

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

02 May 2024

Dear Students and Staff

Important Update on Midlands Campus Operations

We write to provide you with an update regarding recent events on the Indumiso campus in Pietermaritzburg.

Regrettably, unlawful and violent protests have unfolded at the campus, resulting in damage to university property. These actions, driven by a group of recalcitrant protestors, have unfortunately also disrupted teaching and learning activities in the Midlands, and have instilled fear among both staff and students due to the extent of the violence and intimidation unleashed by these faceless individuals.

The grievances expressed by the protesting group primarily concern issues related to student residences. While the university acknowledges that there are genuine grievances that have been raised in this regard, we cannot however, accept the decision by anyone to resort to violence, arson and intimidation in pursuing such grievance. We certainly cannot condone the destruction of university property or the endangerment of lives under any circumstances. Our Campus Protection unit has accordingly initiated measures to identify for sanction those responsible for the violence and arson, and to prevent further harm and disruption.

We implore the protesting students to engage constructively within the established processes of the university. Appropriate measures have in fact already been implemented to support some of the affected residence students, with the ongoing efforts being acknowledged by the SRC.

Transition to Temporary, Online Teaching & Learning in the Midlands

In light of the recent developments and prioritising the safety of our students and staff, university management has decided to temporarily move the teaching and learning activities in the Midlands to an online format.

Until further notice, teaching and learning is moved to online at the Indumiso and Riverside campuses **ONLY**. Regarding scheduled tests and assessments, affected students in the Midlands will receive further guidance from their respective Executive Deans on the way forward.



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In turn, the affected students will be assisted with the provision of mobile data by ICTS for the duration of the online teaching and learning mode. The ICTS unit will communicate appropriately to give students relevant details on the implementation of the mobile data support programme.

Status of the operations at the Indumiso and Riverside campuses

Please note that while the teaching and learning activities temporarily move online in the Midlands, both the Indumiso campus and the Riverside campus will remain operational. Midlands-based staff will be present at their designated workstations. Access to the Midlands campuses will be closely monitored and managed by the Campus Protection Officers.

Finally, we urge all students and staff to rely on official university communication channels, including the DUT PinBoard (staff email system), DUT4life (student email accounts) and the DUT website (www.dut.ac.za).

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during these challenging times and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Sincerely,

DUT Management Team



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