Sadtu threatens a province-wide strike

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KWAZULU-Natal Education Department officials will meet teacher union Sadtu today to try to avert a threatened province-wide strike that would disrupt this week’s matric trial exams.

In a statement released last week, Sadtu warned that teachers in KZN would strike today if a list of demands was not met. These included: paying teachers back R120 million deducted from their salaries when they went out on an illegal strike in 2012; that Adult Basic Education and Training teachers be paid according to the 2011 scale; and principals of growing schools be paid on higher pay levels.

The union also demanded that more than 800 vacant circuit inspector posts be filled.

While the provincial department head, Nkosinathi Sishi, told The Mercury he had no knowledge of the proposed strike, he said KZN education MEC Senzo Mchunu would meet the union today.

“We have not received any official notification of an intention by Sadtu to strike. “We have noted their media statement indicating ‘work to rule’ meaning they work for seven hours a day only and no overtime. We trust our meeting will resolve all outstanding matters,” Sishi said.

Four out of five headmasters, in township and suburban schools, said they were unaware of the proposed strike.

One said he had heard about the strike but expected all teachers to be in the classroom today. “Our exams will not be affected. What I have heard is that they will come to school,” he said.

The matric trial exams end on Friday.