

# Swaziland National Association of Teachers

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## STATEMENT ON THE USUTHU BRANCH OF THE SNAT MATTER

The SNAT NEC deems it fit to update the General Membership [GM] on the current status of the Usuthu Branch matter since it made headlines in one of the country's dailies yet again last week Thursday (19-11-2020). The update is as follows;

- A.** When the matter was heard in the Industrial Court for the first time, the court ordered that the issues around the bi-elections in the Usuthu Branch be deliberated upon by local remedies [within the Union] before it could be taken to other external structures such as the Courts. The SNAT Board of Trustees (BOT) dealt with this matter as per the SNAT Constitution, exhaustively.
- B.** The Recommendation by the SNAT BOT was to the effect that the Usuthu Branch must conduct fresh bi-elections in line with Resolution Number 16 of 2016. The full report wherein this recommendation by the BOT was attached, got distributed to all SNAT Structures as well. The BOT however welcomed any other issues arising from the



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ongoing matter from either the SNAT NEC or the Usuthu Branch Executive.

**C.** Clarity ought to be made that there was no issue that was raised by any of the two (NEC and Usuthu) regarding the recommendation by the SNAT Trustees or its implications.

**D.** On Monday (16-11-2020) we were then informed by our Lawyers that the Usuthu BEC had approached the Industrial Court yet again for the same matter and that arguments on same shall be heard on Thursday, December 03, 2020.

**E.** Again on Wednesday (18-11-2020) members from the Usuthu Branch marched to the SNAT Centre to deliver a petition to the SNAT NEC, the contents of which indicated that the members wanted to be addressed by the NEC on the same issue that is also under judicial consideration. A response has been given to them that since the matter is *sub judice*, it is legally incorrect to discuss it in any other fora.

**F.** The SNAT NEC is cognizant of the fact that members of the Usuthu Branch have issues that must be addressed on a daily basis and that the Branch must continue operating even though the BEC is currently in suspension. The SNAT NEC communicated to the Branch Members that for any issue that they need addressed, at any time, they must contact the Office of the SNAT Deputy Secretary General. This is in line with **Article 11.4** of the SNAT Constitution.

**G.** Now that the matter has been referred back to court by our comrades from the Usuthu Branch, we are hopeful as the NEC that this matter shall be dealt with exhaustively by the court of equity and we believe this shall happen as soon as possible.

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**SIKELELA J. DLAMINI**  
**(SECRETARY GENERAL)**



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