

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

20 August 2025

Dear students and staff

It has been a sad and traumatic time for the Durban University of Technology following the tragic passing of one of our students on the Steve Biko campus yesterday, Tuesday, 19 August 2025.

Mr Sphiwokuhle Madela, a third-year student enrolled in the BHSc Diagnostic Radiography programme in the Faculty of Health Sciences, tragically lost his life during the incident in the S-Block building. He was a dedicated and hardworking student, performing well in his studies.

Mr Madela was fully funded by NSFAS, which was reflected in the last payment file dated 04 August 2025 and was coded as a returning student for both tuition and residence in 2025.

Importantly, he was not part of the NSFAS exceptions file, commonly referred to as 'defunded students.'

We wish to emphasise that this tragedy was not related to funding or academic matters but rather to personal distress.

On behalf of the DUT community, we extend our sincere condolences to Mr Madela's family, friends, classmates and the Faculty of Health Sciences during this extremely difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who knew and loved him. May Mr Sphiwokuhle Madela's soul rest in peace.

We are also aware of images and videos of this tragedy being shared on social media. We urge all members of our community to please be respectful and considerate and to refrain from circulating such content further, out of compassion for the family and friends who are dealing with this tremendous loss.

Student Services is currently providing counselling support to affected students and we encourage anyone who may need assistance to reach out for help:

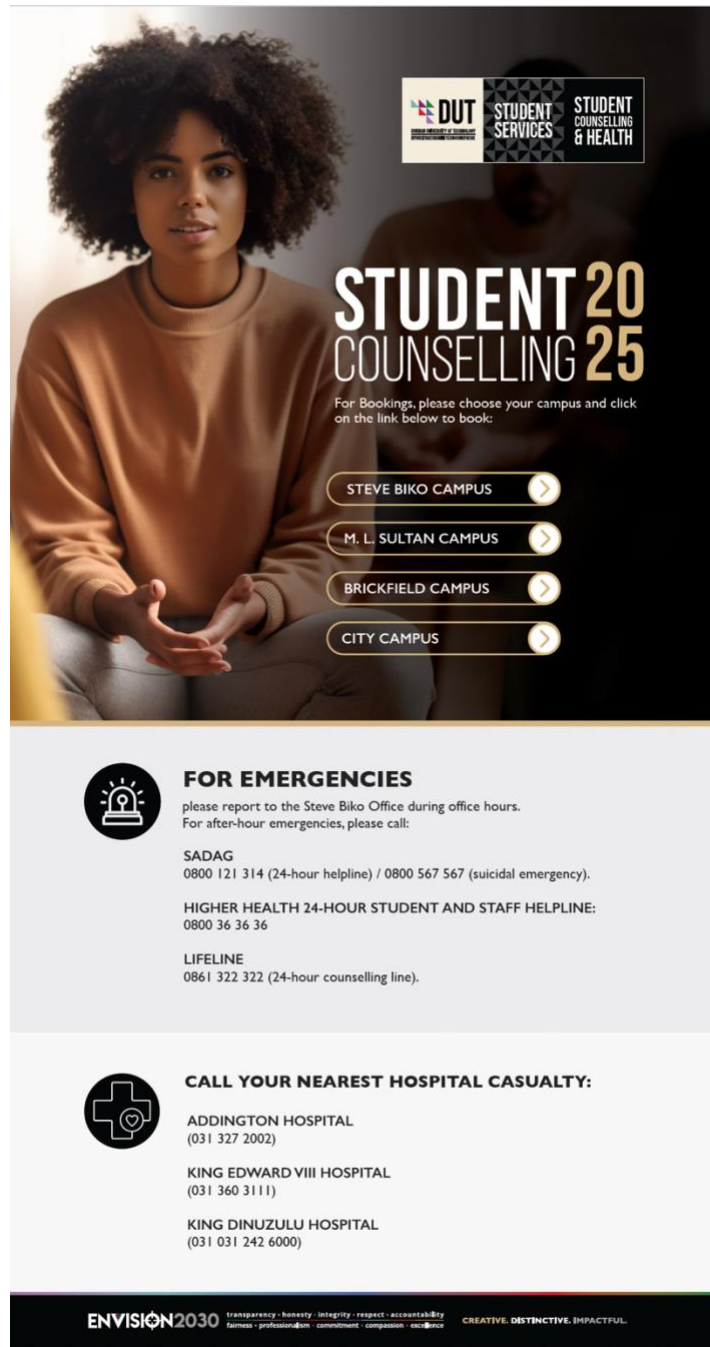
- For Durban, please email: counsbookingdbn@dut.ac.za or call 031 373 2266.
- For Midlands, please email: counsbookingpmb@dut.ac.za or call 033 845 8900

Staff members may also access support through Employee Wellness at ewp@lifehealthcare.co.za or call 0800 004 770.

We once again urge students and staff who require counselling support to please contact either Student Counselling or Employee Wellness.

Sincerely

DUT Management team



The poster features a woman with curly hair in a brown sweater. In the top right corner, there are logos for DUT, Student Services, and Student Counselling & Health. The main title 'STUDENT 20 COUNSELLING 25' is prominently displayed. Below the title, a line of text reads: 'For Bookings, please choose your campus and click on the link below to book:'. There are four buttons with right-pointing arrows: 'STEVE BIKO CAMPUS', 'M. L. SULTAN CAMPUS', 'BRICKFIELD CAMPUS', and 'CITY CAMPUS'. The bottom section is divided into two parts. The first part, 'FOR EMERGENCIES', includes a lightbulb icon and text about reporting to the Steve Biko Office during office hours and calling SADAG (0800 121 314 / 0800 567 567) or the Higher Health 24-hour helpline (0800 36 36 36) for after-hour emergencies. The second part, 'CALL YOUR NEAREST HOSPITAL CASUALTY:', includes a cross icon and lists Addington Hospital (031 327 2002), King Edward VIII Hospital (031 360 3111), and King Dinuzulu Hospital (031 031 242 6000). At the very bottom, the 'ENVISION2030' logo is followed by a list of values: transparency, honesty, integrity, respect, accountability, fairness, professionalism, commitment, compassion, excellence. To the right of this list is the phrase 'CREATIVE. DISTINCTIVE. IMPACTFUL.'

STUDENT 20 COUNSELLING 25

For Bookings, please choose your campus and click on the link below to book:

- STEVE BIKO CAMPUS
- M. L. SULTAN CAMPUS
- BRICKFIELD CAMPUS
- CITY CAMPUS

FOR EMERGENCIES

please report to the Steve Biko Office during office hours.
For after-hour emergencies, please call:

SADAG
0800 121 314 (24-hour helpline) / 0800 567 567 (suicidal emergency).

HIGHER HEALTH 24-HOUR STUDENT AND STAFF HELPLINE:
0800 36 36 36

LIFELINE
0861 322 322 (24-hour counselling line).

CALL YOUR NEAREST HOSPITAL CASUALTY:

ADDINGTON HOSPITAL
(031 327 2002)

KING EDWARD VIII HOSPITAL
(031 360 3111)

KING DINUZULU HOSPITAL
(031 031 242 6000)

ENVISION2030 transparency • honesty • integrity • respect • accountability
fairness • professionalism • commitment • compassion • excellence **CREATIVE. DISTINCTIVE. IMPACTFUL.**