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The Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training  
Mrs Yvonne Phosa  
PO Box 15  
Cape Town  
8000

Electronic message to: [akabingsi@parliament.gov.za](mailto:akabingsi@parliament.gov.za)

**Request for the specific issues be addressed by the University of Fort Hare when they appear before the Committee**

Dear Honourable Chairperson

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for supporting my request to call the University of Fort Hare to urgently account before the Portfolio Committee in Higher Education and Training.

I write to you today to request that you ensure that the below issues are addressed by the University of Fort Hare when they appear before the committee next week Tuesday.

These issues are:

- The University has illegally used NSFAS money to pay staff salaries; The university should provide a full, detailed report on how every cent of NSFAS money has been spent over the last 3 years to date.
- The University is technically bankrupt and has a deficit of over R100 million;
- A forensic report by private company FastTrac, found that the current financial situation is now so serious that the University could run out of money by next month; It is essential that this report is tabled and interrogated.
- The Council itself has failed in its governance responsibility to identify and act to reverse the dire financial situation, which would have been apparent in the 2013 financial statements; It is important that full financial statements and reports of the University from 2013 are presented and interrogated.
- The Council approved tuition fee increases of 10% and 15% last year, which has decreased the amount available for allowances for food and textbooks; the university should present on the rationale for these increases, how the money attained was invested and how these increases affect NSFAS allocations.
- The University is using money from fee waivers meant for academically performing students to cover their NSFAS deficit on meals; a full report on how fee waivers work at the University and how these have been rolled out.
- Lectures at the Bisho campus of the University of Fort Hare were suspended today as the staff have not been paid since January 2015, the university should report on the

payment of staff salaries from the beginning of the year and plans to ensure that salaries are paid for the rest of the financial year.

- Action taken against those responsible for the irregular awarding of a R400 million contract for student accommodation that was recently set aside by the high court.
- NSFAS beneficiaries are forced to stay in private residences, being charged R26000 p.a. whilst staying in dismal conditions and sharing a small room with up to four other students; the university should provide full disclosure of contracts with private residence service providers where NSFAS students stay, together with disclosure of living conditions and those that financially benefit from these contracts.
- A detailed breakdown of residence fees and conditions of all residence, including those privately owned and contracted.
- How Tuition fee increments and residence fee increases affect NSFAS allocations.
- Detailed presentation on how each category of financial aid students are funded with detailed breakdowns of allocations and unfunded students and how NSFAS contracts are signed and amounts presented to students.
- Detailed presentation on the state of governance and internal controls at the university.
- A detailed breakdown of indebted students.
- A full presentation on the state of infrastructure at the University campuses.
- Breakdowns of the success and throughput rates of Fort Hare students.

I trust that my request will receive due consideration and I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

Yusuf Cassim, MP

**DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training**

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