



**Higher Education
Transformation Network**

Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Reg No: 116-851

Date: 5th February 2016

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE: HETN RESPONSE TO AFRIFORUM “SAVE AFRIKAANS LANGUAGE CAMPAIGN”

The Higher Education Transformation Network hereby strongly condemns the planned Solidariteit/ Afriforum campaign to “save” the Afrikaans language as a medium of instruction at universities.

It is our view that the campaign by the delusionary neo-Volkstaters in Afriforum is misplaced as it lacks the necessary will to take into cognisance more than 350 years of colonialism and oppression, which affected Africans in particular and black people in general.

Whilst we acknowledge that indigenous tongue education is critical, we cannot underestimate and continue to give scant respect that South Africa is a country with 11 official languages.

We must also acknowledge that there is a significant proportion of South African communities such as the Khoisan whose languages have not been considered and have been excluded from the official South African language dispensation. All South African languages be treated equally with respect.

Whilst it may not be possible for government to provide for indigenous language education for all, English should remain the international standard medium of instruction to ensure that all students from all South African communities are able to access higher education equally.

The Afriforum / Solidariteit campaign is being run by those who are the privileged offspring of apartheid. It is also critical to note that Afrikaans itself, as it has been refined, was born out of the patois developed between the Indigenous peoples of the Western Cape and the slaves despite them being forbidden to interact with each other by the colonialist settler government

The campaign by Afriforum is an attempt to sabotage the state through treasonous action and is aimed at herding and influencing white Afrikaans-speaking students and their parents to de-register their studies from public higher education institutions and instead boost floundering enrolments at Akademia Konkordia, Solidariteit's private kangaroo “university”.

“Protecting” Afrikaans must not be used as an opportunistic tool to further racialised access and tuition practices in universities, which is inevitable if Afriforum / Solidariteit's actions are not critically examined and stopped.

Registered Address: 54 Erica Road Bloubergstrand, Table View, 7441
Postal: Postnet Suite 162 Willows 0184
Tel: (012) 771 2065
Cell: 072 815 5033 / 076 687 4542
Fax: 086 510 6630
Email: enquiries@hetn.org.za
www.hetn.org.za

NPO Reg No: 116-851 Directors: I Tufvesson; RS. Legoabe; M. Makhele; T. Molea; B. Lepota; O.Matshediso

We therefore call on university Vice-Chancellors to ensure that those students from privileged affluent backgrounds who have the funds but are willfully choosing to withhold their tuition fees and are not dependent on NSFAS for funding to be promptly identified, notified and de-registered or financially excluded with immediate effect should they persist in refusing to pay their fees.

We call on the entire higher education sector to embrace inclusive language transformation and divorce themselves from the irresponsible actions of apartheid romantics, bigots and racists. Ends

For further information please contact:-

Dr Ingrid Tufvesson Chairperson of the Board
Cell : 072 815 5033
Tel: (012) 771 2065
Email: itufvesson@hetn.org.za; justis1st@gmail.com

Mr Reginald Legoabe: Executive Director
Cell : 076 687 4542
Tel: (012) 771 2065
Email: rlegoabe@hetn.org.za

About the Higher Education Transformation Network (HETN):-

The Higher Education Transformation Network (HETN) is an independent network of alumni and graduates from various higher education and further educational institutions across South Africa committed to the process of transformation of education and training to increase equitable and meaningful access to education, skills and learning to eliminate of socio-economic disparities.