

Expulsion of SAFTU President from NUMSA

Whilst defending members in a retrenchment consultation in terms of section 189A of the LRA

On 4 May 2023 the NUMSA's National Executive Committee confirmed the recommendation of a so-called 'Disciplinary Hearing' to expel me from NUMSA thereby seeking to impact my position as President of the South African Federation of Trade Unions on 4 May 2023.

The NUMSA leadership have demonstrated their contempt for the interests of workers by holding the 'hearing' at the very same time that I together with my fellow Shopstewards represented 387 workers in a CCMA facilitated S189 process. Those workers are threatened with a mass retrenchment and the possible closure of our company.

Although I made an application to postpone my disciplinary hearing, so that I could continue to represent these members at our workplace on the same date, NUMSA's General Secretary did not respond to my written request.

Without informing me of the decision not to postpone the hearing, NUMSA proceeded with the hearing in my absence. The Chairperson of the disciplinary hearing, Mr. Charlie Higgs, rejected the request for a postponement and in the ruling which recommended my expulsion from NUMSA argued that I was using 'delaying tactics'.

NUMSA's leadership is so hell-bent on expelling me at the earliest possible opportunity that they insisted on giving me the choice between representing myself and representing my members. Instead of looking at my well-being, I am first and foremost in service of members and thus committed to the purpose of the union which is to represent its members.

NUMSA, in its proud history, has frequently had to defend its members' right to be heard. Its current leadership has now deviated so far from its commitment to its members that it has denied that right to its own member and Office Bearer. How low they have now fallen. How contemptible is this action?

We know that all these expulsions in NUMSA will continue in the coming period so as to silence all those who are demanding internal democracy, worker control, accountability by the NUMSA Investment Company and respect for the NUMSA Constitution. The struggle to win back the union from this bankrupt leadership continues, regardless of this decision to expel me from NUMSA.

Issued by:

Ruth Ntlokotse

+27 60 543 3042

6 May 2023