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| MEMORANDUM FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE |

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 2496**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 15/06/2023**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 24 OF 2023**

**Ms N P Sonti (EFF) to ask the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation:**

What steps does his department intend to take to (a) resolve the matter of the workers of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University who are said to have downed tools in protest over a 7% wage increase and (b) concede to the demands of the workers?

**NW2840E**

**REPLY:**

(a) Wage negotiations and agreements take place within the Institutional Bargaining Forum, and the Minister may not intervene in wage negotiations. The University under the leadership of the Council must resolve the current deadlock using the various mechanisms available to them, including dispute resolution.

Section 34 (1) and (3) of the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997 (ACT), as amended which state the following:

*(1) The council of a public higher education institution must appoint the employees of the public higher education institution.*

*(3) The council must determine the conditions of service, disciplinary provisions, privileges and functions of the employees of the public higher education institution, subject to the applicable labour law*

*(b)* The ACT does not permitMinister to concede to the demands of staff at universities.