MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: Thursday, 14 August 2019

TO; All media

ATTENTION: News Editors/ Reporters

For Immediate use:

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DR BLADE NZIMANDE, STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH THE SEFAKO MAKGATHO HEALTH SCIENCE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Pretoria- The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, held a productive meeting with the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University Council yesterday, the 14th August 2019.

The Council briefed the Minister on their immediate plan to restore stability and good corporate governance following the ongoing protests that has disrupted learning and teaching activities at the University.

“This Council plan will pave the way to end the protest which disrupted the academic and administrative activities at the University. It will also lead to the broader university strategic plan that will ensure that this university takes up its place amongst the best universities which are responsive to South Africa’s economic, health and skills needs,” said Minister Nzimande.

“I urge the Council, unions and student leadership to remain calm and to collectively work together in ending the protest and in dealing with all challenges facing this university,” said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande further indicated that Council must urgently deal with issues relating to the University Infrastructure Plan and backlogs, allegations of corruption and racial practices at the University, which also affect senior managers, and the finalization of the Forensic Investigations Report.

Minister Nzimande expects Council to provide a progress report in two weeks on milestones already achieved in response to the challenges that led to the protest.

The Minister is also expecting Council to provide concrete long-term plans, to deal with all challenges facing the University in general, including a proactive strategy to prevent and combat corruption.

Minister Nzimande reiterated Government’s determination to end all forms of corruption and malfeasance in all state institutions including at Post School Education institutions. The Minister calls upon members of the university community to report such ills to Law Enforcement Agencies.
Minister Nzimande would also like to assure parents, students and workers at the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, that government will stop at nothing to work towards a conducive learning environment that promotes access and success.

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