

DUT Hosts Successful Clubs and Societies Team Building Program at Port Edward (TO Strand)

9 March 2026-**STORY** Bongeka Shandu. **PHOTOS-** Lungelo Sithole

The Durban University of Technology (DUT), through the Department of Student Governance and Development hosted a three-day Clubs and Societies Team Building Program at TO Strand, Port Edward, from 6 to 8 March. The program brought together student leaders, members of the student Representative Council (SRC), and club and society representatives with the aim of strengthening leadership, collaboration, and alignment with DUT's strategic vision.



Student leaders, SRC members, and club and society representatives during the DUT Clubs and societies Team Building Programme held at TO Strand, Port Edward.

Day I: Building Strong Foundations for Student Leadership

The program officially opened with a welcome by Program Director Snethemba, who introduced the objectives of the gathering and emphasized the importance of unity among

student leaders.



SRC President Sihle Nkosi addressing student leaders during the opening session of the Club and Societies Team Building Programme.

The first session featured SRC President Sihle, who introduced the SRC members and highlighted the critical role of student leadership structures within the university.

In his address, Sihle emphasised the importance of student parliaments and encouraged students to “grow and learn” through participation in clubs and societies. He noted that many important matters had been raised by students across campuses and assured attendees that the SRC is committed to ensuring that these issues are addressed. He further encouraged leaders to work together, put differences aside, and focus on serving the student community effectively.

The SRC representative responsible for accommodation and organisation also addressed delegates, outlining the purpose of the team-building session. He emphasised that the event was not only about bringing leaders together but also about strengthening relationships among student leaders. She reminded delegates that they are community leaders and highlighted the importance of collaboration and effective communication. She also noted that the programme would assist in unpacking DUT’s Envision 2030 strategy and how student leaders can contribute to its success.



Student leaders participate in group discussions on “Living the DUT Values” during a session facilitated by Dr Masuku.

Dr Masuku delivered a presentation on DUT’s institutional values, encouraging students to understand and embody the values that guide the university. Student Development Officers also facilitated discussions on “Living the DUT Values”. Dr Masuku emphasised that every institution has values associated with it, and that individuals thrive when their personal values align with those of the institution. The session focused on the theme “Thriving, Growth, Flourish and Succeed.” Students were divided into groups and tasked with discussing specific DUT values, after which they presented their reflections and insights.

Day 2: Aligning Student Leadership with Institutional Strategy

The second day of the programme was facilitated by Programme Director Thenjiwe Mpaza. The day focused on unpacking the university’s institutional strategy and outlining the roles and responsibilities of the SRC within this framework.



Student leaders engaging in discussions on the SRC Plan of Execution and institutional strategy during the second day of the programme.

Delegates engaged in discussions around the Plan of Execution (POE) for the SRC, focusing on how student leadership structures can effectively implement initiatives that benefit the student body. The concept of the SRC Festival was also introduced as a potential platform to celebrate student engagement and showcase the work of clubs and societies.

The sessions further explored the DUT Philosophy of Education, providing student leaders with a deeper understanding of the university's academic and developmental approach. The discussions encouraged participants to reflect on how clubs and societies can contribute to a holistic student experience.

Day 3: Strengthening Governance and Strategic Planning



Mr. Masiza Ngculu presents the role and the importance of student parliament.

The final day began with a breakfast session for all delegates, followed by a presentation by Mr. Masiza Ngculu on the importance and role of the Student Parliament. His presentation highlighted the significance of student governance structures and the role they play in ensuring student voices are heard within institutional decision-making processes.



Dr Mzwandile Khumalo facilitating a Design Thinking Session aimed at helping Clubs and Societies develop strategic Plan of Action.

Dr Mzwandile Khumalo then facilitated a session on Designing Thinking for Clubs and Societies, focusing on developing Plans of Action (POA) that align with DUT's strategic perspectives. Delegates participated in group discussions aimed at re-aligning club and society activities with the university's strategic priorities.

Mr Siyabonga Dlamini later presented financial procedures, providing important guidance on financial management, accountability, and compliance within clubs and societies.

The programme concluded with a session where delegates evaluated the programme and reflected on the knowledge and leadership skills gained during the three days. The event ended with the distribution of packed lunches before delegates departed.



Student leaders reflect on the three-day programme aimed at strengthening leadership, collaboration, and strategic alignment within DUT clubs and Societies.

A Step Forward for Student Leadership

The three-day programme provided a valuable platform for student leaders to engage, learn, and collaborate. Through discussions on leadership, values, governance, and strategy, participants gained a deeper understanding of their roles as student leaders and how they can contribute to the growth and development of the DUT community.

The initiative reinforced DUT's commitment to empowering student leaders and ensuring that clubs and societies continue to play a vital role in shaping a vibrant and inclusive student experience.