PUTTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal is concerned about the manner in which the matter regarding Sants, a private institution of higher learning, has been reported. Today's report in the Mercury, suggests that the court application that was filed by Sants was primarily about the reluctance of the Department to pay the bursaries for the students enrolled at Sants. The fact of the matter is that Sants filed a court ruling stopping the Department from communicating with learners because they claimed that the Department was influencing these learners to move away from the institution, which was not true.

The Department met with the students to listen to a number of complaints that had been forwarded by the learners. The main position of the Department was that learners have a right to register with the institution of their choice. The Department never, at any point, influenced learners to move away from Sants. Therefore the court order that the Department must tell the students to register at Sants if they so wish, is not contrary to what the Department was saying, except that the Department also told learners that they are free to register with other institutions if they so desire. The heading by the Mercury article that the “Department ordered to pay private college” is misleading and the Department wants to put the record straight.

ENDS…/

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