

MEDIA STATEMENT

08 August 2016

Fees Commission to commence public hearings in Pretoria

The Commission of Inquiry into Higher Education and Training (“the Fees Commission”) was established in January 2016 to inquire into, report on and make recommendations on the feasibility of a fee free higher education and training in South Africa.

Chaired by Justice Jonathan Arthur Heher, the commission has been, from the outset, hard pressed to urgently deliver on its mandate.

Since it was established in January, the Commission has been meticulously studying past and current legislation relevant to both basic and higher education & training in South Africa. This includes all policies, legislations, reports and recommendations made by previous Presidential and Ministerial task teams.

It was also during this time that the Commission received and processed more than 180 written submissions from all stakeholders in the higher education and training sector. Supplementary submissions are still being received to this day.

A huge chunk of the time was also spent embarking on a comprehensive process of engaging a wide array of stakeholders ranging from student leadership, university

councils and management forums, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) structures, business formations, government departments and their agencies, research-based Higher Education and Training Non-Governmental Organizations , members of the public and civil society in general.

The Commission is now able to say that all these stakeholders are very much committed to the process of the inquiry and are ready to make informed inputs during the public hearings starting at Council Chambers (Sammy Marks Square) in Pretoria on Wednesday, 10 August 2016.

The hearings will assume an inquisitorial approach and will be based on eight sets of focus areas. (Please refer to attached Annexures for more details)

Unfortunately the questions are far too complex, ruling out a quick “yes or no” response. A closer look at the commission’s statutory mandate reveals a need for a thorough-going interrogation of the following questions, amongst others.

Set 1. What is the environment within which this commission has to base its recommendations? (OVERVIEW)

Set 2. What is the post-school education & training landscape really like in South Africa?

Set 3. How do institutions of higher education & training get funded currently and what are the operational costs that these funds address?

Set 4. What are the modes of funding that are currently available to students?

Set 5. What is the actual meaning and content of “fee-free” higher education & training?

Set 6. What are the alternative sources of funding for higher education & training?

Set 7. What are the social, economic and financial implications for a fee-free higher education & training in South Africa?

Set 8. Is a fee-free higher education and training feasible in South Africa?

On their own, the above-mentioned focus areas present a formidable task for the commission. Add to this the requirement for it to consult all communities as widely as possible – meaning on a national level – and you will begin to appreciate the magnitude of the assignment.

This is the reason why Justice Heher had to request an extension to the originally prescribed time frame. The amendment, two weeks ago, to the commission’s terms of reference by President Zuma means the commission will now submit a preliminary report in November 2016 and a final report by June 2017.

The judge is ably assisted by two commissioners in Advocate Gregory Ally and Ms Thembisile Khumalo, a practicing attorney. Completing the team are four evidence

leaders (Advocates Kameshni Pillay SC, Mandla Zulu, Matseleng Lekoane and Tshifiwa Mabuda) as well as two higher education and training experts in Dr Genevieve Simpson and Professor Themba Mosia.

The commission will commence with the first round of public hearings in Pretoria on August 10 ending in Kimberly early September. The subsequent rounds of consultations are scheduled to conclude in March 2017.

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S1 H1 D1
PRETORIA

10 AUGUST 2016

DAY 1

10H00 TO 10H15	INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRPERSON AND CONTEXTUAL SETTING
10H15 – 11H15	SOUTH AFRICAN UNION OF STUDENTS (SAUS)
11H15 – 11H 45	<i>TEA</i>
11H45 – 13H00	UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND
13H00 – 14H00	<i>LUNCH</i>
14H00 – 14H30	MR NTOKOZO MAHLANGU
14H30 – 15H00	MS ZENZELE PAHLA
15H00 – 16H00	DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING (DHET)

S1 H1 D2
PRETORIA

11 AUGUST 2016

DAY 2

10H00 – 11H00

CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
AND TRAINING (CHET)

11H15 – 11H 45

TEA

11H45 – 13H00

PAN AFRICAN STUDENT MOVEMENT
(PASMA)

13H00 – 14H00

LUNCH

14H00 – 15H00

SOUTH AFRICAN FURTHER
EDUCATION AND TRAINING
STUDENT ASSOCIATION (SAFETSA)

15H00 – 16H00

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA (UP)

S1 H2

12 AUGUST 2016

VANDERBIJLPARK

DAY 3

10H00 TO 10H15

INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRPERSON
AND CONTEXTUAL SETTING

10H15 – 11H15

NATIONAL TREASURY

11H15 – 11H 45

TEA

11H45 – 13H00

ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTER
STUDENT COMMAND (EFFSC)

13H00 – 14H00

LUNCH

14H00 – 15H00

STUDENTS FOR LAW AND SOCIAL
JUSTICE (LRC)

15H00 – 16H00

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY (NWU)

S1 H3
NELSPRUIT

22 AUGUST 2016
DAY 4

10H00 TO 10H15	INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRPERSON AND CONTEXTUAL SETTING
10H15 – 11H15	COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE)
11H15 – 11H 45	<i>TEA</i>
11H45 – 13H00	SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS CONGRESS (SASCO)
13H00 – 14H00	<i>LUNCH</i>
14H00 – 15H00	TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (TUT)
15H00 – 16H00	UNIVERSITY OF MPUMALANGA (UMP)

S1 H4

THOHOYANDOU

24 AUGUST 2016

DAY 5

10H00 TO 10H15	INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRPERSON AND CONTEXTUAL SETTING
10H15 – 11H15	YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE (YCL)
11H15 – 11H 45	<i>TEA</i>
11H45 – 13H00	UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO (UL)
13H00 – 14H00	<i>LUNCH</i>
14H00 – 15H00	UNIVERSITY OF VENDA (UV)
15H00 – 16H00	NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SCHEME (NSFAS)

S1 H5 D1

DURBAN

22 AUGUST 2016

DAY 6

10H00 – 10H15

INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRPERSON
AND CONTEXTUAL SETTING

10H15 – 11H15

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU NATAL
(UKZN)

11H15 – 11H 45

TEA

12H00 – 12H30

MR LUKHONA MNGUNI

12H30 – 13H00

MR SIPHOSENKHOSI NZUZA

13H00 – 14H00

LUNCH

14H00 – 15H00

UNIVERSITIES SOUTH AFRICA
(USAf)

15H00 – 16H00

SOUTH AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC
STUDENTS MOVEMENT (SADESMO)

S1 H5 D2
DURBAN

30 AUGUST 2016

DAY 7

10H15 – 11H15

TVET GOVERNORS COUNCIL

11H15 – 11H 45

TEA

11H45 – 13H00

UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND (UZ)

13H00 – 14H00

LUNCH

14H00 – 14H30

MR CLIVE HONMAN

14H30 – 15H00

15H00 – 16H00

DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY (DUT)

S1 H6 D1

EAST LONDON

1 SEPTEMBER 2016

DAY 8

10H00 TO 10H15

INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRPERSON
AND CONTEXTUAL SETTING

10H15 – 11H15

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE (UFH)

11H15 – 11H 45

TEA

12H00 – 12H30

MS NOLWAZI NTABENI

12H30 – 13H30

WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY (WSU)

13H30 – 14H00

LUNCH

14H00 – 15H00

NATIONAL TERTIARY EDUCATION
UNION (NTEU)

15H00 – 16H00

UNITED DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS'
MOVEMENT (UDESMO)

S1 H6 D2

EAST LONDON

2 SEPTEMBER 2016

DAY 9

10H15 – 11H15

RHODES UNIVERSITY (RU)

11H15 – 11H 45

TEA

11H45 – 13H00

NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY (NMMU)

13H00 – 14H00

LUNCH

14H00 – 15H00

15H00 – 16H00

UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG (UJ)

S1 H7 D1

CAPE TOWN

5 SEPTEMBER 2016

DAY 10

10H00 TO 10H15

INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRPERSON
AND CONTEXTUAL SETTING

10H15 – 11H15

EQUAL EDUCATION (EE)

11H15 – 11H 45

TEA

11H45 – 13H00

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
(NRF)

13H00 – 13H30

LUNCH

13H30 – 14H00

14H00 – 15H00

UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE
(UWC)

15H00 – 15H30

MR VUYANI MOERANE

15H30 – 16H00

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE EDUCATION

S1 H7 D2 (6 SEPTEMBER 2016)

CAPE TOWN

6 SEPTEMBER 2016

DAY 11

10H15 – 11H15	DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE STUDENT ORGANISATION (DASO)
11H15 – 11H 45	TEA
11H45 – 13H00	CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (CPUT)
13H00 – 13H30	LUNCH
13H30 – 14H00	MR MARKUS TRENGOVE
14H00 – 15H00	UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT)
15H00 – 16H00	FALSEBAY FET COLLEGE
16H00 – 16H30	MR KGOTSI CHIKANE

S1 H8

BLOEMFONTEIN

8 SEPTEMBER 2016

DAY 12

10H00 TO 10H15	INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRPERSON AND CONTEXTUAL SETTING
10H15 – 11H15	AFRIFORUM YOUTH
11H15 – 11H 45	<i>TEA</i>
11H45 – 13H00	UNIVERSITY OF FREE STATE (UFS)
13H00 – 14H00	<i>LUNCH</i>
14H00 – 14H30	PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INDEPENDENT GROUP (PHEIG)
14H30 – 15H00	ASSOCIATION FOR PRIVATE PROVIDERS OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (APPETD)
15H00 – 16H00	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA (UNISA)

S1 H9

KIMBERLEY

9 SEPTEMBER 2016

DAY 13

10H00 TO 10H15

INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRPERSON
AND CONTEXTUAL SETTING

10H15 – 11H15

SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY (SPU)

11H15 – 11H 45

TEA

11H45 – 13H00

NORTHERN CAPE URBAN FET
COLLEGE

13H00 – 14H00

LUNCH

14H00 – 15H00