



EFF CALLS ON MINISTER BLADE NZIMANDE TO PROCESS STIPENDS AND OTHER NECESSARY COSTS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICINE STUDENTS IN RUSSIA

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The Economic Freedom Fighters notes with absolute disdain that the Department of Higher Education is yet to complete the process of catering the financial needs to South African medicine students in Russia. The South African government every year sends students to go and study medicine in Russia for the benefit of the country. Sadly, over the years, the provision of Russian students by the South African government is constantly roving on murky grounds regarding stipends, accommodation, travelling costs and other related costs.

Recently, the instability has resurfaced once again as stipends for the wellbeing of our students in Russia is once again under threat as over 50% of the students are yet to receive their stipends. This effectively means that students who were sent to study medicine in Russia are dying of hunger in distant lands because of the incompetency of Blade Nzimande.

In the year 2020, the instability caused by the Covid-19 pandemic was cited as the primary reason behind the crisis. It is thus unacceptable that this negligence persists to date and that every single year, Minister Blade Nzimande must be reminded that the students the country sends to study medicine in Russia must eat, sleep and have all necessary tools to successfully complete their program. This more so as this particular

medicine program in Russia, together with Cuba, is fundamental in the quest to build the health force of the country for years to come.

The EFF reiterates its sentiments to the Minister of Higher Education, Blade Nzimande to cease laziness and ensure the administrative arm of his department is functional and sustainable. The remaining 50% cohort of the medicine students must with immediate effect receive their stipends. The students who are awaiting their travel allowances to return to Russia must be catered for by the end of this week without fail. No student must be compromised academically because Minister blade Nzimande forgot to ensure travelling administration is functional and no student must wither away to hunger in distant lands.

Minister Blade Nzimande must be reminded that education is not a privilege but a right. Blade Nzimande must halt the behavior that conveys the sentiment that he is doing the young people of this country a favor by being at the helm of the academic sector as a minister. Minister Blade Nzimande has constantly shown that his talk-left-and-right character is unsustainable and the EFF will not allow his political hypocrisy to be consequential to the young people of this country.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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