‘We are declaring war on racism, not on each other’

JOHANNESBURG: The South African Student Congress (Sasco) has declared war on “racism” and “white privilege”.

Sasco President Thabo Moloja said the student body’s reaction came against the backdrop of what it alleged was a “multitude” of racist incidents at University of Stellenbosch, North West University and University of Free State (UFS).

“It is obvious that the racist culture of these institutions is not capable of self-healing. Apart from systemic racism, the management at several of the historically white institutions have become arrogant and brazen in their behaviour,” said Moloja.

Moloja emphasized that the racist incidents at various institutions embodied characters of an apartheid “enclave”.

Sasco addressed the recent violent outbreaks that occurred at the University of Pretoria (UP) where 27 students were arrested Friday.

“What is happening at UP is not different from occurrences of the University of Free State Bloemfontein campus, where students and workers are harassed, violated and arrested for seeking the implementation of the presidential commission on insourcing,” said Moloja.

They called on students to unite and escalate the “battle” to rid the University of Free State, Stellenbosch University, University of North West Potchefstroom campus and Cape Peninsula University of Technology’s Wellington campus of alleged racism.

“The universities form part of the few last bastions of racism, with all its elements and systems used to block black students and workers from realising their full potential,” said Moloja.

Moloja clarified the call to action: “We are declaring war on racism and not on each other.”

Sasco said they were happy that students at UP and UFS had already started dialogues for language transformation at the institutions.

“There is no South African language used for teaching in universities but Afrikaans still remains dominant. They [universities] must brace themselves, much more is coming. We will rename these institutions and rename buildings,” said Moloja. – ANA