higher education & training
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MEDIA ADVISORY
04 October 2026

DEPUTY MINISTER YUSUF CASSIM UNDERTAKES OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Yusuf Cassim, MP, will conduct an official oversight visit to the University of Fort Hare`s East London Campus on Monday, 5 October 2026.

The visit follows student concerns raised through the Deputy Minister's Helpdesk, and aims to engage directly with students and University management on practical measures to address these challenges.

The Deputy Minister's delegated responsibilities include student accommodation and housing delivery in the PSET sector, as well as student wellbeing and support, including student safety.

These responsibilities require the Deputy Minister to engage directly with students where they study and live, assess the challenges they face and work with the University and relevant entities to agree on practical remedial actions and clear timeframes.

Matters to be addressed include:

- Student safety, including reported incidents of crime on campus and near student residences, as well as concerns regarding the visibility and capacity of campus security.
- The impact of the ongoing NSFAS gap investigation and the application of the N+ rule.
- Conditions in accredited and leased student residences, including outstanding maintenance, non-functioning cooking facilities, inadequate heating, poorly equipped study rooms, and other conditions that affect students' ability to study.

Supporting Deputy Minister Cassim will be officials from the DHET University Education Branch and NSFAS. The engagement will include University Management, the SRC and other relevant officials.

Members of the media are invited as follows:

Date: Monday, 5 October 2026
Time: 10:00 -15:00
Location: Miriam Makeba Hall, East London Campus, University of Fort Hare

Issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Training

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