



higher education  
& training

Ministry:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Minister Nzimande welcomes commitment of stakeholders to participate in issues of post school education and training sector**

**6 October 2016** - The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande takes this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders who took part at the Higher education Imbizo on 3 October 2016 in Kempton Park.

At the Imbizo, the stakeholders undertook to rightfully get close to the issues unfolding at institutions of higher learning. Such a commitment was translated into a declaration that was agreed to by all.

The declaration called for, amongst other things, students and academics to resume academic programmes in order to save the rest of academic year. It also called for stakeholders to assist in mediation efforts where necessary.

It is within the above context that I welcome some of the initiatives by various stakeholders who are working with all the stakeholders and institutions to find amicable ways to resolve institution specific issues as is currently underway at the University of Witwatersrand. We encourage other institutions to mobilise innovative initiatives at their disposal to promote lasting institutional peace. In particular, we encourage institutions to use their institutional forums to encourage a culture of dialogue rather than confrontation

“This mediation follows a stakeholder meeting which was held on Monday, 3 October where students, council members, vice chancellors, religious and traditional leaders, leaders of convocations and alumni among others. The meeting adopted a declaration committing themselves to finding solutions to the situation in our universities. These efforts represent the spirit and the letter of the declaration and therefore are encouraging and commendable” says Minister Nzimande.

The Department of Higher Education and Training is of the firm view that education in our society should be a collective responsibility. It therefore requires all members of society, particularly leaders to make sure that education is accessible to all particularly the poor. It takes the entire community to educate a child.

“We have consistently been appealing to parents, leaders in society and the university community that we must as a collective do everything in our power to ensure that normality returns to our universities and that 2016 academic programme is completed. We equally call on leaders in other parts of the country to get involved to secure the future of our children” Minister Nzimande further said.

The department will continue to be in constant contact with universities and student leadership, including leaders in society with an effort to ensure that classes resume and culture of learning returns to our universities.

Minister Nzimande believes that the negotiations for permanent solutions to the demands of students can be found while the academic programme is continuing. The department will continue to monitor the situation across campuses and intervene where required. The department also encourages anyone with innovative solutions to present them to the Fees Commission which is currently underway.

End.

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**Issued by Department of Higher Education and Training**