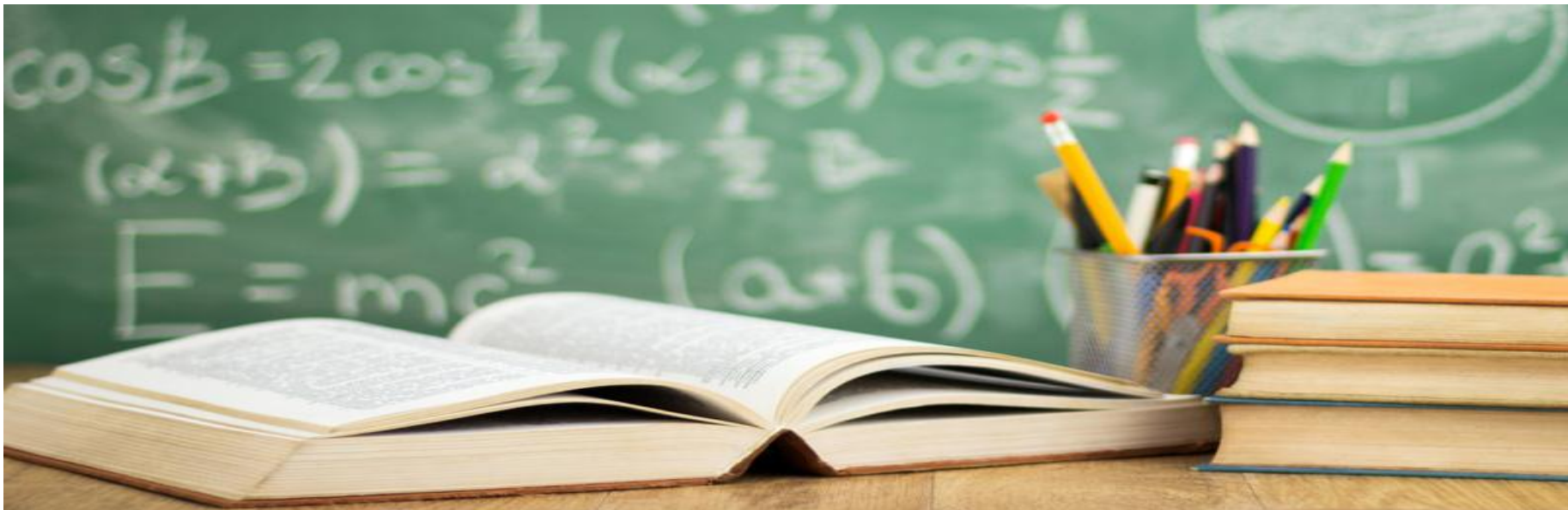


Can South Africa afford a free education system?

Presented by: Khotso Seema



Providing education at a minimum cost or entirely free

- Education regulated through financial aids has to this date been able to produce a reasonable amount of graduates (intellectually capable candidates) who now play a vital role in the economy of South Africa. The very same graduates are now able to represent the country globally when they find employment in global or international organizations that seek their skills. However, it has limited many others

Something to consider

1. In 2015 NSFAS allocated 9.5 billion
2. In 2016 10 billion was allocated (700 million was full bursaries in scarce and critical skills)
3. Further more in January 2016 the president announced an extra allocation 4.582 billion
4. Unfortunately, even with the amount allocated for 2016 the missing middle was not catered for.

Something to consider

1. Countries that implement free education- Brazil (with a population of over 200 million)
2. Finland also provides free education.
3. Recently the US president released a proposal that allows students to attend two years of community or technical colleges for free.

Something to consider

1. Countries with less educated or less skills force may be subject to **cheap labour** for other countries.
2. South Africa as a whole should be run as an organization that aims to **produce high quality products (intellectuals)** which other countries (customers) will seek for.
3. **Financial limitations** to study in a career field that you are most passionate about may hinder you to be productive and go beyond the set standard.
4. **Education brings civilization** (culturally ingrained ideologies of progress), better thinking, and more analytical as well as better decision making skills.

Producing a higher skills force



A logical case study to consider is to look at it from a manufacturing perspective, whereby, production of a particular product is performed and the demand happens to decrease immediately causing some of the products (stock) to remain in the warehouse until demand increases again. Many organizations may classify this as a loss, however, losses are incurred through wastage, rework, product returns, and defective products, therefore products that are safely stored in the warehouse cannot and should not be seen as a loss, but an asset of the organization as the minute there is demand again for the product it will result in more income generated. The very same perspective may be used by government to start realising that education is the process of producing assets which at a later stage will be in demand by other countries (customers) who would need the skills force our country has to offer.

Brief feedback from professionals and university students

- Anonymous 1- financial assistance towards certain career paths limits a person to study towards her ideal career.
- Anonymous 2- consider uplifting skills on the production of our country's resources, so as to acquire a higher income as opposed to only producing mineral resources and thereafter exporting them to other countries that can turn our resources into more valuable goods before being imported back to South Africa again at a higher price.

Brief feedback from professionals and university students

- Anonymous 3- “I do not believe in free education, I support the need to emphasize on more regulatory laws that will allow financial aid schemes to be effective and support a wider spectrum of students who show potential interest in receiving education at higher institutions. Most things which are free are often taken advantage of and not highly appreciated, which therefore becomes a waste.
- Anonymous 4- Education gives an individual the ability to have confidence in what they present.it allows one to gain knowledge on a particular topic and be able to present or defend it with confidence to colleagues, management, and the rest of the world.

Personal experience

Today the cost of my education will be above half a million by the end of 2017 (approximately R 520,000.00- R600,000.00).

- 2012- 2014 NSFAS registration process (affidavit, Levy, long queues, new online system)
- 2015 NRF- Selection criteria
- 2016 NSFAS student assistant experience- (Crossing the line)
- 2016 Financial Block before NRF masters (see figure)

Personal experience

Financial Statement

MR KHOTSO EMMANUEL SEEMA 201233006

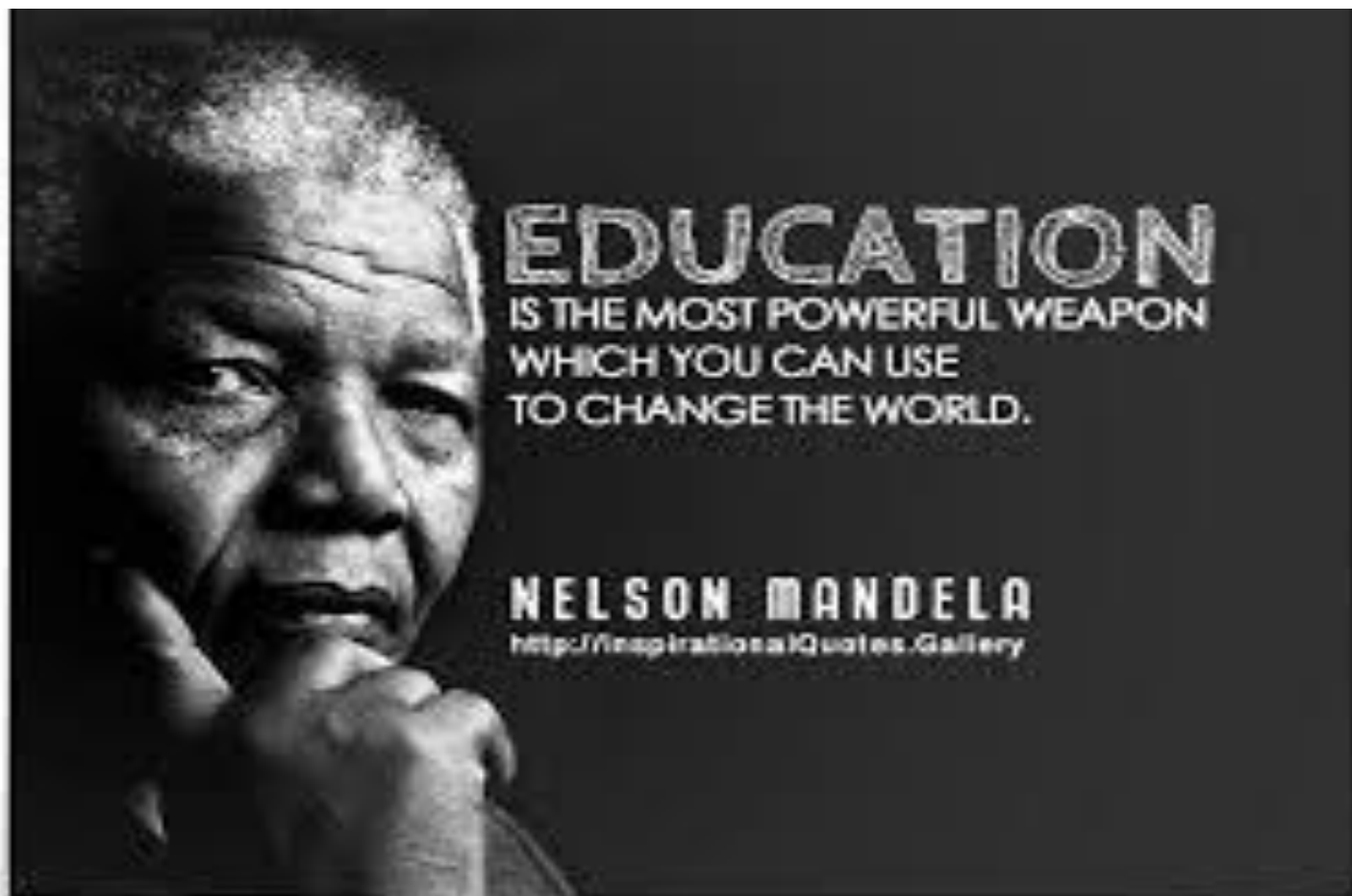
This is not deemed as your official UJ account statement, please visit student finance for an official printout, you may only use this for personal records.

DATE	REF. NO.	NOTE	DEBIT	CREDIT
01-01-2016		BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	18372,32	0.00
07-03-2016	03 I 0 1	ICT LEVY CHARGED	430,00	0,00
07-03-2016	03 I 0 1	REGISTRATION FEE CHARGED	610,00	0,00
07-03-2016	NV4261B2 1	E/N RESEARCH PROJECT AND DISSE	7220,00	0,00
07-03-2016	NV426-11 1	E/N RESEARCH PROJECT AND DISSE	7220,00	0,00
15-03-2016	13 I 71	R/D APB - GOUDSTAD FLATS 3	26460,00	0,00
15-03-2016	32 I 71	RESIDENCE DEPOSIT CHARGED	1100,00	0,00
26-03-2016	Realpay	REAL PAY CREDIT	0,00	2930,00
18-04-2016	UJSRC16		0,00	6470,00
31-05-2016	FEBESLB	B/T FEBE SLB	0,00	7200,00
27-06-2016	R02NRF2	NRF H INN UID99482	0,00	50000,00
02-08-2016	UJSRC16	B/T UJ SRC STUDENT TRUST	0,00	-4529,55

AMOUNT DUE TO YOU **-658.13**

Conclusion

- “In the words of Francis Bacon, “Knowledge is Power” Power to live a decent life, Power to earn a decent income, Power that brings you respect and dignity. When knowledge can bestow the power for so many things, why should it be restricted to a few who have the advantage of wealth? Knowledge needs to be free for all those who deserve it, and what a person deserves should be decided by an individual’s capability and intelligence and not by wealth” (Anon., 2016).
The writer of the above article (anonymous) continues to emphasize that there are hidden talents and intelligent minds out there which the world has not discovered and may not discover due to wealth being their barrier to accessing education that can assure them a better future.



EDUCATION

IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON
WHICH YOU CAN USE
TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

NELSON MANDELA

<http://inspirationalquotes.gallery>