



Higher Education Transformation Network

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For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE: HIGH COURT LITIGATION (CASE NO 314/2018 HETN v CHE +3 OTHERS) DE-ACCREDITATION OF WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY (WSU) LLB DEGREE BY COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE)

The Higher Education Transformation Network (HETN) hereby confirms that it has lodged its court papers in the Gauteng High Court High Court on the Council for Higher Education (CHE) and three other Respondents (*including the Law Society of SA (LSSA) and Walter Sisulu University (WSU)* in terms of **Case No 314/2018, HETN v CHE +3 Others**). Downloadable at http://www.hetn.org.za/documents/Notice_Motion_Case_CHE.pdf

The objective of our urgent application to the Gauteng High Court is to urgently interdict the Council for Higher Education (CHE) from proceeding with its decision to revoke the accreditation of the Walter Sisulu University law degree and compel the Council for Higher Education and Law Society of South Africa (LSSA), as the professional body of the legal profession, to jointly institute a fair, inclusive and transparent re-accreditation process for the Walter Sisulu's LLB degree qualification.

We reiterate our view that the CHE's decision to de-accredit the WSU's LLB programme is harsh and failed to consider the socio-economic-educational implications of its decision and the Constitutionally enshrined education rights of the rural poor by summarily withdrawing its accreditation to the WSU, a large multi-campus and previously disadvantaged institution which serves the entire Eastern Cape province, itself a large semi-rural and poor province within the Republic of South Africa.

Higher Education ACCESS for ALL Communities



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

On the 22nd November 2017, the Network requested a formal meeting with the Council for Higher Education (CHE) requesting a meeting in order to further discuss the matter but our request was ignored. We accordingly have no further option but to pursue legal action via the High Court to obtain justice on the matter.

Our legal action is aimed at protecting the Constitutionally-enshrined educational rights of poor rural Eastern Cape households and their student dependants in terms of Section 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa who are unfairly prejudiced by this accreditation decision of the CHE.

We remain confident that our legal action on the matter will yield justice for the poor on the matter. Ends.

For further information, please contact:-

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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 higher education to increase equitable and access to education, skills and learning to eliminate of socio-economic disparities.

