



**Solidariteit
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5 May 2016

Urgent Attention:

Honourable Minister of Labour

South African Government

Mildred Oliphant

By e-mail:

Honourable Minister

REQUEST FOR URGENT INTERVENTION: MEIBC

The Metal and Engineering Bargaining Council (MEIBC) is the largest bargaining council in the private sector in South Africa. It is a well-known fact that the MEIBC has been troubled by conflict among parties to the council for some time now. This conflict has led to endless legal proceedings and litigation, more than for any other bargaining council on record.

To make matter worse, the MEIBC is under severe financial distress threatening its future existence. The simple fact is that the MEIBC will cease to function shortly unless the conflict among the parties is resolved and stern steps are taken to secure the financial viability of the MEIBC.

The financial situation of the MEIBC has deteriorated to such an extent that the council's dispute resolution has ceased to function. The Management Committee (Manco) of the MEIBC is scheduled to convene on 25 May 2016 to decide on the extension and possible increase in Administration and Dispute Resolution Levy Agreements. It is Solidarity's ardent viewpoint that the current conflict and positioning of the parties will escalate to such an extent that the Manco will be unable to make the urgent decisions on a consensus basis as required. The current Administration and Dispute Levy Agreements lapse at the end of May 2016. If no agreement is reached, the MEIBC will not receive any further income as of 1 June 2016. This would lead to the closure of the MEIBC within three months.

Solidarity believes that, to secure the future of the MEIBC, the conflict between the parties must be mediated at the highest level and consensus must be reached on the way forward for the MEIBC. Urgent intervention in terms of the MEIBC's financial crisis must also be initiated to secure its future.



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Solidarity therefore requests the Honourable Minister kindly yet urgently to intervene personally in this matter through mediation between all the parties. The finances of the MEIBC must also be included in this process. This intervention is required before the Manco meeting on 25 May 2016 due to the timelines required to process the levy agreements.

Yours faithfully

Gideon du Plessis

General Secretary

Solidarity

Marius Croucamp

Deputy General Secretary

Metal and Engineering Industry

Solidarity



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