



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The President of The Republic of South Africa

Electronic message to: presidentrsa@presidency.gov.za

Dear Honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa,

REQUEST TO DIRECT MINISTER BLADE NZIMANDE TO INTERVENE AMIDST STUDENT PROTESTS

With reference to the above-mentioned matter.

I am writing to you, as the head of the Executive, to request that you urge Minister Blade Nzimande to intervene following the many protests the country has seen from both Universities and TVET Colleges. The Democratic Alliance has written numerous letters and exhausted all other avenues in trying to get the Minister to actively address the problems currently occurring in the institutions of Higher Learning but with no success.

Students are continuing to hold other students to ransom at these institutions through protests. Those who have registered and want to learn are being inconvenienced by the disruption of lectures. While students may have legitimate cries, the damage to property, assaults and disruptions are unacceptable and have frankly been allowed to continue for too long.

The protesting students are taking their anger and frustration out at the institutions and not at NSFAS's doorstep, where the genesis of the problem exists. It is not enough that the Minister condemns the protest action but rather serious action steps ought to be taken if the department wants education to continue uninterrupted. The latest of the protest actions has seen institutions such as Fort Hare shutting down campuses and removing students from its buildings.

Mr President, we urge you to call on Minister Nzimande to do the following in order to resolve the ongoing issues:

1. The Minister needs to announce a comprehensive plan with specific timelines of when NSFAS students with historic debt will be paid and cleared.
2. NSFAS needs to expedite disbursement of funds to students, students need to get their funds directly into their student accounts.
3. NSFAS allowance for TVETs and University students needs to be standardized, students face the same expenses for food and accommodation.
4. Urgently engage the department of Public Works and Human Settlements to allocate unused buildings for student accommodation to address the immediate shortages

5. The Minister has to engage Fort Hare management to prevent the eviction of students and find a way to allow for the academic program to continue.

We call on you to ensure that the Minister takes the necessary action required of him before more chaos erupts.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Yours faithfully

John Steenhuisen MP

Leader of the Official Opposition