

**PRESS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE**

Earlier yesterday morning, about 3 500 workers took to the streets, in Northern Natal, to march against non-compliance with the clothing industry national wage agreement, and against poverty wages. The march started at 10h00 yesterday morning and angry workers marched through the Isithebe industrial area, in KZN.

Many of the factories in this area are non-compliant and pay wages which are far below the legal rate and the minimum living level. SACTWU has made many concessions to assist employers to avoid factory closures and to help them pay legal wages. However, regardless of this effort our laws are still being broken and workers are treated unfairly. We will not accept this insult against our country's laws.

The marching workers have handed over a memorandum to employers, the Clothing Industry Bargaining Council and to the Department of Labour. We demand justice and decent work in compliance with the national clothing industry wage agreement. This is the first warning shot for a bitter fight with non-compliant clothing employers this year. Non-complaint clothing industry employers are warned: If there is no solution within the next month, we will not hesitate to call a national strike involving close to 100 000 clothing and textile workers.

Poverty wages is an insult to HUMAN RIGHTS!

Issued by  
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General Secretary  
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If further comment is required, kindly call SACTWU KZN Regional Secretary, Dennis Maluleka, on 0833785435