

06 October 2020

The Vice- Chancellor
University of Johannesburg
PO Box 524
Auckland Park
2006

Via email: tmarwala@uj.ac.za
cc: ramneek@higherhealth.ac.za

RE: ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLATION

Dear Professor Marwala,

The normalization, tolerance and minimization of the harm inflicted on female students at universities is unacceptable and must be stopped. Sexual harassment is more routine than it is exceptional- it tends to be used by men in positions of power and authority but also colleagues, friends and subordinates are enablers and may be complicit in that exercise of power or too cowed to refuse to co-operate.

Sexual harassment is not simply about the misbehavior of a few misguided or malicious individuals. Its prevalence and persistence together with widespread impunity of perpetrators manifest a systemic structural problem linked to broader social, economic and political distributions of power that vest authority, decision making and belief in men.


We raise all the above because it has come to our attention that Prof. Siphomandla Zondo who has joined UJ from UP, sexually harassed female students at UP. The purpose of this letter is to establish and enquire from the University, firstly, whether the University was or is aware of these allegations, and if so, what was the University's response and was UJ made aware of these allegations?

It will be a travesty if the University was aware of these allegations and looked the other way thus gifting protection to the privileged like Prof. Siphomandla Zondo and many others like him who are still employees of the university.

The university has a moral and legal obligation and duty to ensure that perpetrators of sexual violations are held accountable but also that those who fall victim of acts of sexual violence feel safe enough to report such incidents without fear of condemnation, ridicule and secondary victimization.

PSET Policy Framework Gender- Based Violence was developed for a reason and thus must be given life with the aim to end gender based violence everywhere! We therefore trust that you will give this matter your urgent attention and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Brenda Madumise-Pajibo



Onica Nonhlanhla Makwakwa