PRESS STATEMENT ON THE ON-GOING TEACHERS' STRIKE:

Following our earlier promise to unreservedly and unequivocally support the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and its entire membership in the on-going nationwide strike, the Federation of Public Service Trade Unions of Kenya (PUSETU-K) after extensive consultation has joined hands with KNUT and wish to state as follows:

1. THAT, having studied in depth the genesis of the dispute between the parties, PUSETU-K fully and firmly supports the Industrial action taken by the teachers throughout the country.

2. THAT, PUSETU-K having closely studied the relevant documents with Legal Notice No. 534 of 1997, contends that it is only Legal Notices originating from the Teachers Service Remuneration Committee (TSRC) that are legal and lawful. As such, Legal Notice No. 16 of 2003 did not originate from the TSRC hence it is unlawful and should be degazetted forthwith.

3. THAT, PUSETU-K argues that KNUT fully complied with ALL the requisite legal requirements before calling the nationwide strike.

4. THAT, therefore the strike as called and executed so far is totally LEGAL AND LAWFUL.

5. THAT, PUSETU-K condemns in the strongest terms possible the weak-kneed even outdated culture of employers rushing to and misusing courts to frustrate the rights of workers even when they (employers) are the ones at fault.
6. THAT, PUSETU-K calls upon the courts to do due diligence in administration of justice and upholding the rule of law. THAT, courts must lead from the front in preventing miscarriage of justice at all costs.

7. THAT, PUSETU-K demands due diligence from employers including government to respect mutually agreed and signed agreements.

8. THAT, PUSETU-K calls upon the government to take full responsibility of the industrial instability currently taking place in our schools and to immediately resolve the impasse through an agreeable Return to Work Formula.

9. THAT, in the circumstances, PUSETU-K implore upon the KNUT membership to soldier on and continue with their industrial action until they are advised to the contrary by the union leadership.

10. THAT, for the benefit of the unsuspecting public, the government publishes immediately the comparative analysis of what was agreed on in the Legal Notice No. 534 of 1997 and what they have implemented.

(DR. CHARLES MUKHAYA)
GENERAL SECRETARY
PUSETU-K