

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND THE MEMBERS
OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, IN
PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED**

The petition of the undersigned

Dirk Hermann, in his capacity as Executive General Secretary of Solidarity Trade Union.

The contact details of the petitioners for purposes of this petition are that of Dirk Hermann, Executive General Secretary of Solidarity, c/o Solidarity Trade Union, P.O. Box 11760, Centurion, 0046, Telephone number: 012 644 4300, Fax number: 012 664 1101 and e-mail: dirk@solidarity.co.za

Respectfully sheweth that:

INTRODUCTION

1. Solidarity and our members abhor racism in all its forms and wish to eliminate it.
2. In combating racism, extreme care must be taken to treat all races equitably.
3. Solidarity commissioned a research report (Annexure A) to evaluate whether if racism is being handled in an equitable manner as far as all races in South Africa are concerned.
4. In terms of such research's findings a double standard applies with regard to race and combating racism in South Africa, especially as practiced by the media and the South African Human Rights Commission.
5. A trend that is of particular concern is observed insofar as the goal of eliminating racism cannot be achieved by applying a double standard when it comes to race.
6. South Africa is once again witnessing an increase in racial tensions due to the double standards that apply to the way in which incidents of racism are being dealt with.
7. In our multiracial society racial tensions need to be allayed as soon as possible.
8. On 8 March 2016 Parliament had a debate on racism and the heightened racial tensions in South Africa.
9. Using this debate as precedent, Solidarity contends that Parliament is the appropriate and correct forum for a debate on the double standards that apply in South Africa when dealing with racism and how such double standards incite racial tensions.
10. It is in the interest of all South Africans that we strive towards a non-racial society. However, if double standards apply to the way in which racism is combated, then the attainment of this goal is impeded.
11. Parliament can confirm South Africa's commitment to non-racialism by means of a motion that calls for the equitable handling of racism.

PETITION TO PARLIAMENT

- 1.** That an urgent motion, condemning the double standards that apply in South Africa with regard to the handling of racism and the heightened level of racial tensions in the country, be tabled in and accepted by Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that the Honourable Parliament will be pleased to take their case into favourable consideration and grant such relief as it may deem fit.

And your petitioners, as they are duty bound, will ever pray.



DJ HERMANN

EXECUTIVE GENERAL SECRETARY

8 May 2017