

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

17 December 2020

NON-COMPLIANCE OF COVID-19 REGULATIONS AND PROTOCOLS

This morning the University COVID-19 Response Task Team, Student Representative Council (SRC) and University Management held a joint meeting to address the rising concerns over the University community's safety during the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting follows reports that were brought forward to the DUT Management, COVID-19 Response Task Team and SRC's attention on Tuesday, 14 December 2020, that there are some members of the DUT community that are allegedly not adhering to the set strict COVID-19 guidelines and protocols set by the University and the National Department of Health.

At today's urgent meeting, all stakeholders present, agreed that the majority of assessments should continue to be conducted online. However, we noted that assessments that required laboratory practical and other requirements for contact sessions, strict measures would be in place. Prior to any assessment taking place at any of the University venues, the venue must be checked thoroughly to ensure that no member of the DUT community entering that venue is compromised in any way. It was also agreed that numbers at examination venues will be reduced to a maximum of 100, in keeping with the legislation and size of the venues in general. Furthermore, should anyone be found not adhering to any of the COVID-19 regulations and protocols, a stringent fine will be imposed on them by Protection Services. The University will also have more security visible to monitor the situation and to assist in holding those who refuse to follow these guidelines and protocols, accountable.

It is disturbing that COVID-19 prevention measures such as the mandatory wearing of masks, social distancing and sanitising which have been legislated and are failing to comply are criminal offences... are still not being adhered to by some members of the DUT community. Therefore, we urge everyone entering DUT campuses to wear their mask, wash and sanitise their hands at all times, observe social distancing at any space they occupy, or the University will be forced to implement harsh punishment towards anyone found to be endangering the lives of others.

It is to be noted that at this meeting all concerns brought forward by the SRC were noted and the Student body supported the approach taken by the DUT Management and the COVID-19 Response Task Team to address these concerns and risk mitigation plans to protect both Staff and Students from COVID-19.

This dedicated COVID-19 Response Task Team was established by DUT Management in March 2020, to specifically address all concerns raised by members of the entire DUT community. The COVID-19 Response Task Team has developed, implemented and monitored compliance with the Risk Mitigation measures to protect our Staff and Students from the COVID-19 infection.

Sincerely

DUT Management, COVID-19 Response Task Team and The Student Representative Council (SRC)