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## WHAT ARE THE TRUE FACTS ABOUT THE MEETING OF THE 29 JUNE 2016

It is a well-known fact that some of MEIBC parties campaign is to discredit and rubbish all agreements concluded at the Bargaining Council, if those agreements are to be extended to non-parties. This campaign started in 2011 when they went to court for the first time. To this day they have lost every time except with respect to the 2011/4 agreement that was only set aside by the court after it had expired.

On the 29 June 2016, SEIFSA affiliates, together with six Industry unions which include Solidarity, UASA, SAEWA, NUMSA, MEWUSA and CEPWAWU, agreed to extend the Administrative levies Agreement to the rest of the Metal Industry and to all employers and employees who are not party to this legally binding Agreement.

It is common cause that the agreement expired on 30 June 2016 however the fact that there is already an agreement, it is not true to suggest that MEIBC is not in a position to meet its financial commitments.

This propoganda is being spread by those people who believe that if the council collapses financially, that will quickly deliver the non-extension of collective agreements to non-parties. These allegations haven't been proven, the council's financials have been (for the past 70 years) audited and every time the Council receives a clean Audit.

It is unfortunate that some organizations that are part of MEIBC are not prepared to support a levy increase which was last effected in 2011. The current management who joined the organization in 2012 have been managing the organization with a 2011 budget for the past 4 years. For this reason myself and the entire management team of the MEIBC welcome the latest decision by MANCO to appoint an oversight committee to assist in drafting the council's next 5 years budget.

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It is interesting to note that the group that projects the MEIBC as financially unviable in the public domain is the same group that has objected to levy increases for the past four years, have objected to the extension of the period the current agreement and have actively mobilised employers in the industry not to continue with contributions during periods when the agreement had expired.

This campaign should be understood within this broad political intentions of closing the MEIBC and as a result do away with extension of agreement by the Minister and thereby collapse centralised collective bargaining , a matter that was lost by the Free Market Foundation at the level of the Constitutional Court.

Under normal circumstances non-racial and progressive trade unions and employer organizations, apply for membership of the council because they believe, subscribe and accept what the Bargaining Council system stands for and endorse its policies. These are organizations that will encourage their members to register with the Council.

The current arrangement in the MEIBC environment and its constitution allows anyone especially employers organizations to become members with no threshold, allow or give membership to people who have ulterior motives that include collapsing the council system from within with impunity.

ISSUED BY MEIBC