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# QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

## STUDENT PROTEST POLICY

**This Policy has been issued on the authority of the College  
Council of King Hintsa TVET College**

## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

<b>Document Title:</b> Student Protest Policy	<b>Formal Document Number</b>	DPR-SPP-004
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## **This policy applies to all King Hintsa TVET College Students**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

KING HINTSA TVET College upholds the principle that each student is a unique individual who should be able to develop his / her full potential and intends to ensure that this is possible via an orderly College society where curricula and extra – mural programmes are executed. We also advocate non- aggressive conflict resolution strategies and a process that is progressive, speedy, fair, just, and consistent and guides the students to self-discipline. It is common knowledge and practice that the South African Education sector had to manage Student Protest Action every year. Most of the time these Protest Actions are organized by Student organizations or SRC's, and are aimed at advocating political goals such as student representation, academic exclusions, financial exclusions or other academic, social and economic interests of students.

It is necessary to distinguished between peaceful, legitimate and well organized protest action, and on the other hand, a violent, ill-disciplined, illegal protest action. The purpose of this policy is to define and promote legal, peaceful and legitimate student protest action. In implementing the Student Protest Action Policy, all attempts will be made to improve and enhance the positive qualities and attributes of each student but also to discourage negative characteristics.

### **2. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

This policy is intended to ensure that student protest action is peaceful, approved by Management, and is organized legally. The other intention is to ensure that the constitutional rights of all persons are protected.

The Constitutional Rights of students and staff who do not support the opinion or ideology of the protest group, will be respected. In the event of a Disruption, the primary obligation of Management is to ensure the academic integrity of all programmes.

### **3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES/ OBJECTIVES**

The main guiding principles for this policy are:

- 3.1 To promote constitutional democracy
- 3.2 To promote a vibrant student life
- 3.3 To entrench and enhance political tolerance and discipline
- 3.4 To encourage young people to take responsibility for their actions
- 3.5 To instil a culture of debates and intellectual engagement amongst students and between students and between students and other stakeholders
- 3.6 To utilize Student Support Services office / Registrations office before Protest Action.

#### **4. PROPOSED PROTOCOL/ PROCEDURE**

In order to ensure that a protest action is legal and peaceful, the following protocol procedure is proposed:

- 4.1 A request to hold protest action must be submitted to the Principal of the College, indicating the date, time, venue and purpose of the protest action. This request must be made 2 days before the date of action.
- 4.2 The Principal is obliged to respond within 2 days, to ask for a planning meeting with the organizers.
- 4.3 The following information will be required:
  - 5.3.1 The name of the organization planning the action
  - 5.3.2 Names and contact numbers of leaders/organizers
  - 5.3.3 Routes to be used
  - 5.3.4 Proof of permission from SAPS (if outside College premises)
  - 5.3.5 Names of marshals to maintain discipline
  - 5.3.6 Indicate a demarcated area / site to be used

#### **5. ACTIONS TO BE AVOIDED AT ALL TIMES**

- 5.1 Violent mob behaviour
- 5.2 Disruption of classes
- 5.3 Assault of other students or staff members or members of the public

- 5.4 Vandalism or destroying or defacing College Property
- 5.5 The use of racist or derogatory language or hate speech
- 5.6 Intimidation or incitement of non-protestors
- 5.7 Possession, threat or use of a dangerous weapon.

## **6. MORE SERIOUS UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT**

- 6.1 Should a student be found guilty of serious misconduct, a Disciplinary Hearing may suspend a student for a period not exceeding the current academic year
- 6.2 Should the misconduct be such that it might constitute a criminal act, the matter may be reported to the SAPS for further Interventions.

## **7. CONSULTATION/ NEGOTIATIONS**

- 7.1 After the receipt of the memo by Management, a meeting of the Student Support Services Committee the Committee formed of Senior Management, Students Support Services and Campus Management shall be convened to discuss the demands of students
- 7.2 Feedback to students is a responsibility of the student leaders
- 7.3 The resumption of classes or remedial action will be negotiated

## **8. INVOLVEMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES (SAPS)**

- 8.1 The institution retains the right to call upon SAPS to assist in re-establishing order, if a protest action is getting out of control, or there is a threat to other students; staff or damage to property.
- 8.2 The request for external intervention is only recommended once the Principal or his/her representative is of the opinion that the situation demands such intervention.
- 8.3 The decision to call upon SAPS intervention or action in terms of relevant legislation remains the last resort.
- 8.4 Role of the SAPS in conflict resolution/ mass

## **9. CONCLUSION**

The Management of KING HINTSA TVET College will strive towards the principles of academic integrity and fairness to students. The Management will oversee the process of directing and implementing the necessary remedial action in cases where substantial amounts of instructional time have been lost due to a Disruption. The management has the prerogative to close the institution where no solution is agreed upon if the protest turns violent.

