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## **FINANCIAL AID PRACTITIONERS OF SOUTH AFRICA MEDIA RELEASE**

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Financial Aid Practitioners of South Africa (FAPSA), has noted the wave of student's activism that has gripped and absorbed the Higher Education Sector which emerged at Wits University.

Our structure is playing a very critical and fundamental role within the sector, as is responsible for administration of student funding as a totality in function. We wish to take this opportunity to express our words of gratitude to the student's leadership for standing up and being counted for what they believe is correct to advocate and champion the ideals and aspirations of the students.

The role of a student leadership is to ask the most difficult questions and subscribe to academic excellence.

Our view is that the factors that are affecting or contributing to this crisis are the lack of funding. The rationale behind the hiking increases of fees are on the basis of lack of funding and plethora of students at campuses who are entitled to Education.

The Government always seem to emphasize on the fact that has increased funding from R441 million to R9.6 billion. However don't want to acknowledge the fact that current level of funding being insufficient as it is affected by the increase in the number of students and the decrease in subsidies across the board.

We are calling the Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Blade Nzimande to act urgently to remedy the situation. This is the most critical time of the year and exams are just around the corner.

We can't afford to witness further disruptions of academic activities.

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