

**YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY**

TEL: 011 339 3621 EMAIL: [info@ycl.org.za](mailto:info@ycl.org.za) FAX: 011 339 4244

110 JORISSEN STREET, FOURTH FLOOR COSATU HOUSE, BRAAMFONTEIN, JHB

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**YCLSA IS DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE UNTIMELY PASSING ON OF COMRADE LESEDI BENJAMIN PHEHLA**

**[PRESS ALERT]**

The Young Communist League of South Africa (Ufasimba) is deeply saddened by the passing of Comrade Lesedi Benjamin Phehla, a comrade of the Progressive Youth Alliance structures and a member of the YCLSA in TUT Soshanguve Campus. Comrade Lesedi was one of our loyal members in the Campus who served the organisation selflessly and with passion. We are saddened by his untimely passing because we as an organisation relied on him and many other comrades to broaden access, redress and success in TUT and other institutions of higher learning.

Comrade Benjamin Lesedi Phehla was an outgoing SRC member (2015/16) in TUT Soshanguve deployed by SASCO led PYA. He was the faculty chairperson for ICT in the Campus and was a final year student of Information Technology. He was brutally hit by a car (Hit and Run) after protests on Campus yesterday 20thOctober 2016 around 12 o’clock. He was rushed to George Mukhari Hospital in Tshwane and he fought for his life until 11:30PM the same day when he lost the fight. The funeral house is in Hammaskraal.

We would like to convey our heartfelt condolence to Comrade Lesedi’s family, the YCLSA branch in TUT Soshanguve, structures of the PYA in the Campus, and the entire TUT populous. Our structures must continue to struggle for transformation of their institution because that’s what Cde Lesedi believed in. Comrade Lesedi knew that the call for free quality education for the poor is a mandate of the PYA and our members needed to be in the forefront to lead the students. The late Comrade Lesedi understood that the children of the working class and the poor cannot afford education hence he was one of our soldiers who were in the forefront to ensure doors of learning are open.

We call on our members in TUT to unite at this difficult time and defend the struggle for free quality education for the poor. Our members must advance and broaden access and success while raising their genuine issues. Our members must defend the academic year to advance success and also create access for other students in the coming academic year; this can only be done if we don’t lose this academic year. We must prove to society that we can chant and pass at the same time as it is revolutionary to do so.

We agree with the PYA structures in TUT Soshanguve that the management of TUT must take responsibility for the cost of meals of poor students who qualified for NSFAS, admitted and given meal cards and later rejected while they had already been spending on meals and incurring costs using the Meal Cards given to them on the basis that they are covered by NSFAS. Such costs cannot be credited to the study fees accounts of the poor students because it’s not their fault that NSFAS and TUT managementare incompetent and failed to cover these deserving students. University managements must appreciate the need to listen to students and stop their arrogant stances when it comes to engaging and listening to genuine demands of students. We call on TUT management and NSFAS to take responsibility on this matter urgently.

May Comrade Benjamin Lesedi Phehla rest in peace and we join the rest of our comrades as the YCLSA in conveying our sympathy and condolence to the family. Aluta Continua

YCLSA Media Unit

Molaodi Wa Sekake

National Spokesperson

078 164 3668

molaudis@gmail.com