

SOUTH AFRICAN UNION OF STUDENTS



The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology
Private Bag X893
Pretoria
0001.

29 January 2020

Dear Dr BE Nzimande (MP)

Urgent Meeting to Discuss the 15 Demands and the Current University Protest

Receive our warm regards from the union of students.

The South African Union of students submitted a memorandum of demands to your office and subsequently received a response on behalf of university students. University SRCs are not satisfied with your responses hence a national shutdown was declared on Monday the 27th of January 2020. We are now writing to you requesting an urgent meeting between student leadership and the Minister on Friday the 31st of January 2020 at 9am in Pretoria to discuss a way forward regarding the above matter.

We have noted amongst other things the following;

- That amongst the 15 demands some issues were responded positively and some were not responded positively hence a meeting to make you aware of the areas that our constituency is not satisfied with amongst your responses.
- Some of the aspects on your responses require you to interpret what you mean because misinterpretation often causes hostilities hence we will need to raise clarities on your responses.
- Some of the proposals you made in your responses are process driven hence a meeting is required for you to provide timeframes and a framework of how some of the issues will be addressed in the long run.
- Specific issues requires specific information for a direct solution to be sought, for example we will need to give you details of institutions that are not providing academic records, denying students with debts to register and those that increased fees above the inflation rate so that you give specific responses to that effect.
- The Ministry and SAUS are responding to each other on or via media platforms instead of engaging on how to address the issues on the table in order to have consensus.

Whilst some of the universities are already on protest we believe that if we all discuss these issues in good faith we can find a way forward before other universities that promised to join the shutdown do so. The narrative that few universities are participating in the shutdown does not mean the issues are not important and it is highly likely that many universities will be joining the protest as continuing students are returning back to campuses this coming Friday hence attention must be given to these issues on the table.

We therefore request you as the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology to consider what we have provided herein to convene a meeting between SAUS, SRC Presidents, USAF, Vice Chancellors and the Minister so as to have a way forward.

Thank you

For and on behalf of the South African Union of Students
Lwandile Mtsolo
Secretary General
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