

**MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DR BLADE NZIMANDE, ON THE PASSING OF
HUNADI MAGONGOA**

07 September 2019

To the Magongoa family, Hunadi's friends and classmates and the entire community of the Sefako Makgato Health Sciences University, and members of the community gathered here, my deepest sympathies goes out to you all during this time of grief.

Hunadi's death, did not only leave a void and unanswered questions to you alone, but to the government and South Africans as at large.

It is for this reason that as the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, I appealed to the University management to expedite its investigation into the cause of Hunadi's untimely death.

I am pleased that upon knowledge of Hunadi's death, the University swiftly instituted a multidisciplinary-investigation, comprising of both internal and external experts to get to the bottom of our beloved daughter's early departure.

I am also grateful that upon the allegations that Hunadi might have consumed food from the University Student Cafeteria, the university management closed down the cafeteria pending the conclusion of the investigation.

People who knew Hunadi have spoken of her joyful character. They said she was known as a friendly and approachable person who loved to smile, who was passionate about her studies. She is said to have been always an enthusiastic and active participant in her class discussions.

They have spoken of her inquisitiveness, eagerness to learn and active participation in tutorials.

Not only was Hunadi an ideal student par excellence, but she also loved her sport, as she was a prominent football player of the University football team.

She was indeed a rounded student, who knew the importance of balancing her cognitive (career) as well as physical wellbeing. I want to believe that this is the reason why she was studying towards a medical qualification.

In honour of Hunadi, as a department we will remain steadfast in implementing the National Plan for Post-School Education and Training (NPPSET) which provides a consolidated roadmap for a more integrated, transformed, articulated and effective post-school system in South Africa.

As government we will continue to provide the necessary support to our institutions of higher learning to provide students and staff with a healthy, safe and habitual post school education environment, which encourages productivity for both students and staff.

I want to assure you today that government will stop at nothing to work towards a conducive learning environment that promotes safety, access and success for all students.

As we mourn our beloved daughter, may God give you the comfort and peace that you seek at this moment of grief and may the soul of Hunadi rest in peace.

Once more, on behalf of the government of South Africa, I extend our heartfelt condolences to all of you.

I thank you

DR BLADE NZIMANDE
Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology