



## NATIONAL UNION OF METALWORKERS OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Office of the General Secretary

11 August 2022

TO : SAFTU National Office Bearers

RE : Letter dated 4 August 2022

Dear SAFTU NOBs

The leadership of NUMSA, having reflected on your correspondence and the subsequent letter sent on the eve of our 11<sup>th</sup> National Congress, want to be on the record that we find the stated objective by the SAFTU NOBs to be seriously puzzling given the destructive political role that has been played by the SAFTU General Secretary, Zwelinzima Vavi in fuelling and supporting what we regard as political instability which has been pursued by some internally in NUMSA, whose mission and task has been to destabilize NUMSA as an organization, its unity and to liquidate its leadership. Below is how as an organization we have experienced the destructive role led and played by Zwelinzima Vavi:

1. In the build up towards NUMSA's 11<sup>th</sup> National Congress and the SAFTU 2<sup>nd</sup> National Congress, the SAFTU GS Zwelinzima Vavi launched a blistering destructive attack against NUMSA and its leadership in both Eastern Cape and Western Cape Regional Congresses, opportunistically unleashing the very same propaganda which has been unleashed by some internally in the union. By using an allegation of an "*investment company business unionism*" which has corrupted the union leadership. As such he alleged that the union was no longer a militant campaigning union because its leadership has got "*a bone in the mouth and it is corrupting shopstewards by liquor*". He accused the

union leadership of being drunk and womanizing in clubs such as Konka and Cubana, forcing NUMSA leadership to respond to his dirty propaganda and putting the record straight. Even when we did so in the Secretariat Report of the 11<sup>th</sup> National Congress he still had the guts to write an open letter in response, distorting what he had said in those 2 Regional Congresses. Clearly his response was deliberately leaked as part of an ammunition to de-campaign and campaign against the NUMSA leadership.

2. It is against such a background that the NUMSA leadership took it upon itself to decide which SAFTU NOB to invite to address its 11<sup>th</sup> National Congress. Especially after NUMSAs concrete experience that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> SAFTU National Congress its mandate as a union was openly undermined.
3. We obviously take note that SAFTU has taken a decision to meet with suspended individuals who have committed acts of misconduct without meeting with NUMSA leadership which represent national structures and who took the decision to take disciplinary measures against them. When the very same individuals took the union to court led by the SAFTU President we witnessed the SAFTU GS joining them in court under the cheap pretext that he wanted to listen to both sides.
4. NUMSA want to be on record that this matter is currently in court and as such it is sub judice and that we are not in a position to have any discussion on it and we further do not agree that the SAFTU NEC should discuss this matter. We also find SAFTU NOBs extremely insensitive in that the President of SAFTU has gone public, calling for the nullification of NUMSAs 11<sup>th</sup> National Congress outcomes, resolutions and leadership and calling for NUMSAs leadership to be jailed, with absolutely no regard for the huge costs that the organization is bound to suffer from if her bid to nullify the 11<sup>th</sup> National Congress succeeds in court. Yet SAFTU through its communication penned by the SAFTU GS Zwelinzima Vavi, calling for a discussion between NUMSA NOBs and SAFTU NOBs, present SAFTU NOBs as somehow neutral as if we are dealing with a normal situation when in reality NUMSA is openly under attack from SAFTU. As its president has publicly vowed to take NUMSA's leadership to jail and to liquidate the outcomes of the unions 11<sup>th</sup> National Congress expecting NUMSA to believe that SAFTU NOBs care about NUMSAs unity and the unity of the federation. If SAFTU insists on discussing the matter it might leave NUMSA with no option but not to attend such an NEC.

We trust that SAFTU will find this position that NUMSA is articulating to be in order under the circumstances.

Yours faithfully,

**Irvin Jim**  
**NUMSA General Secretary**