



**HIGH COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
PRETORIA**

CY-SA 18/2020

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**NOTE VERBALE**

The High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus presents its compliments to the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa and with reference to a request put forward to the competent authorities in Cyprus on behalf of the South African Qualifications Authority concerning Diplomas or other Educational Titles offered by “universities” operating in the Northern occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus has the honour to bring to the attention of the esteemed Department the following:

- a) The so-called “universities” operating in the northern area of the Republic of Cyprus, which remains under Turkish Military occupation since 1974, are unlawfully operating, as “Educational Institutions” since they are not in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations of the Republic of Cyprus on Higher Education. These “universities” are not registered in the Universities Registry kept by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, of the Republic of Cyprus, and they have not obtained any licenses of operation in accordance with the relevant laws of the Republic of Cyprus. Furthermore, they have not been evaluated nor have their programmes of study been approved by the Competent Authorities of the Republic of Cyprus. Therefore the diplomas offered by those “universities” do not bear the status of diplomas offered by universities accredited and operating in Cyprus, in compliance with the relevant legislation in force in the Republic of Cyprus.
- b) The above mentioned “universities”, operate in the occupied part of Cyprus under the purported “law” of the so-called “turkish republic of northern cyprus” (“trnc”) which according to International Law is an illegal entity. United Nations Security Council resolution 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) state clearly that the declaration of the so-called “trnc” is legally invalid. The said resolutions call for the immediate withdrawal of that declaration and call upon all states not to recognize the purported state of the “trnc” set up by secessionist acts and not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity. The international community in its totality does not recognize the illegal secessionist entity in the occupied part of Cyprus, Turkey being the sole exception.

c) In addition, the evaluation, accreditation and recognition of these “universities” as well as their “programmes of study” are provided through the “national education authority”, established by the “trnc”, i.e. the so-called “Higher Education, Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council (Yodak)”. As such, it cannot be accepted or recognized by internationally recognized educational organizations or by members of the international community in general, as the unilateral declaration of independence of the so-called “trnc” and the establishment of its “institutions” constitutes a violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and of international legality.

d) Subject to the above mentioned conditions and circumstances, the following fifteen\* “universities” are currently unlawfully operating in the northern occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus and offer “diplomas” of a questionable status:

- “Eastern Mediterranean University” (EMU) in the occupied city of Ammochostos (Famagusta)
- “Girme American University” situated in occupied Kerynia
- “Cyprus International University” situated in the occupied part of Nicosia
- “European University of Lefke” in occupied Lefka
- “Near East University” situated in occupied Kioneli
- “American University of Cyprus” situated in the occupied part of Nicosia
- “Mediterranean Karpasia University” situated in the occupied part of Nicosia
- “University of Kerynia” situated in occupied Kerynia
- “Cyprus Health and Social Sciences University” situated in occupied Morfou
- “Middle East Technical University Northern Cyprus Campus” situated in the occupied village of Kapouti in Morfou
- “Istanbul Technical University” situated in occupied Agios Andronikos Karpasias village
- “Cyprus Science University” (former “British Nicosia University”), situated in the occupied villages of Kazafani and Dikomo
- “Ataturk Pedagogical Academy” situated in the occupied part of Nicosia
- “Cyprus University of Social Sciences” situated in occupied Mia Milia
- “Final International University” situated in Kazafani/Agios Epiktitos in Kyrenia

\*The number given above is indicative.

e) To set things in order, the High Commission enlists here below all universities operating under the laws and relevant legislation in force, in the Republic of Cyprus, concerning registration, evaluation, accreditation, recognition and programs of study. The said universities, which are situated in the southern free part of the island, where the government of the Republic of Cyprus exercises effective control, operate as well as, within the European Union guidelines, concerning higher education issues, with particular attention to matters of quality assurance. These universities are:

- University of Cyprus – [www.ucy.ac.cy](http://www.ucy.ac.cy)
- Open University of Cyprus – [www.ouc.ac.cy](http://www.ouc.ac.cy)
- Cyprus University of Technology – [www.cut.ac.cy](http://www.cut.ac.cy)
- Frederick University – [www.frederick.ac.cy](http://www.frederick.ac.cy)
- European University Cyprus – [www.euc.ac.cy](http://www.euc.ac.cy)
- University of Nicosia – [www.unic.ac.cy](http://www.unic.ac.cy)
- Neapolis University Pafos – [www.nup.ac.cy](http://www.nup.ac.cy)
- University of Central Lancashire – Cyprus – [www.uclancyprus.ac.cy](http://www.uclancyprus.ac.cy)
- Philips University – [www.philips.ac.cy](http://www.philips.ac.cy)

Further information concerning High Education in Cyprus, can be found at the official site of the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth of the Republic of Cyprus – [www.highereducation.ac.cy](http://www.highereducation.ac.cy)

In light of the above the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus kindly suggests to the Esteemed Department and to the Competent Authorities in South Africa, to discourage South African citizens, to choose for their studies, any educational institutions or “universities” in the occupied northern area of Cyprus, for the reasons outline above. South African citizens are welcome to study in universities operating under the laws and legislation of the Republic of Cyprus in recognized and accredited educational institutions offering credible diplomas and titles.

The competent authorities in Cyprus are ready to cooperate and exchange information on education issues including qualifications and diplomas with the respective competent authorities in South Africa at any time.

The High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus is at the disposal of the Esteemed Department and the South African competent authorities for any further information or clarifications.

The High Commission would kindly requests the Esteemed Department to convey the above mentioned information and argumentation to the South African competent Authorities.

The High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa the assurances of its highest consideration.



Pretoria, 22 September 2020

**To the:**  
**Department of International Relations and**  
**Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa**  
**Pretoria**