

MEDIA STATEMENT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEHAWU STATEMENT ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FREE EDUCATION FOR 90% OF SOUTH AFRICAN FAMILIES

Saturday December 16, 2017

The National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union [NEHAWU] welcomes the announcement of free education for poor and working class students.

We are elated in that the resolutions of both the 52nd National Conference and the 53rd Conference of the African National Congress [ANC] on free education will finally be implemented. This also fulfils the clause of the Freedom Charter which calls for the doors of learning and culture to be opened. This is a long overdue announcement and we encourage all students to grab the opportunity with both hands.

We welcome the intention to build new accommodation with urgency and prioritisation of historically black universities. The issue of student's accommodation has been a teething problem with students falling victims of rape, muggings and murder in unsafe private accommodation outside the universities.

We however, hope that the money to fund free education will not disadvantage other key and essential government expenditure priorities like the implementation of the National Health Insurance [NHI]. Proper planning and implementation is imperative so as to avert lurching from crisis to crisis as it has been the norm in the past.

We will convene an urgent meeting with our ally the South African Students Congress [SASCO] to deliberate further on these new developments.

Issued by NEHAWU Secretariat

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