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### Media Report on Thursday, 23 March 2017

HEADLINE	SUMMARY	DATE PUBLISHED	MEDIA	PAGE #, LINK OR CLIP
<a href="#">Urine testing helps TB diagnosis</a>	Urine testing has been identified as a tool that could be used to detect and curb death rates among HIV-infected patients, a new study shows. The study from University of Cape Town researchers published in the journal BMC Medicine said the urine test which is similar to a pregnancy test is able to detect "components of the cell wall of the TB bacterium in the urine".	23 March 2017	<i>The New Age</i>	Pg.2
<a href="#">Rise of superbug tuberculosis hampers global control efforts</a>	Rising rates of superbug tuberculosis (TB) are threatening to derail decades of progress against the contagious disease, experts said on Thursday, and new drugs powerful enough to treat them are few and far between. "Resistance to anti-tuberculosis drugs is a global problem that threatens to derail efforts to eradicate the disease," said Keertan Dheda, a University of Cape Town professor who co-led research published in the Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal.	22 March 2017	<i>Reuters, Business Live, Times Live, Algeria Daily, Voice of America, Yahoo Finance, Yahoo Singapore, Daily Mail, Malay Mail</i>	Online
<a href="#">How we found the gene for a rare heart disease and why it matters</a>	Heart disease is the world's number one killer. In sub-Saharan Africa infections like HIV and TB take the lead but heart diseases such as heart muscle disease (or cardiomyopathy) are a close second as a cause of death. After 20 years of research scientists at UCT have identified the mutations in a gene called CDH2, that's responsible for an inherited form of heart muscle disease that affects the right side of the heart in a condition known as cardiomyopathy. The Conversation Africa's Health and Medicine Editor Candice Bailey spoke to Professor Bongani Mayosi about the significance of the discovery.	22 March 2017	<i>The Conversation</i>  eNCA	Online
Xolela Mangcu lambasts UCT students disruption of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o lecture	A column by UCT Sociology Professor Xolela Mangcu has raised questions around intergenerational dialogue and how young people should conduct themselves when engaging in conversation with their elders. Student activist at UCT Sinawo Thambo insists that there was no disrespect when a student stepped on stage to articulate some of her concerns. He says Professor Ngugi welcomed the idea and stepped aside.	23 March 2017	<i>Cape Talk</i>	<a href="#">Broadcast</a>

Public transport interruptions due to Delft taxi violence	Unconfirmed reports have come out about stoning and disruptions during the taxi violence in Delft. Golden Arrow has warned that these disruptions will affect its transporting routes, the University of Cape Town Jammie Shuttle service has raised similar concerns. This comes after two drivers were killed in the Delft area last week amid an alleged war between taxi associations in that region. (Int:) Donald Grant - Provincial MEC for Transport.	23 March 2017	<i>Radio 786</i> <i>VOC</i>	<a href="#">Broadcast</a> <a href="#">Broadcast</a>
<a href="#">ANCYL wants universities nationalised</a>	All public universities should be state-owned and controlled to ensure equity, the African National Congress Youth League told the Fees Commission on Wednesday. This would result in increased revenue for government and a standardised cost of education, ANCYL secretary general Njabulo Nzuza told the Commission of Inquiry into Higher Education and Training (Fees Commission) in Centurion.	23 March 2017	<i>News24</i> <a href="#">Sowetan Live</a> <i>The New Age</i> <i>The Times</i>	Online  Pg.2  Pg.6
<a href="#">Naledi Pandor defends students fund scheme</a>	Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor has defended the National Students Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) as a viable instrument for financial aid and proposed ring-fenced, full funds for science, engineering and artisans to attract and retain young people in these fields. Pandor said R60bn in loans and bursaries had been made available for needy students from all races, which saw student enrolments in higher education up to more than a million in 2015, up from 495,348 in 1994. TVET enrolments also went up three-fold from 345,566 in 2010 to 800,000 in 2015.	23 March 2017	<i>Business Live</i>	Online
<a href="#">NSFAS a success in its own right</a>	The private sector has a role to play in student funding. But this can best be done through an expanded NSFAS, with a separate and dedicated substructure established to deal with private sector contributions and investments. There's no denying that administrative and governance challenges have had an impact on the NSFAS' efficiency and effectiveness. The NSFAS, despite its challenges, has played a critical role in opening the doors of higher education to the poor. It has been one of the success stories of the post-1994 commitment to social justice and the redress of past inequalities, writes Ahmed Essop, a research associate in higher education policy and planning at the University of Johannesburg.	23 March 2017	<i>The New Age</i>	Pg.19
<a href="#">Tensions high at WSU as ANC students fight</a>	Several members of the ANC Youth League at Walter Sisulu University will face disciplinary action by the university after they allegedly assaulted a student belonging to the South African Students' Congress (Sasco) on Sunday. SRC cultural officer at the university's Nelson Mandela Drive campus in Mthatha, Mzingisi Faku, was allegedly beaten with bottles	23 March 2017	<i>Dispatch Live</i>	Online

	and sharp objects.			
<a href="#">Mashaba echoes Trump in targeting undocumented migrants</a>	Johannesburg's new mayor, Herman Mashaba, says he's on a mission to clean up Africa's richest city, and the prime targets in his sights are undocumented immigrants and allegedly corrupt deals by the officials of the ANC. Constitutional experts dismissed Mashaba's suggestion that he may need to conduct private prosecutions against alleged corrupt officials, with Pierre de Vos, the Claude Leon Foundation Chair in Constitutional Governance at the University of Cape Town, saying since Mashaba is part of the government, "it can't be done."	22 March 2017	<i>Fin24</i> <i>Moneyweb</i>	Online
<a href="#">SAPS: Making arrests, but is it making improvements</a>	The country has seen high-profile criminal cases in recent weeks – the OR Tambo heist, baby Siwaphiwe Mbambo's abduction, and the robbery at the office of the chief justice. Swift arrests were made in each case. But what does this mean for police performance and the public's perception of the SAPS? Andrew Faull, a senior researcher at UCT's Centre of Criminology, said, "A large portion of police work is about managing the symbolism of the work, and in this sense the SAPS has done well to convey a sense of urgency and investment."	23 March 2017	<i>eNCA</i>	Online
<a href="#">The wreckers win again</a>	The event was months in the making. Organisers travelled to the nine provinces and met with the full range of student organisations to hammer out agreements for content and participation at a Higher Education National Convention of stakeholders. The reason the convention failed was because of this romantic idea from another era that you can talk your way out of any trouble. These older men and women of an earlier struggle had clearly not been paying attention to what was happening at universities in 2015-2016, writes former UFS VC Jonathan Jansen.	23 March 2017	<i>The Times</i>	Pg.13
<a href="#">Waarom die opstand?</a>	Interessante parallele bestaan tussen vandag se opstandige swart jeug en die radikalisering van jong Afrikaners sowat twee dekades ná die beëindiging van die AngloBoereoorlog in die vorige eeu, skryf Theuns Eloff in sy nuwe boek, Turning Points.	23 March 2017	<i>Die Beeld</i>	Pg.21

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# Urine testing helps TB diagnosis

- The New Age (Western Cape)
- 23 Mar 2017
- TNA REPORTER

URINE testing has been identified as a tool that could be used to detect and curb death rates among HIV-infected patients, a new study shows.

The study from University of Cape Town researchers published in the journal BMC Medicine journal said the urine test which is similar to a pregnancy test is able to detect “components of the cell wall of the TB bacterium in the urine”.

Professor Graeme Meintjes said the findings showed that this test can assist in curbing “mortality among HIV-infected patients admitted to hospital by speeding up the diagnosis of TB”.

“The findings of these studies challenge the dogma that the first place to look for TB is in the sputum. Among a select group of patients, HIV-infected patients with weak immune systems admitted to hospital, a combination of tests is required, including urine and sputum tests, to facilitate a quick diagnosis of TB thereby allowing doctors to start patients with TB on appropriate treatment rapidly,” Meintjes said.

The study showed that in a large number of patients, TB spreads from the lungs to the blood and other organs in the body due to poor immunity.

The research was conducted at GF Jooste Hospital before it was “decommissioned.”

The research was conducted on 427 consecutive patients with HIV infection, who were admitted to the medical wards were screened for TB using sputum, urine and blood tests. In total, one in three (33%) of these patients were diagnosed with active TB disease.

“Additionally, there may be few or no TB bacteria found in their sputum, either because they are too weak or ill to produce a good sputum sample or because of less TB cavity formation in their lungs.

“The difficulty of diagnosing TB is particularly true for patients with HIV who are sick enough to be admitted to hospital. Notably, in such patients, it is important to make a rapid diagnosis of TB so that treatment may be initiated promptly to avoid deaths,” the study showed. –

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# Rise of superbug tuberculosis hampers global control efforts

Wed Mar 22, 2017 11:30pm GMT

- \* Effectiveness of latest antibiotics could be rapidly lost
- \* Around 1 in 5 cases resistant to at least one anti-TB drug
- \* Experts warn of possible epidemic over next decade

By Kate Kelland

London, March 23 (Reuters) - Rising rates of superbug tuberculosis (TB) are threatening to derail decades of progress against the contagious disease, experts said on Thursday, and new drugs powerful enough to treat them are few and far between.

TB kills more people each year than any other infectious disease, including HIV and AIDS. In 2015 alone, it is estimated to have killed 1.8 million people, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

While some new antibiotics with the potential to treat some drug-resistant strains are becoming available for the first time, experts who conducted a global study said that without accurate diagnostics, better case tracking and clear treatment guidelines, their effectiveness could rapidly be lost.

"Resistance to anti-tuberculosis drugs is a global problem that threatens to derail efforts to eradicate the disease," said Keertan Dheda, a University of Cape Town professor who co-led research published in the Lancet Respiratory Medicine journal.

"Cure rates for drug resistant TB are poor and people can remain infectious."

TB is a bacterial infection normally treated with a combination of antibiotics. But extensive overuse of antibiotics worldwide has led to a rise in drug-resistant "superbug" strains. Bacteria can acquire many drug resistance traits over time, making several types of antibiotics ineffective.

Some 1 in 5 cases of TB are now resistant to at least one major anti-TB drug, the researchers found.

Around 1 in 20 are classed as multidrug-resistant (MDR) - meaning they are resistant to two essential first-line TB drugs, isoniazid and rifampicin - or extensively drug-resistant - meaning they are also resistant to fluoroquinolones and second-line injectable drugs.

Approximately half of global cases of MDR-TB are in India, China, and Russia, but migration and international travel have allowed these highly drug-resistant strains to emerge in almost every part of the world.

In a commentary on TB in the same journal, David W Dowdy, a specialist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the United States, warned that over the next decade, "it is quite possible that we will see a drug-resistant tuberculosis epidemic of unprecedented global scale".

He added, however, that it might also be possible for the global health community to bring about "an unprecedented reversal" of the drug-resistant TB problem.

"The difference between these two outcomes lies less with the pathogen and more with ... whether we have the political will to prioritise," he said. "Drug-resistant TB is not standing still; neither can we."

(Editing by Julia Glover)

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# New test for TB could save thousands of lives, say UCT researchers

23 MARCH 2017 - 13:28 PM FARREN COLLINS

A new urine-based test, similar to those used to determine pregnancy, being used to diagnose tuberculosis (TB) could save thousands of lives in SA. Researchers from the University of Cape Town found that the TB-LAM urine test was a "simple and inexpensive" way to test for TB among hospitalised patients with HIV.

The findings were published in the BMC Medicine Journal this month to coincide with TB Awareness Month. The test, which detects components of the cell wall of the TB bacterium in urine, was proven to be more efficient than traditional rapid sputum-based tests.

Researcher Graeme Meintjes said that the findings could reduce mortality among HIV-infected patients admitted to hospital by speeding up the diagnosis of TB.

"The findings of these studies challenge the dogma that the first place to look for TB is in the sputum," he said.

In 2014, TB overtook HIV as the number-one killer of all infectious diseases in SA and globally. According to Stats SA, TB killed more than 33,000 people in SA in 2015, and the incident rate locally was 520 per 100,000 of the population.



Recently, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said a national strategy for HIV/AIDS, TB and sexually transmitted infections would be unveiled, and that the government had worked hard to bring the TB mortality rate down from 70,000 per annum "about 10 years ago", but that 33,000 was still too high.

Part of the problem was a lack of new research into drugs to treat TB and other drug-resistant forms of the disease. "Because the world thought we had defeated TB, there has been no new research for the past 50 years. It's only now that we are waking up," said Motsoaledi.

According to [a report by Bizcommunity](#), a Japanese drug-maker will supply SA free of charge to pilot one of the few new TB drugs to be developed in half a century.

The drug, Delamanid, usually costs R430,000 for a six-month treatment, will be rolled out to 200 patients.

The South African National TB Association (SANTA) community services manager, Peter Mabalane, said that a lack of funding for TB programmes and the conflation of TB and HIV, meant the problem of TB was not properly addressed. "TB is not getting the attention it deserves and is treated as a secondary disease to HIV," he said. "There is no need for people to die from TB because it is curable. We need a well funded unit that will liaise properly with non-governmental organisations and communities to fight TB."

Motsoaledi said the core infection rates for TB and HIV were very high, and the diseases could not be looked at in isolation. He said the strategy plan would deal with prevention, treatment, care and support, and will target key populations.

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# Drug-resistant TB strains threatening fight against disease

Suthentira Govender | 23 March, 2017

**Resistance to anti-tuberculosis drugs is threatening to derail efforts to eradicate the disease globally, doctors have warned.**

A new report published in UK medical journal, The Lancet, ahead of World TB Day on Friday, revealed that approximately one in five cases of TB are now resistant to at least one major anti-TB drug and approximately five percent of all cases of TB are classed as multi-drug resistant(MDR) or extensively drug-resistant(XDR).

According to the report, TB kills more people each year than any other infectious disease, including HIV/Aids. In 2015 TB was estimated to have killed 1.8 million people.

Six countries account for 60% of the total number of cases of TB worldwide - India, Indonesia, China, Nigeria, Pakistan and South Africa.

According to the report in most regions of the world, drug-resistant TB is now predominantly caused by transmission, with an estimated 95.9% of new cases infected with MDR-TB strains due to drug resistant bacteria spreading from one person to the next.

Dr Nesri Padayatchi, deputy director of the Centre of the Aids of Research in South Africa and an expert on drug-resistant TB, said treatment success for XDR TB locally varied from 16 to 22% and almost half of those patients died despite treatment.

“The concurrent epidemic of HIV infection, with rates of co-infection exceeding 70%, further exacerbates this TB epidemic.

“Previously drug resistant TB in South Africa was considered to be caused largely due to poor treatment adherence or inadequate treatment, however... it has been shown that in KwaZulu-Natal, transmission of XDR TB may also be caused by direct infection with a resistant strain.”

University of Cape Town pulmonologist Professor Keertan Dheda said in the Lancet report: “Resistance to anti-tuberculosis drugs is a global problem that threatens to derail efforts to eradicate the disease”

“Even when the drugs work, TB is difficult to cure and requires months of treatment with a cocktail of drugs. When resistance occurs the treatment can take years and the drugs have unpleasant and sometimes serious side effects.”

Dheda said cure rates for drug resistant TB are poor and people can remain infectious and at risk of spreading the disease.

“Improved diagnostic tests are on the horizon, but we need huge efforts to increase their accuracy, use them for active case finding in the community and eventually make them available in low income countries so as to inform treatment decisions,” said Dheda.

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# THE CONVERSATION

## How we found the gene for a rare heart disease and why it matters

March 22, 2017 4.54pm SAST

*Heart disease is the world's [number one killer](#). In sub-Saharan Africa infections like HIV and TB take the lead but heart diseases such as heart muscle disease (or [cardiomyopathy](#)) are a close second as a cause of death. After 20 years of research scientists at the University of Cape Town have identified the mutations in a gene called CDH2, or cadherin 2, that's responsible for an inherited form of heart muscle disease that affects the right side of the heart in a condition known as cardiomyopathy. The Conversation Africa's Health and Medicine Editor Candice Bailey spoke to Professor Bongani Mayosi about the significance of the discovery.*

### **What is cardiomyopathy and what do we know about it?**

Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy [ARVC]).

Cardiomyopathy is the technical term for a heart muscle disease. It is particularly feared because it can cause sudden death in people younger than 35, especially during athletic activity.

This is a condition in which the heart's structure and function is abnormal without the usual causes of heart disease such as high blood pressure, coronary artery disease (which causes a heart attack), valvular heart disease, pericardial disease or [congenital heart disease](#).

We have been studying the form of heart muscle disease called arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy [or ARVC](#). In this disease, the muscle of the right side of the heart is lost and replaced by scar or fat. As a result, the heart is prone to beating irregularly and fast, causing sudden death because blood is not being effectively pumped to the rest of the body.

This is a rare condition that affects one in every 5000 people in the general population. People who participate in elite sport are prone to the condition if they are carriers of a genetic mutation. That's why there's a need to screen elite athletes for heart disease to prevent the onset of sudden death while exercising.

It's an inherited disease. Often several generations of a family will suffer from the same condition.

### **How is it treated?**

Treatment depends on the symptoms of the person affected with the condition. If a person has had [syncope](#) (fainting) or has been resuscitated from cardiac arrest, then a cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) needs to be implanted. This is a small device the size of a watch that is implanted under the breast muscle and has a wire that is inserted through the vein into the heart. It provides a shock to the heart in the event of an abnormal heart rhythm to prevent sudden death.

Sometimes an individual's condition is discovered before symptoms develop, for example during family screening after a relative's sudden death. In these cases the advice is to avoid activities – such as participation in competitive contact sports – that may predispose the affected individual to sudden death. Some individuals develop heart failure, in which case medication for the treatment of heart failure will be prescribed.

### **So what is the breakthrough and why is it important?**

The importance of the discovery is twofold, and has both scientific and clinical impact.

On the one hand it helps to clarify the genetic mechanisms underlying ARVC which will assist with future research to develop drugs which could prevent sudden death. On the other hand it makes possible the early detection of many unsuspecting people who are affected by ARVC. In fact, often the diagnostic clinical signs of the disease become clear only after many years. If a subject with ARVC is a carrier of a mutation on the gene CDH2, we will know if other members of his family are genetically affected in a few days and we could immediately start preventive strategies.

This may lead to a reduction of cases of sudden death in patients with this mutation.

### **What does it mean for cardiovascular studies?**

We have found a completely new mechanism to explain the underlying cause of sudden death. This is a seminal observation in biology and offers a new opportunity for a potential target for drugs. This will lead to new treatments being developed.

The finding is also important because it is proof to aspiring young scientists that discovery science is taking place in South Africa. And it's important that the research was conducted in the public service – this will dispel the perception that the sector isn't capable of producing such research and results.

We will now conduct large-scale screening activities to establish how common this gene is as well as work on understanding the gene better.

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### **ANCYL wants universities nationalised**

2017-03-22 22:48

Nation Nyoka, News24

Pretoria - All public universities should be state-owned and controlled to ensure equity, the African National Congress Youth League told the Fees Commission on Wednesday.

This would result in increased revenue for government and a standardised cost of education, ANCYL secretary general Njabulo Nzuza told the Commission of Inquiry into Higher Education and Training (Fees Commission) in Centurion.

He called on the commission to look at the Cuban education model for solutions to funding higher education.

Institutional autonomy was the first barrier to fee-free education as institutions determined their own costs, allowing for education to be commodified. Legislation had to be passed to end this autonomy and make education a national asset.

"Some institutions make management decisions that exclude other students. They control access by using financial means. As a result, even those who could initially afford fees can't afford them.

"We must not view education as wasteful spending. We must view it as an investment into the future, something which will spark innovation in the long run."

Education should only be free for those unable to afford it. Those who could pay should do so, he said.

## Attachment



# Nationalise higher education, ANCYL tells fees commission

By Michelle Gumede | Mar 22, 2017

ANC Youth League Secretary General Njabulo Nzuza called for the nationalisation of higher education at the Fees commission in Pretoria on Wednesday.

The league is the largest youth formation in SA, established to champion the interest of young people.

Nzuza said government needed to take control of all higher education institutions management and administration in order to standardise education and bring the costs of prestigious universities down.

He argued that institutional autonomy further entrenched the legacy of apartheid as those who could afford were able to access the best universities while those who couldn't were relegated to inferior-quality education.

"Institutional autonomy is the first barrier to fee free education as it places value on the basis of prestige in qualifications," said Nzuza.

Currently an estimated 969 154 students are registered at the 26 public universities across the country. The league said assuming that 70% of these students could not afford fees, R38.2 billion would be required to fund free education.

Nzuza said by increasing corporate income tax, customs and excise duties on import products and introducing a household tax the country would be able to fund fee free tertiary education.

He said more tax needed to be collected from corporates to fund free education to increase the fund pool for government to administer to students regardless of which university they attended.



The league submitted that free education should be made available only to the poor and missing middle, advocating that those who were able to pay for education would not have to pay the university directly but would submit tax returns to the SA Revenue Service who would administer the qualification for non-taxation.

He claimed this would prevent people from defrauding the system as they currently do to the National Students Financial Aid Scheme.

Nzuza also criticised the Nxasana Commissions threshold for poor and working class at an average household income of below R122 000 as flawed as “there is no person in South Africa who can live comfortably at household earnings of R122 000”.

He said the Nxasana model did not take into account how many students the family had to take through tertiary and did not consider living standards of an average family and described the household barometer as a quick fix to the problem.

“Free education ought to be considered as an investment rather than expenditure and called for a fee free higher education system that encompassed tuition fees, accommodation, books and study material and travelling costs, unlike what NSFAS is currently doing” Nzuza said.

He added that investment into infrastructure would allow more students to be absorbed into the tertiary system.

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# Naledi Pandor defends students fund scheme

The Science and Technology Minister says scarce skills need to be incentivised

23 MARCH 2017 - 05:58 AM MICHELLE GUMEDE

Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor has defended the National Students Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) as a viable instrument for financial aid and proposed ring-fenced, full funds for science, engineering and artisans to attract and retain young people in these fields.

Pandor appeared before the Fees Commission in Pretoria on Wednesday in her capacity as the chair of the ANC national executive committee (NEC) sub-committee on education, health, science and technology.

"We would like greater support to the provider to students in higher education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges. Those who can contribute should, but the poor should not have to be made to meet the costs of higher education," she said.

Pandor said R60bn in loans and bursaries had been made available for needy students from all races, which saw student enrolments in higher education up to more than a million in 2015, up from 495,348 in 1994. TVET enrolments also went up three-fold from 345,566 in 2010 to 800,000 in 2015. "This is significant because the skill sets needed are in technical colleges," Pandor said.

She pointed out that there were significant gaps for scarce skills and these need to be incentivised to expand numbers in these fields. She was concerned that the current debate focused on undergraduates and neglected the post-graduate sector.

She also proposed that the Department of Higher Education speedily act on the ANC decision to develop a framework to regulate university fee increases, which have been unregulated up until now. Furthermore, Pandor said universities had complained that the block grant was no longer sufficient. Subsequently, she has called for a scrutiny of operational costs to assess the use of public funds, proposing a review of current block-grant university funding.

"Higher education must review the block grant and tell us, as the ANC, whether they believe it is adequate and if not, what we should do."

Historically the ANC has advocated for universal education for children in policy, but its implementation has been stagnant. In 1948, the ANC Youth League policy document advocated for an educated black society for the realisation of an effective democracy. The 1956 Freedom Charter called for higher education and technical training for all, funded through state allowances and scholarships on the basis of merit.

"The reference to merit was a conditionality, but implementation since 1994 has been much broader," Pandor said.

One of the resolutions from the 2007 ANC policy conference in Polokwane on education was that the party would progressively introduce free education for the poor up to undergraduate level. Pandor said the view was that beyond undergraduate level, students would have the agency and finances to continue studies on their own or enter the workplace.

The next resolution, made in 2011, said college students qualifying for NSFAS would be exempt from paying fees, while students registered at public universities in their final year of study would have a portion of their loan converted into a bursary. "Having a policy where 60% of NSFAS loans is converted into bursaries, is a progressive policy," Pandor said.

The Mangaung conference of 2012 resolved that the policy for free higher education to all undergraduate students be finalised for adoption before the end of 2013. However, the party was not able to implement the policy owing to "limited resources". "Policy should be a very firm guide to state, but government can't pay money it does not have," Pandor said. "The availability of resources is a major consideration — it has to be."

She noted there were barriers to free higher education including university autonomy, alienation of poor black students, limited access to non-traditional disciplines for many students, especially black people and women, while the revolving door system persisted in the education system.

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# NSFAS a success in its own right

The fund has done much to address the skills gap although there is more need to improve access to education across all income strata

- The New Age (Western Cape)
- 23 Mar 2017
- AHMED ESSOP Ahmed Essop is a research associate in higher education policy and planning at the Ali Mazrui Centre for Higher Education Studies,

University of Johannesburg. This article first appeared on [theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)

IN MID-DECEMBER, the South African Minister of Higher Education and Training released the report of a ministerial task team set up to investigate student funding for those who can't afford higher education.

The timing of the report's release coincided with the start of the annual holiday season which precluded public scrutiny and engagement. This was a missed opportunity. The report is a welcome contribution to the debate on student funding in South Africa.

Its main recommendations provide a realistic framework for rethinking approaches to student funding. These include grants for very poor students and a combination of grants (progressively reduced as household income increases) and loans for the poor and missing middle – students whose parental income is above the cutoff point to qualify for loans from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) but insufficient to meet the full costs of higher education. This approach reduces the repayment burden.

The report also recommends the mobilisation of private sector funds through various tax incentives. And it suggests that loan recovery mechanisms could be improved through direct deductions by the South African Revenue Service (SARS).

But there's one key flaw in the report. It recommends that a new agency, the Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme, be established to replace the NSFAS. It was established in 1999 to ensure that funding is not a barrier to access to higher education for poor students.

It has successfully discharged this mandate and supported just more than one million students in the past 18 years.

The report presents a jaundiced view of an important organisation that has opened the doors of higher education to many who would otherwise have been left out. Myths and realities One of the report's recommendations is that Ikusasa should establish a special purpose vehicle run by the private sector to manage student funding on the government's behalf.

It argues that this is necessary to counter the private sector's apparent lack of confidence in the NSFAS, which is ascribed to the scheme having weak accountability structures and inefficient processes, especially its poor loan recovery record. The NSFAS has as a result apparently lost "most of the funding it used to receive from the private sector".

There's no evidence provided to support this assertion. This is because there has been no private sector funding of the NSFAS other than its administration of bursaries on behalf of one of the major banks.

The NSFAS was also remarkably successful in recovering loans between 1997 and 2008, increasing from R30m to R636m. After that the amount decreased. Only R248m was recovered in 2014, against projections of R1 711m. This was because of the promulgation of the National Credit Act in 2005.

This legislation made it illegal to recover loans from debtors through automatic deductions by employers, which was provided for in the NSFAS Act. This has severely impacted on the funding available to the NSFAS. The role of funding agencies The report is also on weak ground in its attempt to deal with broader skills and educational issues.

It proposes that funding should prioritise professional and vocational programmes in scarce skills and high demand occupations to grow the economy. This refers to the need to grow enrolments in science, engineering and technology.

The scarce skills focus would adversely impact on poor students' access to higher education. They are the main recipients of low quality schooling, especially in gateway subjects such as maths and science which are essential for access to the programmes in question.

The report also proposes that Ikusasa should develop a wrap-around student support programme. Social, life skills and academic support to improve throughput and graduation rates would be provided using external service providers.

This betrays a lack of understanding of the challenges of teaching and learning in higher education. The fact that such support has been successfully provided on a small scale by NGOs and private sector bursary programmes does not necessarily mean it can be taken to scale.

What is needed is systemic intervention to address the knowledge and skills gap between school and university.

This requires restructuring the curriculum and qualifications structure in higher education, as has been proposed by the Council on Higher Education. This is the joint responsibility of the government and higher education institutions, not funding agencies. A crucial body The report's uncritical focus on enhancing the role of the private sector in student funding is cause for concern. It ignores the fact that the private sector is risk averse. In the absence of collateral in the form of government guarantees, it's unlikely to come to the party.

And at any rate, it projects that direct private sector investment will comprise no more than one-fifth of the total funding required to implement the proposed model.

The private sector has a role to play in student funding. But this can best be done through an expanded NSFAS, with a separate and dedicated substructure established to deal with private sector contributions and investments.

There's no denying that administrative and governance challenges have had an impact on the NSFAS' efficiency and effectiveness. This is largely due to the rapid growth of the funds it administers without a concomitant development of administrative systems.

There has been progress in addressing these challenges and no doubt more needs to be done.

But its real challenge is too little funding to meet demand. The private sector can contribute to alleviating this.

However, ultimately it's the government's responsibility to ensure that student funding is adequate to meet demand.

The NSFAS, despite its challenges, has played a critical role in opening the doors of higher education to the poor. It has been one of the success stories of the post-1994 commitment to social justice and the redress of past inequalities.

The NSFAS cannot be wished away by the whims of a task team which seems to have little or no understanding of the social and political context that gave rise to it.

**Attachment**



# Tensions high at WSU as ANC students fight

By **Sino Majangaza** -

March 23, 2017

Several members of the ANC Youth League at Walter Sisulu University will face disciplinary action by the university after they allegedly assaulted a student belonging to the South African Students' Congress (Sasco) on Sunday.

SRC cultural officer at the university's Nelson Mandela Drive campus in Mthatha, Mzingisi Faku, was allegedly beaten with bottles and sharp objects.

He was rushed to hospital and discharged a few hours later.

Faku said the incident happened about 4am on Sunday when he heard kicking on the door of his room.

"When I went out to investigate I saw four students walking away. I followed them. There was a group of other students outside," he said.

He said he asked who was kicking his door and what they wanted.

“Before I knew it, I was on the ground. They were all assaulting me,” he said.

Faku said he did not open a case as the university had promised to deal with the matter.

He said the attack was because of ongoing tensions between the two organisations, which are both under the ANC umbrella.

University spokeswoman Yonela Tukwayo said the management had received a report from campus security of a violent altercation between Sasco and ANCYL, both of which are recognised student political structures at WSU.

“We are following internal disciplinary processes to discipline those who were involved in this violent act,” she said.

Tukwayo said political intolerance was a challenge at the university “and we have had a number of squabbles arising from such intolerance”.

“I want to remind students that freedom of association is enshrined in our country’s constitution. No student should be targeted based on political association,” she said.

ANC provincial secretary Oscar Mabuyane said they were aware of tensions at the campus but thought they had subsided after they engaged with both parties.

“We condemn the action in the strongest possible terms and we wish the student who was assaulted a speedy recovery,” he said. — [sinom@dispatch.co.za](mailto:sinom@dispatch.co.za)



## Attachment



# Mashaba echoes Trump in targeting undocumented migrants

Mar 22 2017 20:27

Bloomberg: Amogelang Mbatha, Sam Mkokeli and Antony Sguazzin

Johannesburg - Johannesburg's new mayor, Herman Mashaba, says he's on a mission to clean up Africa's richest city, and the prime targets in his sights are undocumented immigrants and allegedly corrupt deals by the officials of the ANC.

The influx of undocumented immigrants is so "massive" that the government should close South Africa's border, Mashaba said in an interview at Bloomberg's Johannesburg office. And if the national police authorities continue to fail to bring charges against corrupt officials, as he claimed they have, he said he's prepared to bring private prosecutions.

"There's massive corruption happening in our city. Unfortunately I am not getting the full cooperation of the National Prosecuting Authority," Mashaba said. "If we had a functioning criminal justice system in this country and the city of Johannesburg we'd need special prisons because the cancer of corruption was already an accepted value system."

Mashaba, a 57-year-old former cosmetics entrepreneur, said he's privileged to run the city as a "capitalist." He's cut a controversial figure since taking office in August when his opposition Democratic Alliance aligned with small parties to take control of Johannesburg, the commercial hub, as well as the capital, Pretoria, and Mandela Bay, in a municipal vote.

### **'Shock and awe'**

A "shock and awe" campaign he's considering, to remove thousands of unauthorised inhabitants from buildings in Johannesburg's centre, has drawn criticism from organisations that Mashaba dismisses as "so-called human rights groups".

"Mashaba often plays on the fears that migrants are taking over our economy," said Jacob Van Garderen, the national director of Lawyers for Human Rights. "He can be likened to (US President Donald) Trump," he said. "They play off the same play book."

Mashaba said his goal for downtown Johannesburg is to move people out of “hijacked” buildings, hire private companies to renovate them and then rent them to people earning at least R4 000 (\$317) a month. About 135 000 people in the city centre are from households that earn less than R3 200 a month, according to the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa, known as Seri, citing census data.

About 400 000 of Johannesburg’s 5 million people live in the inner city, according to municipal data from 2013. They’re drawn to the area by the proximity to occasional work opportunities, schools, health-care facilities and reduced transportation costs.

### **Immigrant influx**

The influx of undocumented immigrants is undermining the local government’s efforts to revive the city center and attract private companies to return to help reduce a housing backlog of about 300 000 units, Mashaba said.

“I’ve got the private sector that is prepared to immediately turn that city into a construction site,” he said. “We won’t push the people out of the city. I am working on a plan right now, which unfortunately I can’t give you the details, on how we are going to be turning the city around.”

The mayor’s comments run the danger of inciting violence against foreign nationals, according to Seri’s executive director, Stuart Wilson.

“What the city should be doing is providing affordable public rental housing to the poor where they currently are, not touting xenophobic and illegal plans to displace them, which have almost no hope of practical implementation,” he said.

Bonita Meyersfeld, head of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, which has been representing people in illegal eviction cases since 1978, criticized Mashaba’s remarks and said South Africa’s constitution says that everyone in the country has a right to housing, not just its citizens.

“That plan is not only going to contribute to inequality, it’s xenophobic and unconstitutional,” she said.

While condemnation of Mashaba’s frequent comments on undocumented immigrants from his own party has been muted, party leader Mmusi Maimane has said the municipality must operate within the law.

### **Humanitarian image**

“The DA has been getting off scot-free,” said Van Garderen. “They are tacitly supporting these crude and unlawful actions of Mashaba. In Parliament, they present themselves as humanitarians. In Johannesburg it’s a different story.”

DA spokesperson Phumzile van Damme didn't immediately respond to call and an email seeking comment.

Mashaba has set up a forensic unit headed by a former police major-general to investigate allegedly corrupt contracts pushed through when the African National Congress ran the city. He's being given on-the-ground intelligence by his ally in the municipal government, the Economic Freedom Fighters, which he described as a "crucial partner."

"Mashaba thinks that he is still campaigning and the time for campaigning is over," said ANC spokesman Zizi Kodwa. "He is now the mayor, he needs to start delivering. He can't use the ANC as an excuse not to deliver."

Constitutional experts dismissed Mashaba's suggestion that he may need to conduct private prosecutions against alleged corrupt officials, with Pierre de Vos, the Claude Leon Foundation Chair in Constitutional Governance at the University of Cape Town, saying since Mashaba is part of the government, "it can't be done." The NPA's spokesperson, Luvuyo Mfaku, said it doesn't prosecute cases on the basis of forensic investigations it hasn't carried out itself.

### **Election impact**

Mashaba said his performance in Johannesburg could determine the outcome of the general elections in 2019. In the August municipal vote, the ANC's share fell 7.7 percentage points to 54.5% compared with its total in 2014 general elections. If it suffers a similar decline in 2019, it would likely be relegated to the opposition and the DA could form the next government with support from smaller parties.

"My mandate is to run the city of Johannesburg and that's where I'm putting the focus on, using Johannesburg to be the vehicle for us, as the DA, to take over this country in 2019," Mashaba said. "I am quite confident that we will take over the country."

## Attachment



# SAPS: Making arrests, but is it making improvements

- OPINION
- Thursday 23 March 2017

The country has seen high-profile criminal cases in recent weeks – the [OR Tambo heist](#), baby [Siwaphiwe Mbambo's abduction](#), and the [robbery at the office of the chief justice](#).

Swift arrests were made in each case. But what does this mean for police performance and the public's perception of the SAPS?

On Monday, acting National Police Commissioner Khomotso Phahlane promised the country the SAPS is committed to investigating serious crimes. On Wednesday, he again committed to enforcing swift justice and praised his officers who have made a string of arrests in high-profile cases.

Police apparently cracked the case around one-year-old Siwaphiwe Mbambo's abduction, arresting the baby's biological mother and two others. After a reported R24-million was stolen from OR Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) this month, seven people have already appeared in court. Phahlane was on Wednesday addressing the theft of 15 computers from the office of the chief justice. [Three men have been arrested](#) and faced court on Wednesday.

"This significant breakthrough together with the speedy resolution and/or breakthroughs in the cases of baby Siwaphiwe in KwaZulu-Natal as well as the ORTIA heist bears testimony to the fact that the South African Police Service remains committed to prioritising and thoroughly investigating serious crimes such as these in a bid to reduce the incidence of serious and violent crimes in our country," Phahlane told media on Wednesday.

“The leadership of the South African Police Service in all provinces continue to intensify their crime combating strategies and operations to ensure a safe and secure environment for all,” he continued. “The back-to-basics approach adopted by the South African Police Service, which encompasses the thorough investigation of all crimes committed, is yielding results.”

Phahlane said there’s no evidence as yet linking the robbery of the office of the chief justice to political motives, or anyone linked to such allegations. He said those making the claims should come forward to police with information. As yet, he continued, there’s no link between that theft and the invasion of former department of social development director general Zane Dangor’s house.

Last week, the [Constitutional Court slammed Minister Bathabile Dalmini](#)’s handling of the delivery of social grants. On the same day, a full bench of the Pretoria High Court said [Hawks head Berning Ntlemeza](#) lacks the “honesty, integrity and conscientiousness” to hold public office. Both cases could provide political motive to raid Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng’s office and Zangor’s home. “We can’t tell what the motive is at this stage,” said Phahlane, speaking on the theft at the chief justice’s office. “All what we know is a criminal activity has [occurred] at the offices of the chief justice. Further investigation may reveal that motive.” There’s much still unknown about the crime, but Phahlane’s views were clear: the SAPS is doing its job, as shown by the recent high-profile arrests, and speculation and “irresponsible utterances” are undermining SAPS efforts.

But are arrests in a few dramatic cases a sign SAPS is improving?

Richard Mamabolo, spokesperson for the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru), had his doubts. “It should improve the public perception for the fact that they see speedy resolutions to these criminal acts, but at the same time, the questionable credibility of those leading the police, like Phahlane, leaves little to be desired.” Phahlane is being investigated by the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) for allegedly receiving improper benefits while he headed the SAPS’s forensic division.

“I seriously doubt that the current leadership is making inroads in improving the SAPS in general. There have been many outstanding issues raised by the police themselves which are dragging. Perhaps these cases are dealt with at this speed because they are, as you say, high-profile,” Mamabolo said. But he suggested the arrests should be welcomed and investigating officers given the benefit of doubt that they have the right suspects.

Andrew Faull, a senior researcher at University of Cape Town’s Centre of Criminology, said, “A large portion of police work is about managing the symbolism of the work, and in this sense the SAPS has done well to convey a sense of urgency and investment.

Whether the arrests were legal, whether the suspects' rights have been respected, and whether they will lead to prosecution, remains to be seen." He mentioned the failed cases against suspects arrested for former Bafana Bafana captain Senzo Meyiwa's murder, which remains unsolved, and the case against Shrien Dewani, who stood accused of arranging for his wife to be murdered while they honeymooned in Cape Town.

"The fact that a police official or two have been among those implicated in the airport heist is as damning of the SAPS as the arrests are celebratory. The SAPS and government as a whole have a lot to lose in both the airport and judge cases. The heist signals a level of incompetence and corruption which the SAPS and government will want to patch over if possible, hence the high profile response," said Faull.

He said, however, the arrests regarding the robbery of the office of the chief justice appear to be more sinister, with allegations pointing to a political crime. "I think that the arrests in this instance, are particularly important in helping allay fears that this is about a captured political elite disrespecting the judiciary with the support of the police." Some management shifts within SAPS, he added, are "very promising".

Gareth Newham, head of the governance and justice division at the Institute for Security Studies, said high-profile cases may not translate into an improved public perception of policing services. While rapid arrests might give the impression police are on top of an issue, he said, "the high-profile incidents will get a lot more resources directed at them from police." The reality of whether the public trust the SAPS or not depends on more local issues, better reflected in the victims of crime surveys, which have been in decline, but saw an increase in trust last year.

"It's not only what the police do but how professional they are, how fair they are," said Newham. How you interact with police on a day-to-day basis has much more impact on perceptions around policing than high-profile cases, said Newham.

## Attachment

# The Times

## The wreckers win again

Jonathan Jansen | 2017-03-23

**The event was months in the making. Organisers travelled to the nine provinces and met with the full range of student organisations to hammer out agreements for content and participation at a Higher Education National Convention of stakeholders.**

For two days last week at the Eskom Centre in Midrand, students, parents, staff, vice-chancellors, government officials, corporate leaders and civil society activists met to seek solutions to the standoff in universities around several issues, but principally student fees.

There was some nostalgia, no doubt, on the part of the organisers and older activists from the struggle including Dikgang Moseneke, the once fiery leader of the one-settler-one-bullet Pan Africanist Congress who would become the voice of moderation as deputy chief justice of the Constitutional Court.

This group of elders and eminent people came within one word of calling themselves the National Education Crisis Committee, a once powerful alliance of progressive students, workers, parents and teachers which effectively carried forward the education struggle in the last days of apartheid.

You could sense the deep disappointment of the participants as chairs, fists and water bottles flew in all directions. Belts came off in the mayhem, said one reporter at the event.

Even before their turn came to speak, the Minister of Higher Education, Blade Nzimande, and the chairman of the body representing vice-chancellors, Adam Habib, were shouted down and threatened. Just the mention of the minister's name evoked howls of disapproval from the audience.

The minister and the professors had to flee for their safety. With the real threat of harm to participants, Moseneke "postponed" the event.

As usual, the now routine disruption of this higher education platform was blamed on a small group of spoilers. Some laid the blame on so-called students in red berets and others on factions within the student body aligned with the ruling party.

It does not matter. A public event with mass media in attendance was always going to provide the public spectacle for groups that have long targeted two events for national (and international) attention - parliament and universities.

Surely the organisers must have known this was going to happen? And if so, why did they not have a plan B to manage the inevitable disruptions?

The reason the convention failed was because of this romantic idea from another era that you can talk your way out of any trouble. These older men and women of an earlier struggle had clearly not been paying attention to what was happening at universities in 2015-2016.

Remember that, time and time again, university speaking platforms were disrupted and painstaking agreements to resolve various crises were cynically scuttled at the end of a process or dishonoured when the next opportunity for political spectacle presented itself.

The silencing of the right of others to speak, and to be heard, has long become the new normal at public universities. "Because they are not at the coalface," shared a highly regarded vice-chancellor, "the organisers were a little naïve" about the event. A judge, priest, artist and businesswoman, among others, were clearly out of touch with the rough and tumble of day-to-day campus politics.

"In the weeks preceding the event, we warned them this could happen," said the vice-chancellor. But they took the gamble, and more than millions were lost in hosting this very expensive event. Also lost was the public trust in solving university crises through deliberation.

What is the solution?

We know which interventions will not work. Policing public deliberation (a contradiction in terms) or limiting access to the more constructive elements among student organisations will end badly, as we know from hard experience at the coalface of university management. Having the majority stand up and refuse the chaos, as we have seen, simply invites violent reaction from the disrupters at which point "safety and security" concerns become paramount.

The solution begins with the recognition that for the serial disrupters the political spectacle is not about fees. You can give every student free higher education tomorrow, and the disrupters would find another item of discontent ("We are hurting!") and continue the chaos no matter what solutions are offered.

It ends with the recognition that the only solution is a political agreement between the sponsors of the chaos - and that means the major political parties represented in parliament and the factions within their number.

And as we know from recent parliamentary antics, that is not going to happen soon. Universities are in for a long night of discontent, disruption and despair.



## Waarom die opstand?

Interessante parallele bestaan tussen vandag se opstandige swart jeug en die radikalisering van jong Afrikaners sowat twee dekades ná die beëindiging van die AngloBoereoorlog in die vorige eeu, skryf Theuns Eloff in sy nuwe boek, *Turning Points*.

- Beeld
- 23 Mar 2017

Teen die einde van 2015 en in 2016 het Suid-Afrikaners tonele gadeslaan van massastudentebetogings teen simbole van kolonialisme en verhoogde studiegeld. Dit het dikwels gepaardgegaan met geweld en die afbrand van geboue waarin boeke en skilderye verwoes is.

Slegs 'n handjievol ontleders het dit voorspel en dit het die regering, universiteite en die grootste deel van die bevolking verras.

Die bewegings wat daarby betrokke was, was nie homogeen nie en het hutswoorde soos #RhodesMustFall, #FeesMustFall, #OpenStellenbosch en #ReformPuk gebruik. Die laaste twee, hoewel nie groot wat getalle betref nie, was op twee historiese Afrikaanse kampusse bedrywig en het op transformasie en die uitsluiting van Afrikaans as onderrigtaal aangedring.

Die EFF het ook betrokke geraak en 'n klein groepie leiers wat hulself die "Student Command" genoem het, het van kampus tot kampus gegaan en spesifieke kwessies relevant aan elke kampus gebruik om die vure van onrus te stook.

Dit het veral te doen gehad met universiteite wat maatskappye van buite vir ondersteuningsdienste gebruik het.

Die vraag is hoe belangrik dié bewegings en hul filosofieë is. Verteenwoordig hulle die begin van 'n Suid-Afrikaanse "Arabiese Lente"? Of is hulle beperk tot 'n klein groepie studente en "linkse" intellektuele?

En wat sal die gevolge wees as hulle selfs net beperkte sukses behaal?

Hoe het hierdie bewegings en hul opvolgers ontstaan? Watter redes het daartoe aanleiding gegee?

'n Inligtingstuk van die SA Versoeningsbarometer van 2015 het die volgende opsomming gegee:

Die plaaslike struggles van gemarginaliseerde Suid-Afrikaners het uiteindelik oorgespoel na die kampusse van tersiêre instellings, waar studente van oorwegend swart middel- en laermiddelklashuishoudings die owerhede – op universiteitsen nasionale regeringsvlak – gekonfronteer het omdat hulle vir hul voortgesette kulturele en ekonomiese uitsluiting verantwoordelik gehou word.

Benewens hul kommer wat regstreeks met tersiêre onderwys verband gehou het, was daar ’n parallelle metanarratief wat saam met die veldtogte #RhodesMustFall (RMF) en #FeesMustFall (FMF) ontstaan het wat die hele grondslag bevraagteken waarop die hele post1994politieke oorgang berus.

“Ons is uitverkoop deur Mandela,” het ’n gereelde refrein in die bewegings geword.

Deur die voorwaardes van ’n onderhandelde ooreenkoms te bevraagteken wat eens deur die internasionale gemeenskap as ’n wonderwerk bestempel is, het hulle parallelle getrek tussen hul struggles en dié van ander gemarginaliseerde Suid-Afrikaners.

Hierdie gebeure het sowel die aard as inhoud van ons nasionale diskoers merkbaar verander.

Dit het dringender en onversetliker geword en ongeduldiger met enigiets of enigiemand wat gelyk het asof hy in die pad van meer radikale vorms van sosiale transformasie staan.

Die belangrikste faktor blyk algemene ontevredenheid te wees met wat in 23 jaar van demokrasie bereik is – of, om dit anders te stel, in die 23 jaar sedert apartheid skynbaar dood is.

Die werklikheid van die drievoudige bedreiging van armoede, werkloosheid en ongelykheid is steeds die daaglikse ervaring van miljoene Suid-Afrikaners, die meeste van hulle swart.

Sonder om die feit van vooruitgang in twyfel te trek, is dit in die woorde van die nuwe jeug die “geleefde werklikheid” van miljoene.

In hierdie konteks is die toenemende verwagtinge van die nuwe en groeiende middelklas selfs ’n meer belangrike bydraende faktor.

Die feit dat jy nou ’n behoorlike salaris verdien, ’n motor, elektrisiteit en sanitasie het – iets waarsonder jy twee dekades gelede moes klaarkom – bring mee dat jy meer wil hê.

Wanneer mense in uiterste armoede leef, oorleef hulle. Wanneer hulle na die voorstede trek, streef hulle na meer.

Die verhoging in klasgeld, hoewel dit veroorsaak is deur die regering se voortdurende onderfinansiering van universiteite, het ’n vonk by die kruitvat van misnoeë veroorsaak.

Benewens wat ons die sosio-ekonomiese faktore kan noem, het die “fallist”-beweging ook die gevoel van vervreemding beklemtoon wat swart studente op voormalige wit kampusse ervaar.

En wat kan ’n groter simbool van vervreemding wees as ’n reusestandbeeld van die aartsimperialis Cecil John Rhodes wat oor die ingang van die Universiteit van Kaapstad troon?

Ons kan debatteer oor die aard van universiteite in Suid-Afrika en die wêreld vandag, maar kan nie ontken dat universiteite in essensie Westerse konsepte is waarin Westerse tale, geskiedenis, tegnologie en kultuur die oorhand het nie.

Die verbintenis met kolonialisme besmet steeds persepsies van die voormalige wit Engelse universiteite, nes die geval met voormalige wit Afrikaanse universiteite is weens die band met apartheid.

Een van die nuwe jeug se temas is dat hul ouers in die 1994-proses “uitverkoop” is – deur Mandela, beweer baie. Hul siening is dat die volwasse geslag van 1994 deur die proses van die Waarheids-en-Versoeningskommissie gedwing is om hul onderdrukkers te vergewe en met hulle te versoen in ruil vir die reg om te stem.

En daardie stem het niks verander nie.

’n Plakkaat in die klasgeld-betogings van September 2016 het gelees: “1994 changed fokol.” Die nuwe jeug kyk en vertolk geskiedenis deur die oë van hul ouers – of hulle nou genooi word om dit te doen of nie.

Hulle wil die ongeregtighede regstel waaronder hul ouers gedurende apartheid gely het.

Die jeug is geradikaliseer twee dekades nadat die trauma van apartheid geëindig en die oorgang na ’n nuwe demokratiese stelsel begin het – nie net oor wat met hulle gebeur het nie, maar ook omdat hulle voel dat niks verander het nie.

Daar is ’n interessante parallel tussen vandag se nuwe jeug en die Afrikanerjeug van die vroeë 20ste eeu. Sowat twee dekades nadat die Suid-Afrikaanse Oorlog (Anglo-Boereoorlog) in 1902 geëindig het, het die radikalisering van jong Afrikaners met die mynwerkers se rebellie in 1922 begin.

Die meeste deelnemers aan dié rebellie was Afrikaners en die slagspreuk was “Wit werkers van die wêreld, verenig!”

Dit is deur die toename in radikale nasionalisme in 1929 gevolg.

Die parallel is dat jong Afrikaners twee dekades later deur die oë van hul ouers gekyk het na die wreedhede van die konsentrasiekampe en die onderwerping deur die Britse Ryk, en die onregte wou herstel – of ten minste wraak wou neem – deur ’n herlewing in Afrikanernasionalisme.

Die Konrad Adenauer-stigting het onlangs ’n klein diverse groep SuidAfrikaners op ’n studiereis na Duitsland geneem om te kyk hoe Duitsers hul Nasionaal-Sosialistiese verlede hanteer en ook wat die gevolge van kommunisme en sosialisme in die voormalige Oos-Duitsland is.

Op een van die sessies het ’n geskiedkundige uitgewys dat die studentebetogings van 1968 in Duitsland, en spesifiek Berlyn, in wese ’n opstand was teen “pa-en-ma-oortreders” wat destyds steeds magsposisies beklee het.

Die feit dat dit 25 jaar ná die Joodse volksmoord gebeur het, laat my wonder of dit wat nou onder Suid-Afrika se swart jeug gebeur, 25 jaar nadat transformasie begin het, nie histories onafwendbaar is nie.

As dit waar is, sou ons dit nie kon keer nie; al wat ons kan doen, is om dit te probeer bestuur.

Ons moet ook vra wat die nuwe jeugbewegings se dryfkrag is. Wat is hul filosofiese en ideologiese wortels?

Die antwoord is kompleks en gevarieerd.