

**Press Release: Immediate**

The Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (SACTWU) has declared a national wage dispute in the clothing sector. The dispute comes after the trade union and clothing industry employers could not reach a wage settlement after three rounds of wage negotiations.

The dispute was formally declared on the afternoon of Thursday 12 July 2018. Clothing employers are offering a 7% wage increase and our members are demanding an 8% package increase for metro areas and 8.5% for non-metro areas.

Our members have rejected the employers' final offer of a 7% wage increase.

We have written to the National Bargaining Council for the Clothing Manufacturing Industry (NBC) and requested the NBC General Secretary, Mr Sicelo Nduna, to process the dispute as per the requirements of the Clothing Bargaining Council's constitution.

The Labour Relations Act (LRA) requires us to refer the dispute to the bargaining council, which we have now complied with.

The next step in the process is conciliation, and the law states that it is the duty of the bargaining council General Secretary to set up the conciliation.

The clothing sector is the largest organised sector within our trade union.

If clothing employers do not concede to our final demands during conciliation, it will mean that the deadlock would remain unresolved. We will, in that event, conduct a strike ballot in the clothing industry. This means that 60 000 clothing workers might embark on a wage strike.

We will continue to fight for a living wage for all our members.

SACTWU is an affiliate of COSATU.

Issued by

Andre Kriel

General Secretary

SACTWU

If further comment is required kindly contact our Clothing Sector National Negotiator Bonita Loubser on 0828007142 or office number 021 447 4570.