MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: Thursday, 01 August 2019

TO; All media

ATTENTION: News Editors/ Reports

For Immediate use:

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DR BLADE NZIMANDE, STATEMENT ON DISRUPTIONS OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AT THE SEFAKO MAKGATHO HEALTH SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, condemns the disruptions of academic activities at the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University which commenced on the Monday, 29th July 2019.

Academic activities have been disrupted and workers prevented from entering the campus, leading to the university’s operations severely affected.

Minister Nzimande said that academic activities should not be willy-nilly disrupted in our education and training institutions.

“This protest march will not only affect the university but also the adjacent Dr George Mukhari Hospital and Dental Hospital and other healthcare delivery facilities situated on the campus, warned Minister Nzimande.

The Minister further said that said the continuation of the protest will also affect students severely, with the possibilities of the 2019 academic year being extended to the 2020 academic year.

“I urge the workers and students to allow the academic programme to continue uninterrupted, whilst the university management, labour and students continue to look for amicable solutions to their impasse,” said Minister Nzimande.
Minister Nzimande further said that whilst it is within the rights of both workers and students to protest, they must always act within the confines of both the Student Code of Conduct and Staff Disciplinary Code.

“Government supports a healthy, safe and habitual post school education environment, which encourages productivity for both labour and students,” said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande has directed the University Branch of the Department of Higher Education and Training to work closely with the University, and the Minister will monitor the situation closely.

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