



Wednesday 24 April 2019

Dear students and staff

The University Management is extremely concerned about the violent student protests that erupted on the Indumiso Campus in Pietermaritzburg yesterday, which resulted in students being injured and damage to property by striking students. DUT management strongly condemns the violent student protests.

Yesterday, the protestors attempted to disrupt University operations and tried to barricade the main entrance to the Indumiso campus in Pietermaritzburg. Campus security prevented the protestors from barricading the main gate and the student protestors then resorted to throwing rocks and stones at the security personnel. The protestors were then ushered away from the area next to the main gate and the group eventually dispersed, after security responded to the violent protest action.

During the violent student protests at the Indumiso campus yesterday, a student was injured when one protesting student was stabbed by another protesting student. The student who was stabbed received medical attention and is making a recovery. In another incident, an armed trespasser was identified during the altercation between the student protestors and the security team. The intruder, who witnesses claimed was carrying a gun, allegedly entered the institution through the broken wall that was meant to protect the campus. This was the same wall that the protestors had damaged. The University will now appoint a contractor to repair the damaged wall, so that we can once again secure the Indumiso campus.

Whilst Management understands the issues faced by students and respects their right to peaceful protest, DUT is still very concerned about the levels of violence that is displayed during these demonstrations. Protesting students are urged to refrain from vandalising property, carrying dangerous weapons and physically attacking and intimidating those who are not part of their mass action. The University will not hesitate to take firm action against those who are found to be undermining the rights of individuals who are not part of the protest or of those, or who are working towards making the institution a safe and functional environment, during these challenging times.

If anyone is spotted carrying a dangerous weapon or caught trespassing on campus, students and staff are urged to immediately inform security guards on site. The Strike Force security team is still deployed at both campuses in the Midlands, to monitor the security situation and to respond to any situation that may compromise the safety and well-being of the University community.

Yesterday, the Dean of Students issued a statement that detailed the negotiations with the SRC in the Midlands. We have made progress and we look forward to a stable, safe and secure campus environment when lectures resume on the Riverside and Indumiso campuses tomorrow, Thursday 25 April 2019.

The University wishes to apologise to all students and staff who were affected by the recent student protests in the Midlands.

Sincerely

DUT Management