



South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU)

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To: Mr Mariano Rajoy
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Support for Spanish workers

Dear Sir,

You will be announcing cuts and tax increases of up to €40 billion on 30 March, so as to reach the target deficit of 5.3% this year.

Already €15 billion worth of cuts in public spendings have been inflicted on the Spanish people last year.

We, the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) in South Africa fully support our Spanish colleagues in their 24-hour strike on 29 March.

Spain has the highest overall and youth unemployment rates in Europe. *Cuts in public services will only lead to even worse employment situation; Spain will then be trapped in a vicious cycle of worsening debt.* At this point of time, the only viable long-term solution is job creation and education - essential to generate the growth that the country badly needs.

On behalf of our Spanish colleagues, we urge you to stop the spending cuts. The social costs of such a move will be immeasurable. Already, your country's poverty rate has jumped from 23.4% to 27% in the last two years and severe social exclusion has grown by two percentage points, to 18.6%, since 2007. Social services now help 8 million people, compared with 5 million two years ago. Short-term fiscal reduction is counter-productive to resolving the crisis that Spain is facing.

Yours sincerely,

MJ Maluleke
General Secretary – SADTU

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