



EFFSC SCRUTINY OF COVID-19 500 BILLION RESPONSE.

22 April, Wednesday.

The response of the state, the police and the private sector during this pandemic have shown capacity to address societal crisis and challenges confronting our citizens and in particular students. Though commendable, pledges and financial relief in this period have raised a critical question.

Students have struggled with historic debt and financial exclusion, in full view of the state, and of the private sector. In fact, students have been suspended, expelled, killed, jailed and even brutalized by the police and private security in full view of these stakeholders for making a genuine call for debt relief and free education. But very little to no action has been made to meet this call. In fact, the ANC led state has attempted to delegitimize the call for free decolonial and Afrocentric education and student debt relief.

The question is if such pledges as the solidarity fund, and aggressive action as the 500 billion bailouts can be done for this pandemic after its merciless attack on the rich and privileged, the same material solidarity can be done for students, particularly the poor, why hasn't it? Why is there no solidarity fund and pledges to address the call for free education and student historic debt? Why did the ANC and the national treasury lie and say free education is not feasible?

After the lockdown we are calling all students and political formations to respond to the call we are making for a student debt relief and free education shutdown. The state and all self-serving elites have shown solidarity and capacity to fund a south African crisis. They must do so for free education. Education is exactly that. A violent crisis that excludes the poor.

Today we take our frustrations to social media under the hashtag #TakeEducationSeriouslySA at exactly 14:00 to begin the call for student debt relief, a release of student certificates, free education and a collapse of exclusive online learning.

No Retreat. No Surrender. Victory Is Certain. Hasta la Victoria Siempre.

**Issued on behalf of Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command
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