



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INVUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

16 February 2020

Dear students and staff

The University is aware of some false media reports, claiming that DUT has suspended classes. We confirm that classes are **not suspended** and that the academic programme is continuing as planned.

Last week, a handful of protestors tried to disrupt campus activity in Durban - but they failed in their attempt to shut down our University. Sadly, the protestors resorted to violence on Steve Biko Road and they also damaged University property, which traumatized some of our staff. The police and campus security responded to the situation and the police arrested those who had broken the law.

The University is aware that there is a group of people who are trying to destabilize our campus. They are making false claims to the media, they are spreading fake news online; they claim to be members of the SRC when they are not, they claim to be registered DUT students when they are not; and they are instigating others to carry out acts of criminality to advance their own hidden agendas.

Whilst this has been happening over the last few days, DUT Management has been in regular discussions with the SRC. We also want to remind students that the SRC is the legitimate representative of all students - and the University will not negotiate with any other student formation claiming to represent DUT students.

Our Dean of Students Dr Maditsane Nkonoane and his team from Student Services, have worked extremely hard to find solutions to the issues around the payment of allowances, provision of suitable student accommodation, late registration, historic student debt and financial aid amongst others. These numerous meetings with the SRC have been constructive and focused on finding solutions.

WE REMIND ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF TO ONLY ACCESS OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS VIA
THE DUT PINBOARD EMAIL SYSTEM (STAFF), DUT4LIFE EMAIL ACCOUNT (STUDENTS)
AND THE STAFF AND STUDENT PORTALS.

Therefore, the University is concerned that despite the progress made, despite the almost 19000 allowances already paid to students, despite the extended student registration, despite the assistance with historic student debt and despite the allocation and facilitation of permanent, temporary and private accommodation for students; there is a misinformation campaign being peddled by people, who only intend to compromise our University and to unsettle our students and staff.

We once again remind all students and staff to only rely on official University statements that are circulated on official University platforms. The University does not release official statements on What's App. We use *DUT4life* accounts for students, DUT PinBoard email system for staff and the DUT website for public announcements.

Sincerely

DUT Management



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