UP’s radical shift commended

THE HIGHER Education Transformation Network (HETN) group has commended the University of Pretoria (UP) for a radical shift on its language policy now it has adopted English as the official medium of instruction. However, it lambasted Stellenbosch University, saying the institution was lagging behind in transformation.

HETN said it had noted a slight shift in the language policy of Stellenbosch University which effectively places English and Afrikaans as equal languages of instruction.

“While the HETN welcomes this decision as a good start, it falls short of the inclusivity benchmark as it still elevates Afrikaans above the other official languages. We urge the university council to set and adhere to specific time frames towards making English the centre of its language policy,” said HETN spokesman Hendrick Makaneta.

Judging by developments at the University of the Free State where AfriForum took the university to court, they have expectations that they may litigate against UP, he said.

“We stand united and ready to formally join the litigation through a request for admission as a friend of the court,” he said.

HETN called on all progressive forces to safeguard their hard-won victories at the historically white institutions. – Keketso Mashigo