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 **Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 650**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 11/03/2016**

**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 8 OF 2016)**

**Adv A de W Alberts (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Higher Education and Training:**

What steps he is taking to ensure the safety and right to safe accommodation and study of students who are currently studying at universities and establishments of higher education where violent protest action on campus is a problem?

**NW765E**

**REPLY:**

The responsibility to run institutions, including managing conflicts that arise within institutions and ensuring the safety of students and staff lies with the Management of our respective universities. Universities implement safety measures through their own security service departments or outsourced security services. Where required, they may call upon the South African Police Service for further assistance. Security operations is not the responsibility of the Department and is accordingly not directly monitored by the Department. However, the Department provides infrastructure funding to universities, some of which contributes towards security systems at student residences and academic buildings, for example access control, biometric systems, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and security fencing to safeguard campuses.

The Department has confidence in university Councils to appoint competent managers capable of managing public higher education institutions efficiently and effectively. The Department strongly opposes and condemns illegal activities, violence, destruction of property and threats to the lives’ of individuals, and supports university Management in their efforts to ensure the safety of their students, staff and property. The Department also supports university Management in taking decisive action to ensure the safety of students and staff by closing affected campuses, where necessary.

Compiler/contact persons: Dr P Vukea and Ms B Swart

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DIRECTOR – GENERAL

STATUS:

DATE:

REPLY TO QUESTION 650 APPROVED/NOT APPROVED/AMENDED

Dr BE NZIMANDE, MP

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

STATUS:

DATE: