

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

19 October 2021

Dear staff and students

CLOSURE OF THE DUT INDUMISO CAMPUS IN THE MIDLANDS

Following extremely violent clashes on the Indumiso campus in Pietermaritzburg this morning, we have decided to close the campus with immediate effect. This will be until further notice. All staff and students should vacate the Indumiso campus in a safe and orderly manner.

Teaching and learning on the Indumiso campus, as is the case for all DUT campuses, will still continue online.

The violent clashes and damage to property was centred around the upcoming SRC elections. The University is extremely disappointed that some of the students resorted to such violent and criminal behaviour. If this closure of the Indumiso campus does not allow the violence to abate, then we will have no option but to implement stricter controls, including the closure of the residences on the Indumiso campus. We will continue to closely monitor the situation before implementing any further steps to protect the lives of our staff and students and to secure university property.

The investigation into the violence has already commenced and the South African Police Service, together with DUT Protection Services, have started gathering the evidence and will be taking appropriate action against those who broke the law and/or violated university rules/policies.

The remaining six campuses are unaffected by this decision.

Finally, the SRC elections, which will be taking place online, will continue as planned. We strongly advise the relevant student organisations participating in the SRC elections to campaign and behave in a peaceful and responsible manner.

Sincerely

DUT Management team