

SOUTH AFRICAN UNION OF STUDENTS

SAUS CALLS FOR NATIONAL SHUTDOWN OF ALL PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES (26/01/2020)

#SAUS7DaysLapsed

#SAUSNationalShutdown

#NoRetreatNoSurrender



'When we revolt it's not for a particular culture. We revolt simply because, for many reasons, we can no longer breathe'- Frantz Fanon

The South African Union of Students (SAUS) calls for a **National Shutdown** of all universities with effect from Monday 27/01/2020. The Call for a National Shutdown comes after numerous attempts at engaging and trying to bring sobriety to the Department of Higher Education and Training in light of the difficult and demoralizing realities of student issues on the ground.

Following Minister Blade Ndzimande's press briefing on Thursday (23/01/2010), we would have hoped that the Minister would take poor students; students from working class backgrounds and the South African nation into confidence by bringing practical solutions that will meaningfully contribute towards enabling access and success for thousands of students who have since been left destitute.

Instead, student issues have been met with the arrogance and complete disregard by the Minister and his department which has now led us down this particular path. The response provided by the Minister is process-driven and not satisfactory. Conversely, we are calling for a solution-driven response to ensure that poor students are not denied access to institutions of higher learning.

As things stand, students from vulnerable and missing middle backgrounds cannot register due to historic debt; as things stand, students cannot enter universities due to no walk in applications; as things stand poor students cannot further their postgraduate studies and are sitting at home without funding; as things stand thousands of students cannot get meaningful employment because their academic records are withheld by their institutions.

Following an urgent special National Executive Meeting convened with Student Representative Council (SRC) Presidents and Secretary Generals of South African public universities (24-26 January 2020, Tshwane University of Technology), the South African Union of Students, together with SRCs, unanimously resolved that we must defend the students against financial and academic exclusion through a National Shutdown until Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Ndzimande responds positively to the following 15 demands.

1. Allocation of debt relief fund for clearance of student debts and all students with historical debts must be allowed to register.
2. Students must be given their academic records and certificates despite them owing universities.
3. Post-graduate students and B-Techs must be allowed to register. We are demanding postgraduate funding.
4. Correct accreditation process for private accommodation.
5. Free registration for vulnerable, poor and missing middle students.
6. Re- opening of NSFAS applications for new students and walk ins.
7. We demand revision of DHET bursary guidelines to include submissions made by SRC Presidents last year especially on off campus students allowances and free sanitary towels for female students.
8. Increase of enrolment quotas amidst the high pass matric rate of 83.1 %.
9. A clear implementation plan for student Mental health, safety and security in campuses.
10. We demand the inclusion of UNISA in all allowances.
11. DHET must address the shortage of student accommodation, decaying infrastructure for teaching and learning.
12. Expedite the NSFAS appeals process and elimination of n+1 and reinstatement of n+2 rule.
13. Food security for hungry poor students who are unfunded.
14. Improving the central application process and redesign the CACH to avoid excluding students.
15. Fees must fall in all universities that increased fees without consultation with the SRC.

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