



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

29 October 2026

DUT MOURNS THE TRAGIC PASSING OF HONORARY DOCTORATE RECIPIENT DR DESMOND D'SA

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) is deeply saddened by the tragic passing of renowned environmental and social justice activist, Dr Desmond D'Sa, who tragically lost his life in a motor vehicle accident alongside his son and another family member, earlier this morning.

On 2 September 2015, DUT proudly conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Health Sciences on Desmond D'Sa during its graduation ceremony on the Steve Biko Campus, in recognition of his outstanding contribution as a leading advocate for social and environmental justice.

A recipient of the prestigious 2014 Goldman Environmental Prize, Dr D'Sa dedicated his life to championing the rights of vulnerable communities, particularly those affected by industrial pollution in South Durban. His courage, resilience and unwavering commitment to justice earned him widespread respect and recognition.

Accepting his honorary doctorate in 2015, Dr D'Sa encouraged DUT graduates to persevere in the face of adversity and to stand up for their rights and beliefs. His message of determination and service to others remains an enduring part of his legacy.

On behalf of the entire DUT community, we extend our sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Dr Desmond D'Sa. We also mourn the tragic loss of his son and another family member and convey our heartfelt sympathies to all their loved ones.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families during this incredibly difficult time.

May their souls rest in peace...

Issued by:

Durban University of Technology