



# Higher Education Transformation Network

NPO Reg No: 116-851

Address: Jolivet House XAVERI SA 140 Visagie Street Pretoria 0001  
Tel: (012) 321 1050  
Website: [www.hetn.org.za](http://www.hetn.org.za)  
Email: [enquiries@hetn.org.za](mailto:enquiries@hetn.org.za)

Cell: 073 769 5343  
Cell: 073 250 5516  
Fax: 086 510 6630



Date: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

For Immediate Release

## PRESS RELEASE: HETN TAKES LEGAL ACTION AGAINST SEFAKO MAKGATHO UNIVERSITY

The Higher Education Transformation Network (HETN) hereby intends to institute legal action against the Sefako Makgatho University (SMU).

The objective of our planned litigation is to urgently interdict the SMU Council from proceeding with its administrative action to appoint Prof Peter Mbatlana as Vice-Chancellor of the Sefako Makgatho University in the High Court (Gauteng Division).

Our legal action for relief is justified since our reasonable request to the SMU Council to hold the appointment process in abeyance pending a formal independent inquiry or investigation by the SMU Council or Parliamentary Portfolio Committee into this matter has been rejected by the SMU Council.

We are disappointed at the arrogant response received from the SMU Council and the refusal to furnish us with the relevant requested records in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) Act 2 of 2000 as well as give written reasons in terms of the PAJA Act 3 of 2000.

We reiterate our view that the SMU cannot be allowed to proceed with the above appointment as the recruitment process is flawed and the appointment is not in line with the objectives set by the **National Development Plan Vision 2030** which states that the *higher education sector to ensure that **black South Africans and women** make up 50% of the teaching and research staff of universities*”.

**Higher Education ACCESS for ALL Communities**



Directors: SR. Legoabe; SK. Kopung; ML. Seolonyane (Executive); L. Tlou; TS Phendla; DT Molea; S Malinga; RI Ramatshosa; O. Matshediso

Section 195 of the Constitution of the Republic states that public Administrators (such as university Vice-Chancellors and Council members) must maintain a high standard of professional ethics including fairness, honesty, impartiality and transparency.

Higher Education Managers and University Councils are not a law unto themselves and must comply with the laws of the Republic of South Africa. We remain confident that our legal action will yield justice on the matter. Ends.

---

**For further information, please contact:-**

Ms Sibongile Malinga: Director: Media Liaison  
Cell: 073 250 5516  
Email: [malinga.sibongile@yahoo.com](mailto:malinga.sibongile@yahoo.com) ; [smalinga@hetn.org.za](mailto:smalinga@hetn.org.za)

Ms Mothepane Seolonyane: Executive Director  
Cell: 073 769 5343  
Email: [mothepanem362@gmail.com](mailto:mothepanem362@gmail.com) ; [mmakhele@hetn.org.za](mailto:mmakhele@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 higher education to increase equitable and access to education, skills and learning to eliminate of socio-economic disparities.

**Higher Education ACCESS for ALL Communities**

