



National Assembly Member of Parliament

PO Box 15, Cape Town, 8000, Republic of South Africa Tel: +27 (21) 403-2911 www.parliament.gov.za

26 January 2018

Ms Princess Magopane Senior Legal Officer – South African Human Rights Commission Legal Services Unit

By email: <u>kmagopane@sahrc.org.za</u>

Dear Ms Magopane,

<u>COMPLAINT REGARDING THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC TEACHERS UNION (SADTU)</u> (previously referenced GP/1516/0505)

The events unfolding at Hoërskool Overvaal in the past week have been deeply concerning to all with an interest in basic education. Protests and confrontations culminated in a protest by the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU) and other unions and political parties.

SADTU has once again demonstrated their willingness to disrupt teaching time, and more shockingly, involve children in their protest action. Using the language of fear and chaos, the union demanded that Overvaal be closed yesterday, which it was forced to do fearing for the safety of learners.

As a result of SADTU's actions, there was thus no learning for the Overvaal learners, learners coopted into the protest action, and learners at the schools where all the protesting teachers should have been teaching. Just one week into the school year, hundreds of learners will not be able to access their Constitutional right to a basic education today.

Throughout the past week, threats have been made by protestors and on social media to burn the school down or shoot the school's learners. The protestors yesterday engaged in threatening behaviour, and physical scuffles ensued when they attempted to force their way through the police officers protecting the school.¹

We would thus like to make this additional submission of evidence to that of 29 May 2017 (by then Shadow Minister of Basic Education Gavin Davis).

¹ <u>https://twitter.com/TimesLIVE/status/956449563224825856</u>

1. Involvement of children in protest

In her submission to the Commission on 21 September 2016, Minister Angie Motshekga stated that "the DBE is not aware that children are being used in strike action". Yesterday's protest provided clear video² and photographic evidence that this is indeed occurring.

2. Hate speech by protestors

Further to this, protestors sang songs that can be classed as hate speech, such as 'white man, they must die'³ and 'kill the boer'⁴ (found to be hate speech by court ruling).

Screen grabs of the various infringements are attached below, as well as the video content via email.

We ask that you provide us with an update on progress in your investigation at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

1/1:

Ian Ollis MP DA Shadow Minister of Basic Education 082 714 7572

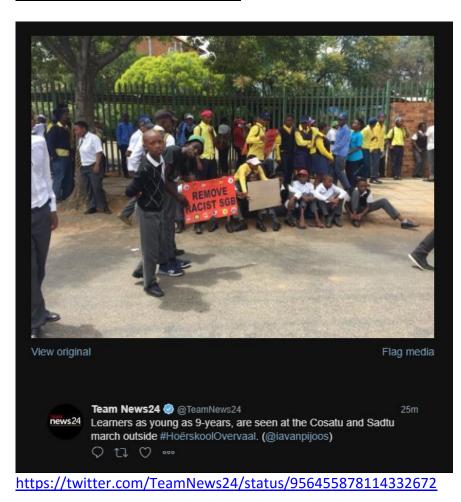
² <u>https://twitter.com/YoliswaSobuwa/status/956458793604444160</u>

³ <u>https://twitter.com/AdrianaStuijt/status/956471334648901632</u>

⁴ <u>https://twitter.com/ermbates/status/956463356289961984</u>

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Screen grabs of protest reporting:



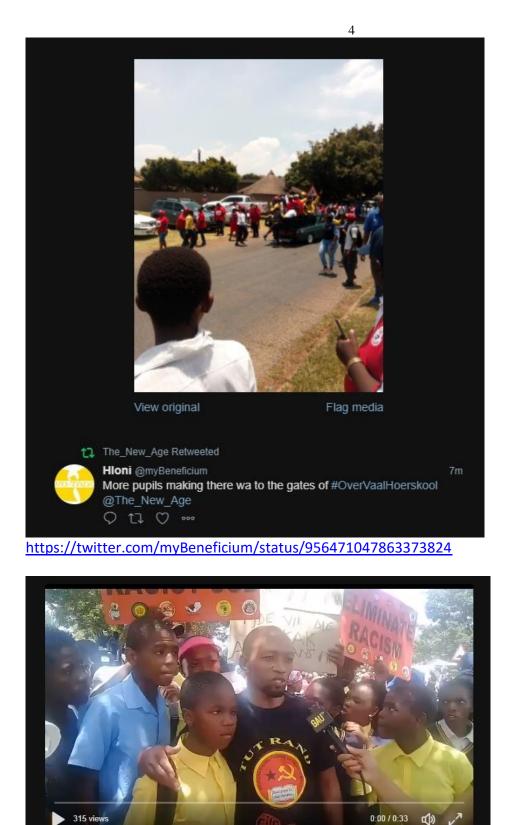


#HoërskoolOvervaal Demonstrations continue outside the main gate to the school where picketers continue their protest. Among those here are pupils, teachers, parents and more.



11:41am · 25 Jan 2018 - Twitter for iPhone

https://twitter.com/ermbates/status/956462077308276736



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