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SACTWU “Befriends” the High Court to Prevent Illegal Imports, and Celebrates Reinigorated SARS

On Tuesday, 19 November 2019, the COSATU-affiliated Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers’ Union (SACTWU) held a protest against customs fraud, outside the Pretoria High Court. The Court was scheduled to hear a case between the South African Revenue Services (SARS) and a freight forwarder, Dragon Freight, and importers of strangely low priced clothing.

SACTWU also made an application to become a friend of the court to show our support for SARS work to deal with customs fraud.

Today our application was heard by the Court and we have successfully become a Friend of the Court in this case. Dragon Freight has gone to court to try to force SARS to release their consignments of clothing urgently since SARS has detained these goods. Court records show that Dragon Freight tried to import this clothing into the country at prices well below the cost of raw materials and fiber, and that there are more products in their consignments than were declared to SARS. SARS is opposing the urgent release of these products so that it can have enough time and space to conduct an investigation of the legitimacy of these transactions.

As a Friend of the Court, SACTWU will be sharing our knowledge and experience of the threat posed to local jobs and factories by illegal imports and illicit trade. Indeed every year billions of Rands of illicit goods flow into the country and, like a form of economic terrorism, they sabotage our economy and devastate the local economy and employment. For years from our vantage point, as a trade union, we have witnessed the closure of factories, the hobbling of industries, a flood of job losses, and the annihilation of communities and livelihoods as a result of underpriced goods illegally flowing into the country.

The Court case will take place on Monday 25 November 2019 at the Pretoria High Court.

Instead of Dragon Freight and others trying to prevent SARS from doing its work, they and all patriotic South Africans should be welcoming these events with vuvuzelas and ululations, and saying ‘Rise SARS Rise’.

Issued by

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