SANEF IS DIGGING IT'S GRAVE WITH ALREADY TARNISHED IMAGE

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For Immediate Release

Information Communication Technology Union (ICTU) is gravely concerned with SANEF yesterday (9/3/2020) radio interview aired/hosted by PowerFM at the Breakfast show.

The interview and events following thereafter has the hallmarks of a devilish clandestine relationship between Daily Maverick (DM) and SANEF.

Key to this confirmed unholy relationship between the two by SANEF is an attempt to deminish the gravity of the story by simply claiming that the story is not evidence based.

It is clear from the interview that SANEF has taken a position to defend DM on this matter. It start the defense by dismissing the story as "a crazy covert story" simply because there is neither a trace of communication (WhatsApp) nor number plates of vehicles that were dropping money to Mr Modiba. It further ask for evidence on the statement already acknowledged by Mr Modiba that he didn't recruit anyone, therefore he has no knowledge of other people. This acknowledgement, SANEF uses it as a bait to argue that this is a one sided, one character story.

To add a cherry to its look-alike genuine defense, SANEF decided to drag ICTU into the mix by saying "the Union confirmed that it didn't do any investigations before it released its statement" and further makes false claims that she asked the Union contact of Mr Modiba. ICTU patently rebutt that such question and request was raised in the conversation.

SANEF was strained to confirm that it didn't contact Mr Modiba as the real owner of the story who could have expanded on his Tweets which are sources of the story.

For strange reason, SANEF found DM making "an interesting point" when it says " the story undermine the media houses in general and the story is dangerous for our democracy".

Noting that SANEF didn't contact Mr Modiba, it could not come to terms with giving the story a benefit of doubt that in case it's true, it's DM that dangerous for our democracy.

But ICTU believe it's time that SANEF should be exposed that it's nothing else but elitist structure aimed at defending the very same oppressive, racist and masculine media industry where Editors plays greater role in undermining the rights of journalists reporting to them.

SANEF since its existence has negated to deal with issues if media industry which includes agitating and promoting the ideas of collective bargain for the salary benchmarking, suitable working conditions for journalists etc

SANEF by deliberately ignoring of raising genuine issues affecting workers which is a noble cause, can be found on turning a blind eye on the long struggle of many black journalist in particular.

SANEF has never waged a spirited fight against eNCA when it was grossly violating journalists, as workers their right to join Unions, calling for an end if harassment by Editors and improvements if slavery salaries.

It has not given a solid defense on why it didn't help Samkelo who recently joined the SABC even though his plight was known in the media fraternity.

To further illustrate our dim view about SANEF, it never issued a single statement on the two weeks long strike by journalists working at former Tiso Blackstar Group.

The biggest problem with SANEF is that it's like a dog that hunt with the hare in its mouth. The question is where does SANEF get its funding to conduct it's business?

ICTU challenges SANEF to declare it's income sources. This is to clear the allegations of conflict of interest.

On the allegations that ICTU has not investigated the claims by Mr Modiba, our response is that ICTU has no legal authority to investigate a media house, a point SANEF used as part of its defense and blame game.

On Daily Maverick

ICTU confirm that it had received five (5) questions from DM reporter, with the name of Rebecca, asking similar line of questions that was used by SANEF, as the defense of the story, during the interview.

ICTU has taken a deliberate decision and communicated to the DM that it will not respond to its questions which cast aspersion on its ability to issue the statement. The DM reporter ask, among others petty questions, "who wrote the statement" which was mentioned by SANEF in the interview.

This question raise many unrelated questions that we don't want to speculate at this point.

ICTU takes a dim view of DM role in the society and further consider it as a fake media house which is stand diametrically opposed to the principle of reporting without fear, favour and prejudice. That their reports must be fair and balanced.

It is nothing less than a mouthpiece of political opponents within the ANC and a neo liberal policies defender. Therefore it report a narrative that suite anti transformation groupie.

A quick analysis of their content contributors contribution is that they are for new thieves under the banner of "fighting back state capture" fixed narrative. Basically, there is no difference between (former) Gupta media house and DM.

ICTU want to reiterate it's position on this matter.

That we are a genuine registered trade Union which has workers interest as it's main thrust of existence. This we mean, any action by the employer or third party (be it good or bad) which has the potential to affect the lives of workers, we are an interested party.

In the context of DM exposé, it brings relevance since it has excessively covered it negatively and case aspersion on Independent Media even on unrelated story of other businesses owned by Dr Iqbal Survé.

This we calculate that as a competitor or for other unknown motives has been championing the assault on the reputation of Independent Media through its owners. This has had a negative effect on the business of Independent Media which had the potential to retrench workers as a result of reckless and excessive unrelated negative reporting.

In conclusion, we reiterate our position that we are considering reporting DM to the Press Ombudsman after due consideration.

In the event we do so, we will appeal to the Press Ombudsman to consider the harshest deterrent outcome.

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For any clarity on the statement, please contact:

Thabang Mothelo

ICTU Media Officer

0815526803