MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO THE SADTU
8TH CONGRESS 2014

1. EDUCATION LABOUR RELATIONS COUNCIL (ELRC)

The Council wishes this important congress success. SADTU has proven its dedication to the cause of education over the years, and we are confident that the objectives of this congress will be realised.

We wish you well in your deliberations.

2. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES – SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY (ETDP SETA)

We, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to applaud and appreciate the role of SADTU in particular, for sustaining the education transformation agenda and our educators in general, who are making a significant difference in raising the standards of education in our country. ‘Nothing can replace a teacher’.

Long live SADTU, long live!

3. PUBLIC SERVICE CO-ORDINATING BARGAINING COUNCIL (PSCBC)

As the PSCBC we are proud and indeed grateful to have been partner in contributing to your history and success. May SADTU in the years to come continue to grow as an organization, and enhance its commitment to its membership tenfold.

Here’s to the next 24 years

4. SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATORS (SACE)

The teachers and learners of our country, and all our citizens look forward to the modernization and further sophistication of SADTU’s strategy and tactics towards the realization of a fair dispensation for teachers, professionalization of the vocation, quality education for learners and a better life for all.

VIVA SADTU VIVA

5. CHEMICAL ENERGY PAPER PRINTING WOOD & ALLIED WORKERS UNION (CEPPWAWU)
We also look forward to bold and practical resolutions spelling out decisive work programmes teachers are to undertake in the next term in order to assist the peoples government to match the challenge and programmes aimed at strengthening COSATU and the entire Mass Democratic Movement.

CEPPWAWU therefore wishes you robust, in-depth and fruitful engagement and enduring unity for the duration of the Congress and beyond. We wish you a successful Congress.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!!!!!!!!!

6. NATIONAL EDUCATION HEALTH WORKDER UNION (NEHAWU)

As a union which is transformative in nature and militant in character we fully comprehend that education ideologically is not neutral and that is why our approach in the transformation of education shall be guided by our class consciousness and we fully commit ourselves to work with our sister union - SADTU in the education band to resuscitate a functional Education Alliance in order to advance our historic campaign - People’s Education for People’s Power which is the theme of this congress.

Your entire membership and South Africans awaits for the outcomes of this historic congress of the progressive and revolutionary teachers union - you dare not to fail them!

We therefore wish you a very resounding and successful congress!

7. NATIONAL UNION OF MINEWORKERS (NUM)

By SADTU being part of the progressive democratic forces it stands as a strategic institution that gears up its members to contest the formulation of curriculum. As NUM we are part of you in the struggle to create education for liberation. Thus we have resolved to do away with Fanakalo in the mines.

This Congress takes place at the time when the enemies of our democracy have re-doubled their effort to detail the NDR. We witness, emergence of an enemy from within, it is this enemy from within which is more dangerous.

Amandla! We wish you all the best.”

8. POLICE AND PRISONS CIVIL RIGHTS UNION (POPCRU)
As teachers, and indeed champions of the education system in this country, we are certain the congress will seek innovative ways of improving the current condition of our children’s education. We want to live in a South Africa in which every child has the same opportunities and skills when they get out of the schooling system.

Viva SADTU. Viva COSATU. Viva SACP. Viva ANC. Amandla!

9. **SOUTHERN AFRICAN CLOTHING AND TEXTILE WORKERS UNION (SACTWU)**

On behalf of the staff, shop stewards, members and National Office Bearers of the Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers Union (SACTWU), I extend warm solidarity greetings to SADTU’s 8th National Congress.

May you have a united, cohesive and radical National Congress? We hope that proceedings go well, and that programmatic resolutions during these trying times and daunting challenges, will go well.

10. **SOUTH AFRICAN TRANSPORT AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION (SATAWU)**

In this crucial point of our young democracy where the endeavour to nurture a new cadre of youth leadership and responsible citizens cannot be over emphasised, as the South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU), we fully support the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU) in the struggle of building conscious cadres who understand the value of education and knowledge as means to an end; and not just an end in itself.

Supporting the struggle for building cadres who can use this knowledge to participate in the transformation of society requires our teachers to work closely as a united front to assist the youth to unlock the doors of opportunities.

Amandla Comrades!

11. **MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM THE BOTSWANA TEACHERS UNION (BTU)**

The President, National Leadership and entire BTU family find it fitting to extend to you comrade President, National Leadership and general membership of SADTU our warm greetings and solidarity message in your 8th National Congress. SADTU is the torch bearer, pillar of hope, a robust trade union that is firm on principles of democracy, meaningful social dialogue and true representation of educator’s labour rights as such we envy you dearly.
We as BTU totally concur with you theme and strongly feel is well timed under the current winds of change that is blowing in South Africa, Southern African Region and globally as far as teachers ‘freedom and labour rights are concerned.

SADTU needs to use this congress to make critical introspection to see if indeed it is still pursuing its founding ideological principles and mandate as this theme dictates. It is proper and fitting that SADTU should pause a while and say are we still on the right track that is leading our members to the promised land of freedom and socio-economic prosperity or we are heading for disaster.

We would like to wish the entire leadership, general membership and partners a successful 8th National Congress. Let peace and humanity prevail throughout the proceedings.

12. KENYA NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS (KNUT)

On behalf of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and the entire teaching fraternity in the Republic of Kenya, we wish to convey our warm and friendly fraternal greetings to all the delegates, observers and the leadership of SADTU gathered during the occasion of the 8th SADTU National Congress.

KNUT believes in Solidarity of all workers throughout the world and we are ready to spearhead this solidarity to all teachers’ unions by sharing the knowledge and experience we have gained since its foundation. Our door is open to all unions who wish to co-operate with us.

We want to convey our best wishes to SADTU membership and leadership, to all trade union organisations and in deed to all stakeholders involved in the development of education.

Lastly, we wish to register our appreciation to SADTU for inviting us to attend the national congress. SADTU leadership are equally free to visit KNUT to learn its achievements and developments that it has brought to its membership and also to strengthen our co-operation.

We wish you well as you celebrate SADTU’s 24th Anniversary. Let us all Unite for Quality Education as we mark the World Teachers’ Day to celebrate our teachers all over the world for delivering quality education to our children.

13. LESOTHO ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS (LAT)

The theme of the congress is “Organize Empower Education Workers to deliver Free Quality Public Education and Build Socialism”
Colleague’s education does not happen in vacuum. It takes place in a social context where society transforms in order to comply with the situation in its environment. As society transforms, teachers through their organizations have to champion and initiate the interest of teachers and training should empower people to know and create personalities.

Again Comrades teachers have to be organized to be united and to be empowered at the national context as it is the pre-condition for a viable and vibrant teachers’ organization. Teachers through their organisations have to champion and initiate the interest of teachers at work where free quality public education can be seen through Socialism (which is the means of production and societal cohesion).

In conclusion Comrades the honour is on teacher organizations who rise above the constraints of the technical discussion of labour in modern society and to build a broad based movement which transcends the peculiarities of the teaching service.

14. NAMIBIA NATIONAL TEACHERS’ UNION (NANTU)

Your theme for this Congress “Restore the Character of SADTU as a union of revolutionary Professionals, Agents of Change and Champions of People’s Power in Pursuit of Socialism”. It is clear that SADTU should remain and retain its ideology despite the approach on how to deal with issues. We should always protect the principles of the Union.

It is clear that we (teachers) are the creators of wealth but we do not benefit from it. Therefore the theme is calling on SADTU to be involved in the controlling and the distribution of resources in this country. We are the agency of change and through our engagement we will be able to change the situation for the better. Workers contribute to the society based on their ability and receive according to their needs rather than being paid wages.

NANTU salutes and wishes you fruitful deliberations

15. MOZAMBICAN TEACHERS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (ONP/SNPM)

It’s with great honour and satisfaction that, in name of the President of ONP/SNPM, of the Secretary-General, of the Mozambican teachers and in my personal name, mounted the podium to address my thanks to SADTU for the invitation sent to ONP/SNPM to participate in this 8th Congress.

This invitation is one more alive and present witness of the friendship, cooperation and solidarity that exists between the SADTU and the ONP/SNPM.
As representative of ONP/SNPM in this magnificent event, was put in charge the responsibility of transmitting warm greetings from the Mozambican teachers to the Congress that takes place today in this beautiful and wonderful Gauteng Province.

We want to give our congratulations to SADTU for the adoption of the slogan and themes for the Congress which leads to the adequacy and a line up with the dynamic synergies of the South Africa Development. We think they reflect the expectations and the interest of the South African teachers.

We express our votes for the decisions that will be taken in this Congress, as they will consolidate more and more the union and cohesion between SADTU and ONP/SNPM and other world teachers syndicates, so that we can go on following our own path for the development, cooperation and solidarity.

For the 24th anniversary of the Foundation of SADTU, We want to address our sincere greetings and votes of an everlasting life, united as syndicate and spokesperson of the teachers socio-professional interests which you legally represent. We are also happy for celebrating together in family, with the representatives of the teachers of several countries, the world teacher’s day. Long live 5th October.

16. SOUTHERN AFRICAN TEACHERS ORGANISATION (SATO)

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of members of SATO and its strong unions in the region I salute your Congress. Dear Comrades, SATO is constituted by principled and revolutionary unions that have championed the cause of liberation in Southern Africa. We came together to create this solidarity family as well orchestrated strategy to defend the gains our independent states and labour rights.

We join you today to celebrate the 8th National Congress of SADTU. Well done our comrades, this is at should be for all democratic and revolutionary unions of our community in Southern Africa.

Let the Congress unleash more energy and commitment to steer this great nation to greater heights. We wish you fruitful deliberations.

17. SWAZILAND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS (SNAT)

I bring Fraternal greetings from Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) comprising of 10 000 members. SNAT we take lead from the history of all South Africans. We saw what unity can make you achieve as a country and as a trade union. We have noticed your active involvements in crafting the practical
landscape in the country and that is the way to go. We as teachers are the silent moulder of society; we cannot therefore leave everything to the politicians.

We wish you fruitful deliberations in your 8th National Congress and your celebrations of the 25th Anniversary.

18. CHAMA CHA WALIMU TANZANIA (WCT)/ TANZANIA TEACHERS UNION – (TTU)

Comrades, Kindly receive fraternal greetings from TTU colleagues. On behalf of Tanzania Teachers’ Union I have the honour to take this opportunity to write to you a solidarity statement during this important event of commemorating the 8th National Congress.

As the theme states: "Restore the Character of SADTU as a Union of Revolutionary professionals, Agent of Change and Champions of People’s Education Power in pursuit of Socialism" It is great pleasure for us to be invited to share with you this pleasant and important event.

We understand that SADTU is doing a tremendous job in organizing and uniting teachers from different races, faith and gender across the whole of South Africa. We also understand your great efforts in educating South African Societies in the pursuit of socialism not only among SADTU members but also the entire nation.

Interestingly, your philosophy, which considers balancing professional and trade union matters of members' lives, is in the long term interest of the society.

TTU like SADTU believes that teaching, we are and the society we live in.

We wish you all the best & Solidarity forever!

19. ZAMBIA NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS (ZAMBIA)

I bring you fraternal greetings from Zambia National Union of Teachers (ZNUT) and the teachers of Zambia in general and to be part of you as you commemorate your 8th National Congress and the 24th Anniversary of SADTU and that of the world teacher’s day. This a mammoth event and we feel greatly honoured to be invited.

The guest of honour sir/madam, ZNUT and SADTU has been all weather partners for a very long time. Our relationship dates way back to the apartheid days when a lot of our colleagues from this country came to stay in Zambia and some even took up teaching courses in Zambian colleges and university from that time we have been like Siamese twins.
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, SADTU has helped ZNUT in many ways; just to mention a few; SADTU has been very supportive in the areas of ICT, capacity building and gender. This collaboration has seen our union acquire state of the art technology and for this we are most grateful.

SADTU has also been very instrumental over the years to revive the Southern African Teachers’ Organization (SATO) that went into oblivion we are happy that now this organization is able survive the storm.

SADTU may have come late on the scene as a new union because of the apartheid days but it has proved to be a giant in the region. My union ZNUT will continue to collaborate with you and other mainstream teachers’ unions in the SADAC region to share experiences in line with the SATO strategic plan we recently adopted.

Finally I wish you success during these two important functions and I thank you.

20. ZIMBABWE TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION (ZIMTA)

Your theme Comrade General Secretary, “Restore the Character of SADTU as a union of revolutionary Professionals, Agents of Change and Champions of People’s Power in Pursuit of Socialism” is full-load and multi-tasking theme which is relevant to South Africa as it pursues the agenda of creating an egalitarian society through access to education, economic opportunities and restoration of people’s power.

We urge you Comrade General Secretary to be true agents of change, resolute as ever and never wavering even in the face of adversity. What will be important is to determine the difference between real danger and scare crows, tired revolutionaries and out-right sellouts.

Keep your revolutionary radar on so as to connect with the rest of the revolutionaries around you.

21. AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (AFT)

Officers and Delegates to the 8th National Congress of SADTU:
On the occasion of this all important event, you’re Brothers and Sisters in the American Federation of Teachers commend your 24 years accomplishment and leadership on behalf of educators and students in South Africa and throughout the world.
Your fortitude and diligence in addressing head-on the impact of HIV-AIDS on teachers, students, parents and communities has reached all the way to California and, for that, the teachers and students in America are forever grateful.

We look forward in working with you as we fight back the forces of those who want to market incentivize our public education and fight forward in guaranteeing quality public education for ALL young citizens.

In unity and in solidarity.

22. BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS’ FEDERATION (BCTF)

Greetings to colleagues in the South African Democratic Teachers’ Union on its 24th Anniversary from the British Columbia Teachers’ Federation in Canada.

This is a very difficult time for unions globally and it is important to maintain solidarity relations as we all struggle for improved teaching and learning conditions and adequate compensation for those who work in education.

We are experiencing great difficulties here in Canada, fighting a government that aims at breaking our union and damaging public education. Our members have already been out on strike for several weeks in support of improving conditions for our students and fair salaries for teachers.

The British Columbia Teachers’ Federation was supportive of SADTU when it was formed in 1990. We congratulate SADTU on its work on behalf of teachers and positive social change.

We look forward to a continued solidarity relationship.

23. CANADIAN TEACHERS FEDERATION (CTF)

We continue to marvel at the development of SADTU, and its effective work as union in support of the welfare of South African teachers and as voice of South African teachers on national education issues. We are particularly delighted to work alongside SADTU in its emerging role as a cooperating organization within the broader scope of support of teachers at regional and international levels.

As active players within the network of Education International and the Pan African Teachers’ Centre, we have a common base from which to support African national teacher organisations.
Our best wishes for a successful Congress are extended through you to all SADTU members from teachers of Canada. May this occasion energize and unite teachers as leaders within a strong and progressive South Africa.

24. NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA)

As members of the South African Democratic Teachers’ Union gather soon in Gauteng for the 8th National Congress, I am sending you warm greetings on behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association (NEA) of the United States.

NEA salutes you and your organization’s efforts to advocate for equitable and quality education for all young people living in your country and to improve conditions for your members. We stand in solidarity with you in our shared commitment to quality education for all students.

We wish you great success in this Congress.

25. ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS’ FEDERATION (OSSTF)

It gives me great pleasure to offer you our greetings and best wishes for a successful Congress on the occasion of your 24th anniversary. On behalf of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation and its sixty thousand members please be assured that you have our support and solidarity in fulfilling the decisions taken at this important gathering.

We regret that we are not able to attend the Congress; however, we are currently negotiating new collective agreements under an entirely new piece of legislation. Please accept our congratulations on your anniversary and we look forward to receiving your documents.

26. UNION OF EDUCATION NORWAY (UEN)

We note with satisfaction the considerable progress that SADTU has made to become the largest teachers’ organisation in the country. We are proud to have partnered with you to organize and empower South African teachers to fight for decent working conditions, and an accessible, all inclusive, quality public school.

The theme of the Congress is timely, given the increasing privatisation of education, and the commercialization of teaching inputs. It is required of us to stand together in solidarity to preserve our professional autonomy and preserve education as a nationally driven and society building institution.
Through our membership in Education International, we can ensure that the key role that teachers play in ensuring an education in which dignity, the rights of and respect for individual are just as important as skills acquisition.

The Union of Education Norway wishes you a successful Congress.