Push for free education must be a peaceful process

David Sturgeon

STUDENTS males at the North-West University and tertiary institutions in the province must not resort to violence in their quest for free tertiary education in the country. This was said by the spokesperson of the ASU Young League in South Africa, Thandeka Soko, in reaction to the announcement by President Jacob Zuma of a committee that will explore the possibilities of making free tertiary education a policy.

On Thursday, the president gave the committee, which will be called the Frans Baleni committee, a year to conduct its work. He said it must be completed on time, and its findings and recommendations will be adopted by the cabinet.

Last week, there were widespread protests by students against the government’s provision of an additional R1500 per month to funding of higher education. The new funding model would not be a “people’s policy” because it could have a negative effect on the tertiary institutions to fund their operations.

This is part of our wider thrust for free education however, the push must be peaceful one.”

The North-West University, for instance, pointed out that nobody must be elected in their studies because of a lack of money. The university is of the view that the push for free education is different.

“Therefore, for the introduction of free education, students at various tertiary institutions have emphasized that they face challenges that may affect their studies. Students from the North-West University in Potchefstroom and Male-nes University in Bloemfontein also have burning against language policies and the re-establishment of their universities as a form of instruction. This, they say, aside those who do not speak Afrikaans as a lingual language and who themselves are not knowledgeable in the language that their institutions employ in instruction.”

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This page is part of "Push for free education must be a peaceful process" by David Sturgeon.