



# Higher Education Transformation Network

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**For Immediate Release**

## **PRESS: RELEASE: HETN CONDEMNS AFRIFORUM-SOLIDARITEIT LITIGATION – FUNDZA LUSHAKA BURSARY SCHEME**

The Higher Education Transformation Network (HETN), acting on behalf of its alumni members, hereby notes the recent planned High Court court application by Afriforum and its parent, Solidariteit against the Department of Basic Education (DBE) against the implementation of the Fundza Lushaka Bursary Scheme.

Whilst we condemn and deplore the unfortunate application by Afriforum /Solidariteit, the Network is considering its options whether or not to formally join the planned litigation through a request for admission as friend of the court (*amicus curiae*) in order to vicariously oppose any legal attempts by Afriforum and its parent, Solidarity, to undermine the transformation of the basic education sector.

Whilst we have admittedly failed to timeously file our papers on time to oppose the application, we support Section 27 and the Department of Basic Education in opposing the application and intend to formally join proceedings should Afriforum /& Solidariteit somehow obtain a favourable order to their unfortunate misguided application.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa requires that all citizens have access to education and equal access to educational institutions. In order to eliminate poverty and create jobs, the National Development Plan has set a national target for the country to increase the outputs of black and female teachers, students and researchers to reverse gender and racial imbalances in the higher education sector to ensure that African and women make up 50% of the teaching and research staff of universities.

**Higher Education ACCESS for ALL Communities**



Directors: SR. Legoabe; S. Kopung; ML. Seolonyane (Executive); L. Tlou; T. Phendla; DT. Molea; S. Malinga

In order to increase access to education in South Africa, the challenges faced by non-English & Afrikaans speaking foundational learners as opposed to English and Afrikaans speaking foundational learners who primarily receive their tuition in English or Afrikaans to the exclusion of other South African languages need to be considered. The training of teachers in other languages beyond Afrikaans and English is a major priority towards transformation.

It is no secret that Afriforum seeks to reverse the transformative Constitutionally-based policies of the state such as the implementation of the Fundza Lushaka bursary scheme. In this regard, we will continue to oppose Afriforum and its nefarious campaigns in higher education. Our successive legal victories against the then Afriforum-controlled Tuks Alumni Board at the Equality Court (31<sup>st</sup> July 2013) as well as in the High Court (10<sup>th</sup> June 2014) lends credence to our assertions.

We will not rest on our laurels whilst racists are openly plying their trade in the higher and basic education sectors. Ends

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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.

