MEDIA RELEASE
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8 SEPTEMBER 2010

Staking: Leer uit die foute

Met die voorlopige opskorting van die staking is dit nodig dat die regering diep besin oor belangrike lesse wat opnuut geblyk het, en dit ter harte neem:

- Selfs in die buiteland word nou reeds daarna verwys dat Suid-Afrika ‘n staakseisoen het. Dié beeld is baie negatief van Suid-Afrika en moet noodwendig beleggersvertroue knou, afgesien van die skade wat die staking regstreeks aan die land aanrig. Daar moet dus strategies beplan word om stakings die hoof te probeer bied voor dit ‘n werklikheid word, eerder as om skouers op te trek, en na die grondwetlike reg om te staak te verwys.
- Die gewelddadigheid waarin stakings ontaard en optredes soos om teaterpersoneel uit operasieteaters te sleep om saam te staak is onverskoonbaar en die sterkste moontlike stappe moet teen die skuldiges geneem word.
- Die konsep van ‘n staking waar die beginsel van geen werk, geen betaling geld, balanseer die belange van werkers en werkgewers, en om uitsonderings te maak laat Pandora se boks wawyd oop.
- Met die groot omvang van werkloosheid, kan die vraag ook gevra word of die regte mense in die eerste plek in diens is as diegene wat matrikulante vlak voor hul eindeksamen in die steek gelaat het, en pasiënte laat sterf het, nou met vetter beursies terugkeer werk toe.
- Met Suid-Afrika wat die hoogste meetbare inkomstegaping ter wêreld het, moet daadwerklik daarteen gewaak word dat die persepsies rondom relatiewe deprivasie onbeheerbare vlakke bereik. Dit beteken die regering en politieke ampsbekleërs moet ‘n voorbeeld stel deur in pas met die werklikheid te leef. Uitspattigheid voed gewoon die klimaat van ongelukkigheid.
- In die strategiese beplanning moet dit nooit weer gebeur dat diegene wat nie op ‘n oproep op nasionale belang reageer nie, groot verhogings kry terwyl diegene wat wél gehoor gee, dan in ‘n toe hand moet vaskyk nie.
- Korrupsie, die diefstal van ‘n land se toekoms, moet sonder aansiens des persoons uitgeroei word, en politieke ampsbekleërs wat hulle aan tenderpreneurskap en kleptokrasie skuldig maak, moet uitgewerp word.
- Kundigheid moet ten alle tye gebruik word. Dit kom voor asof ‘n groot deel van die huidige ongelukkigheid te wyte is aan die reuse verhogings wat sommige bestuurslui en kaders ontvang het. Boonop blyk dit dat Eskom se jaarverslag so onsamehangend opgestel is dat ‘n foutiewe afleiding gemaak is wat gelei het tot astronomiese verhogings vir die instansie se hoe koppe. Dié onbevoegdheid het die land ernstige skade laat ly deur persepsies van die welgesteldes verder volprop, met ‘n toe hand vir die laag-besoldigdes.

Ons spreek die hoop uit dat die staking – alle stakings – nou afgelas sal word, en dat die regering ‘n onderneming sal gee om die situasie, met die hulp van die Beplanningskommisie, voortaan betyds regverdig te bestuur.

Strike: Learn from mistakes says CDA

With the provisional suspension of the strike government should seriously contemplate the situation, and heed the lessons learnt from the experience.

- News media abroad also refer to the fact that South Africa has a strike season. The perception formed is extremely negative, and will adversely affect the country’s image as suitable for investment. This is on top of the direct damages being done to the economy.

It is thus necessary to think strategically and address issues before they realise in strikes, rather than shrugging the shoulders saying that striking is a constitutional right.

- The violent nature of the strikes and actions such as the staff of operating theatres being dragged outside during operations to participate in the strike are inexcusable and the strongest steps possible need to be taken against those guilty of such heinous acts.
- The principle of no work, no pay, balances the interest of employers and employees, and to make exceptions will only open Pandora's Box.
- With the high levels of unemployment in the country one may well ask whether those who let Matrics down shortly before their final exams and who caused patients to die, are indeed the right people to return to work with more money in their pockets.
- South Africa has the highest measurable income gap in the world, and one should be acutely aware of perceptions that fuel the unrest of relative deprivation potentially to uncontrollable levels. This implies that government and political office bearers need to set an example and live according to the realities in the land. A luxurious life style simply fuels the climate of discontent.
- Strategic planning must ensure that those who do not act in the national interest, never again receive large hikes.
- It seems that those those who do heed the call to act in the national interest, are only confronted with a closed fist.
- Corruption – the theft of the country's future – must be rooted out irrespective of who has to face the music. Political office bearers involved with tenderpreneurship and cleptocracy must immediately be expelled from any position of influence.
- Know-how must be utilised at all times. i.e. the right man for the job. It seems as though a large portion of the present discontent can be attributed to the large hikes some in management have received. To make matters worse, it became apparent that Eskom's annual report was compiled in such a shambolic way that the wrong assumptions were made leading to management receiving massive and undeserved hikes. This incompetence cost the country dearly as perceptions were created of fat cats receiving even more gravy, whilst the lower income groups had to be content with peanuts.

We express the hope that the strikes, all strikes, will now be called off and that government will give an undertaking that the situation will in future be managed hand in hand with the Planning Commission in better and fairer way.