

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

24 March 2022

Dear staff and students

### TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FOUR DURBAN CAMPUSES

Earlier this afternoon, a group of protestors forced their way onto the Steve Biko Campus in Durban, violating the COVID-19 protocols, turning violent, damaging property and traumatizing staff, in a well-orchestrated attack. Despite our appeals to the South African Police Service for assistance, we were unable to prevent the attacks, even though law enforcement was tipped-off yesterday about the planned protest action.

The violence, trauma and destruction also occurred on the ML Sultan Campus and City Campus this afternoon. We received several reports of substantial damage to property and emotional trauma to staff. We urge staff to please consult with the Employee Wellness office ([ewp@dut.ac.za](mailto:ewp@dut.ac.za)) at Human Capital Services, if they require professional support and assistance following the traumatic attacks today.

Due to the violent protest, the Steve Biko Campus, Ritson Campus, ML Sultan Campus and City Campus will be temporarily closed, with immediate effect, until further notice. Staff based on these campuses will be working remotely. Only essential services staff will remain on campus.

Please note that the academic programme will continue online, so lectures are not suspended. We will closely monitor the situation and we will not hesitate to evacuate the residences should we deem it necessary, based on the potential risks on our students, staff and university property.

We remind you that official DUT announcements will be shared with you via DUT PinBoard (staff email system), DUT4life (student email accounts) and published on the DUT website [www.dut.ac.za](http://www.dut.ac.za). We will notify you once the Steve Biko Campus, Ritson Campus, ML Sultan Campus and City Campus reopens.

Sincerely

DUT Management Team