

PRESS STATEMENT

CLOTHING UNION REQUESTS MEETING WITH WOOLWORTHS

The Southern African Clothing & Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU) has called for an urgent meeting with Woolworths to discuss the pending closure of Intimate Apparel, a Cape Town-based underwear and swimwear manufacturer and a key local supplier to Woolworths.

Should the closure of this factory proceed, it will have disastrous consequences, especially taking into account the current depressed economic circumstances, the recent wave of job losses (both nationally and in the clothing manufacturing sector in particular) which has seen unemployment increase to its highest rate in five years, the detrimental downstream consequences, the fact that many Intimate Apparel's workers are single mothers and the socio-economic effects on the areas and communities where the workers live.

The proposed closure will see more than 800 people, the vast majority of whom are women, losing their jobs. Taking into account that each worker has at least five dependents, it would see the income on which more than 4,000 people depend, coming to a halt.

SACTWU has submitted its request for a meeting today and is awaiting a reply from Woolworths.

We believe that retailers in general and Woolworths in particular can play a major role in preventing the pending job losses.

Issued by Andre Kriel, SACTWU General Secretary, 021 4474570