



ATTENTION: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

TO: EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

INTERVENTIONS IN THE ISSUES AFFECTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AT THE UFS

1. The Premier of Free State, Mr. Ace Magashule noted with great concern the incidents that affected programmes at the University of Free State.
2. The Premier then consulted with different stakeholders including the ruling African National Congress and its allies, student and youth formations, labour organizations and the university management to try and avert the crisis;
3. As a result of these concerted efforts, the parties agreed that studies should resume immediately and that acts of violence should stop with immediate effect.
4. The parties further agreed to ensure that negotiations between students, the university management and labour unions will continue earnestly to ensure the smooth running of the university and to avoid similar incidents in the future;
5. We remain committed to our objective to ensure that education, as one of our key priorities, is used as a primary tool to transform the socio-economic realities of our country;
6. We urge all parties to avoid confrontations, provocations and acts of violence at all costs;
7. We urge all parties to ensure that racism is not used as a tool to divide our people and distract us from the noble goal of achieving a united, prosperous, non-racist and non-sexist South Africa;
8. We wish to encourage all parties to work together in building a better society through education and culture;
9. The goal of transformation of higher education is part of the broader goal of transformation of society in general;
10. The attempts to transform any section of society must be done within the laws of the land. No amount of violence can justify the nobility of a goal;
11. We will continue to engage with all stakeholders in the higher education sector, including those from all TVET colleges in our province, broader education and culture fraternity, and society at large to ensure that the noble goal of the Freedom Charter that states; *The doors of learning and culture shall be opened*, is not at any given moment under siege.

12. We are pleased to learn that classes resumed smoothly today.
13. We wish all students a peaceful, harmonious and productive study year of 2016. We will continue to keep a close watch on the situation and work together with all to ensure that solutions are reached to problems that are part of the system;

Issued by:

Mr. Tiisetso Makhele

Premier's Spokesperson

Email: tiisetso.makhele@fspremier.gov.za

Cell: 076 833 0033

Fax2Email: 086 577 3317

For enquiries:

Me. Pulane Tsupane

Cell: 071 302 2595

Date: 29 February 2016