

Building Stronger Leaders: SRC Team Building at Jozini Tiger Lodge

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Student Representative Council (SRC) recently participated in a comprehensive team-building programme held at Jozini Tiger Lodge. The initiative was designed to strengthen leadership capacity, promote unity, and equip student leaders with the necessary skills to effectively serve the student body.

The programme commenced with opening remarks from the Dean of Students, Dr Moreku, who emphasised the importance of adaptive leadership in a constantly changing environment. He noted:

“The methodologies that were used before can no longer be used now because time changes and keeps on changing. Therefore, what we need to do, especially as student leaders, is to adapt. At times, you can become so brilliant and strategic, yet you still fail in whatever you have planned to do. Therefore, you need to change the way you do things. In terms of leadership, timing is very important because leadership is about doing the right thing at the right time. It is not only about what we do, but where we do it. As leaders, we must also have the courage to act.”



Dr Moreku delivering opening remarks to SRC members at Jozini Tiger Lodge.

In a message of support, Ms Mjadu encouraged SRC members to remain resilient and grounded throughout their leadership journey. She highlighted the importance of emotional strength and self-awareness, reminding members that challenges are an integral part of growth. She stated:

“It is not important to take things personally. Every stone that is thrown on your way will have a massive impact. When you feel undermined, be honest with yourself. We do not want you to perish at this part of your journey.”



Ms Mjadu sharing words of encouragement and support with SRC members.

The programme also featured a presentation by Ms Thokozani Sibiya on leadership strategies for long-term engagement. She introduced the 4Ps framework—perception, process, people, and projector—as key elements for effective leadership. Her session emphasised the importance of strategic thinking, strong interpersonal relationships, and clear communication in achieving sustainable impact.



Ms Thokozani Sibiya presenting on leadership strategies and the 4Ps framework.

On the second day, Dr Masuku delivered a presentation titled “Aligned for Impact: When a Team Moves as One.” He underscored the significance of alignment in leadership, highlighting the role of clear communication, shared vision, and common goals in driving collective success. He further noted that impactful leadership involves mobilising networks and fostering collaboration, rather than simply managing teams, and emphasised the value of collective decision-making.



Dr Masuku presenting on alignment and collective impact in leadership.

Prof Ngidi also contributed to the programme with a session on resilience and well-being in leadership. He addressed the demands placed on SRC members, particularly in representing student concerns and managing complex issues. He encouraged leaders to maintain a balance between their responsibilities and personal well-being, stressing that effective leadership requires emotional health, mental clarity, and physical energy.



Prof Ngidi presenting on resilience and well-being in leadership.

In addition to the formal sessions, SRC members participated in a boat cruise, which provided an opportunity for relaxation and team bonding. The activity fostered stronger interpersonal connections and reinforced a sense of unity among members.



SRC members with Dean of Students enjoying a team-building boat cruise at Jozini Tiger Lodge.

The team-building programme proved to be a valuable experience, equipping SRC members with practical leadership tools while strengthening their commitment to serving the student community with resilience, purpose, and cohesion.

STORY – Bongeka Shandu. **PHOTOS**- Simphiwe Mahlaba