

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

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17 September 2019

Dear students and staff

The University has been through a very traumatic time in the last eight days, following the attack against our student Mr Sandile Ndlovu and then, the death of another student in residence two days later. We have been engaging with the loved ones of both students and their families have kindly accepted our offers of assistance.

Members of the Management team have been meeting with the SRC since last Friday morning, 13 September 2019. This was followed by further engagements with the SRC on Monday 16 September 2019 and then earlier this morning, Tuesday 17 September 2019. The SRC tabled their concerns around the safety of students on campus and in residence. They also demanded that the University remove Excellent Security, who are the contracted, private security provider on campus. Management reminded the SRC that a procurement process was already at an advanced stage that will allow the University to announce a winning bidder in 4 to 6 weeks, by 31 October 2019. The University must follow strict tender and procurement guidelines and DUT cannot intentionally violate that process. Management urged the SRC to give the University the opportunity to complete the procurement process for the appointment of the new security services provider.

Furthermore, there has been rumors, allegations and speculation regarding the investigation into the incident involving Mr Sandile Ndlovu. Contrary to some media reports and social media claims, DUT has been co-operating with the police investigation into the incident involving Mr Ndlovu. DUT has given the police access to the CCTV footage. Regretfully, there was no camera footage of the actual attack against Mr Ndlovu. The CCTV footage, some of it showing Sandile's and others' movements before he went into the lecture venue, has not been tampered with. The University is also eager for the suspect to be apprehended. Management can confirm that the University continues to engage with the Ndlovu family and yesterday, members of the Ndlovu family were on campus to meet with colleagues from Student Services and Protection Services.

Earlier this morning, during the meeting with the SRC, Management reiterated that the procurement process for appointing the new security services provider for campus protection is close to completion. However, the SRC threatened that they will not allow lectures to resume and demanded that the University shut down, close the residences and stop services to students until Excellent Security have been removed. This demand has serious implications for the more than 34000 DUT students, our staff and our stakeholders.

With this in mind, a joint meeting of the Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Executive Committee of Senate (SENEX) considered the demands of the SRC and the impact on all students and staff of our University. The meeting also acknowledged the existence of internal and external groups with hidden agendas and vested interests, who are helping to destabilize the University.



Management was also extremely concerned following the petrol bomb attack that caused damage to the squash courts on Steve Biko campus yesterday morning. The University urges the protestors to remain peaceful, to respect the law and to value University property, which ultimately, serves the students and staff.

As a result, EMC and SENEX agreed that suspending the academic programme any longer will compromise our students, especially considering that a majority of students are busy with tests and assessments. We are also working towards the final examinations which will commence in a few weeks.

Therefore, DUT will be resuming the full academic programme on all campuses tomorrow, Wednesday, 18 September 2019.

The University has a valid court interdict and the police will enforce the orders of the High Court.

The University advises the SRC and the protesting students to act within the confines of the law and to respect the rights of students who want to study and to not intimidate the members of staff, who want to teach and keep the campuses and residences operational.

Sincerely

DUT Management team

