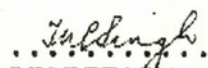
15 August 1993

THE CHAIRMAN  
WORLD TRADE CENTRE**TEACHERS' STRIKE ACTION**

1. The above Association notes with concern that little progress was made on the issue surrounding SADTU's demands which were submitted for negotiations late last year. We, as an organisation, do not believe that the demands made by SADTU are unreasonable. Further, the present impasse is largely a result of the Government's apparent lack of urgency and commitment, deliberate stalling and back-peddling on negotiations. It is common knowledge that these grievances are long standing. The Union has attempted to utilise lesser disruptive strategies, viz. negotiations, submission of memoranda, placard demonstrations, street marches and chalksdown, unfortunately to no avail. We find it regrettable that the Union appears to be forced into a corner to use strike action as a last resort.
2. Some of the urgent and reasonable demands are listed below:
  - 2.1 an immediate stop to the process of unilateral restructuring of education.
  - 2.2 an immediate halt to the retrenchment of qualified teachers who are desperately needed in our communities.
  - 2.3 the granting of an acceptable minimum wage level in the lower categories and an increase in all categories which is compatible with the present rate of inflation.
3. We as an Association that is representative of and responsible for the welfare of parents, teachers and pupils express grave concern over the implications of the strike action, viz.:
  - 4.1 The plight of the matriculants who will be sitting for an external examination within two months as well as the stress placed on them because of the indefinite nature of the strike, non-completion of syllabus, inadequate time for revision, testing and preparation. Our concern is equally for those who are writing internal examinations at about the same time.
  - 4.2 The psychological/...

- 4.2 The psychological devastation on all students and more especially on the sensitive "minds" who may resort to some sort of escapism - with tragic consequences.
- 4.3 The emotional trauma of parents over the present crisis as well as the concern for their childrens' security and well-being. Pupils who would otherwise have been under the care and supervision of teachers while parents are at work will now be left unattended and susceptible to influences of social upheavals such as crime, violence, alcoholism, drugs, sex, etc.
- 4.4 The strain on the relationship between the teacher/pupils, the teacher/parent and the subsequent impact this will have on the teaching process in the post-strike period. Further, there is the possible loss of involvement of teachers in the many community organisations in which they serve an invaluable role.
- 4.5 The stress that will be placed on both teachers and pupils in the coverage of the syllabus in the event that the strike action is protracted and the permanent effect that it would have on pupils' academic performance and consequently on their career choice.
- 5. The PTSA of Port Shepstone Secondary notes that:
  - 5.1 the State has the financial capacity and the power to resolve this dispute in view of its recent ability to acquire 100's of millions of rands for matters unforeseen and in instances of lesser consequence than that of the educational plight of the country.
  - 5.3 the conflict between the State and the Union is contributing nothing positive to all parties involved - pupils, parents, teachers and least to the State itself.
- 6. In noting the above we DEMAND that the State acts speedily, responsibly and with bona fide commitment in resolving this dispute.

  
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 CHAIRMAN  
 DIXON JAMES

  
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 SECRETARY