



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ATT: ALL MEDIA HOUSES
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**ATM CALLS FOR MINISTERS NZIMANDE & CELE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE
#FEESMUSTFALL DEATH IN BRAAMFONTEIN**

The African Transformation Movement (ATM) has noted, with great concern, the excessive force used by law enforcement authorities against the #FeesMustFall #WitsAsinamali protestors at the University of Witwatersrand.

The general disregard of students by the Department of Higher Education, the failure to transform the higher learning space, and ensuring access to free education for all has, once again, led to a bloodbath outside universities across South Africa, with a fatality at the University of the Witwatersrand.

ATM condemns the utterances by Minister Blade Nzimande that the call for free education by the previous administration caused problems for the baffled National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), when it is mismanagement and looting of state funds that led to the poor performance of NSFAS which received an audit disclaimer from the Auditor-General.

In the wake of such unfortunate news, the Minister of Higher Education must be fired for the lack of implementation of innovative solutions towards ensuring that the students remains central in his department, even to the extent of him saying “the students must fall” back in 2015. It is clear that he does not have mechanism in place to ensure that the Department of Higher Education serves its direct audience – the students.

ATM calls on the Minister of Police to account on the conduct of law enforcement authorities when dealing with cases that involve black people because there have been many concerns of racism by the Department of Police, and excessive force when enforcing law on black people, and further be fired from leading a Ministry that leads with an iron fist against black people.

It is clear that the Ramaphosa Administration is betraying the mission of the Freedom Charter for a free education for all, and as such, the citizens must take it upon themselves to not only protect the youth of South Africa, but also ensure that the very ideals of a transformed education system in South Africa are enforced in all institutions of higher learning.

ATM welcomes the IPID probe into the matter, and looks forward to the preliminary investigation report with recommendation on a way forward in ensuring that justice is served for the family of the deceased.

ATM sends heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased, and will ensure that justice is served in this regard.

Issued by the African Transformation Movement.

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