

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

19 March 2024

Dear staff and students

UPDATE ON ILLEGAL PROTESTS IN THE MIDLANDS

We want to address the unlawful student protest activity that is taking place on the Indumiso campus in the Midlands. This illegal protest followed the circulation of an anonymous memorandum, purportedly representing various "Societies and Clubs" in the Midlands.

Collaborating with Protection Services, the DUT Midlands team took precautionary measures yesterday, anticipating potential disruption to university operations from this "anonymous" group. Although the police were present on campus in response to perceived threats, they withdrew when the protesters failed to congregate. Regrettably, subsequent to the police's departure from the Indumiso campus, the protestors initiated their disruptive actions, intimidating staff and students and disrupting classes.

Last night, we received a media statement issued by the protesting group, indicating their intent to persist with their disruptions. Police were once again in attendance however, the protestors managed to activate whilst on campus and disrupted classes and compromised the safety of staff and students. The university will not tolerate the threats, disruption and intimidation. The suspects, who are being identified, will face the consequences of their criminal behaviour, threats and illegal protest action.

Despite the best efforts of the protestors, the Midlands Centre remains open. Whilst we apologise for the disruption and inconvenience caused, we remain resolute against those seeking to compromise the education of our students and the safety and security of the university community.

Yesterday, the Student Representative Council (SRC) issued a statement, which was shared with you, affirming their non-support and non-sanction of these illegal protests. It is important to emphasise that the SRC is the sole recognised and legitimate representative of students at DUT.

Finally, we urge you to only rely on official statements from DUT that are released on DUT Pinboard (Staff email system) and DUT4life (student email accounts). The protestors are spreading false information designed to intimidate you and they often use social media platforms to propagate their fake news and threats.

If you have any questions regarding the operations in the Midlands, please engage with the relevant Head of Department or Manager, or alternatively, direct your queries to communications@dut.ac.za - who will relay such to the appropriate authority.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we deal with the illegal protest action.

Sincerely,

DUT Midlands team



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