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UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: POLICY OPTIONS

by

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ABSTRACT

The **primary** objectives of this study are to consider the theoretical foundations of Public Administration and specifically public policy; the international context within which higher education in South Africa operates; the South African higher education context, policy processes and reasons for government intervention in higher education; how these reasons relate to the process of transforming higher education; the problems that have or could result from such intervention; the implications of mergers and incorporations for higher educational institutions; the state of higher education funding and its implications for institutional autonomy and academic freedom; the implications of government intervention in higher education in other areas such as the determination of what universities may teach and student admissions; the claim that the autonomy of higher educational institutions is under threat as a result of the extent of government intervention; and how to enhance cooperative governance between universities and the government.

The **secondary** objective is to identify the best policy options that the government and higher educational institutions could adopt to rectify identified problems, ensure a higher education system that meets the developmental needs of the country and protects institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

Government intervention in higher education in South Africa aims, among others, at reforming the system of higher education to reflect the new democratic order, setting the higher education system on a path of growth and development and meeting developmental needs. However, the higher education policies that the government established since 1994 have not adequately addressed the challenges of higher education, and the policies in fact contradict themselves in a number of aspects.

The policy objectives of the government's intervention in higher education will not be (fully) realised if the negative implications of the intervention measures, such as insufficient funding, the bankrupting of universities, alignment of institutional cultures, infringements on institutional autonomy and academic freedom are not adequately addressed in partnership with the management of higher educational institutions and their governance structures. Furthermore, the outcome of the restructuring of the higher education system depends on the abilities of universities to adequately resolve the challenges they confront and provide sound and strategic management.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIPC	Academic Integration and Planning Committee
ANC	African National Congress
ASGISA	Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa
CHE	Council for Higher Education
CIC	Central Incorporation Committee
COS	Conditions of Service
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
DCVs	Deputy Vice Chancellors
DoE	Department of Education
EEPP	Employment Equity Plan and Policy
ERC	Electronic Resource Centres
F'SATIE	The French South African technical Institute in Electronics
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GAAT	General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHS	*Gesamtochschulen*
HDIs	Historically Disadvantaged Individuals
HESA	Higher Education South Africa
HEQC	Higher Education Quality Committee
HESF	Higher Education Sentencing Framework
HRS	Human Resources Strategy

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ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMTs	Institutional Merger Teams
ITC	Interim Transitional Council
ITS	Integrated Tertiary Systems
JMC	Joint Merger Committee
JMT	Joint Merger Team
JMTT	Joint Merger Task Team
JST	Joint Specialised Teams
LIS	Library and Information Services
LMU	London Metropolitan University
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NCHE	National Commission on Higher Education
NCOP	National Council of Provinces
NDA	National Development Agency
NECC	National Education Crisis Committee
NEPI	National Education Policy Initiative
NPHE	National Plan for Higher Education
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
NSFAS	National Student Financial Aid Scheme
NUOL	The National University of LAOS

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OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
QMS	Quality Management System
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
SAPSE	South African Post Secondary Education
SAQA	South African Qualifications Authority
SAUVCA	South African Universities' Vice Chancellors Association
SCOPA	Standing Committee on Public Accounts
SET	Science, Engineering and Technology
SMS	Social and Management Sciences
SRC	Student Representative Council
TI	Technology Innovation
TLEI	Department of Telematic Learning and Education Innovation
TNG	Technikon Northern Gauteng
TNW	Technikon North West
TP	Technikon Pretoria
TT	Technology Transfer
TUT	Tshwane University of Technology
TVEI	Technical and Vocational Education Initiative
UDW	University of Durban Westville
UKZN	University of Kwa-Zulu Natal
UNESCO	United Nations Education and Scientific Organisation

UP	University of Pretoria
USA / US	United States of America
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republic
VCs	Vice Chancellors
VISTA	Vista University Mamelodi Campus
WTO	World Trade Organisation