



7 February 2019

This has been a very sad and traumatic week for the DUT community. The death of Mr Mlungisi Madonsela has traumatized us as we are saddened by the loss of a young life.

We are also concerned about our staff members who were injured in the protest action on Tuesday afternoon. Two staff members and a few of students suffered serious injuries after being attacked during the protest action. A spouse of one of our colleagues was also attacked whilst he was trying to assist the injured on Tuesday afternoon. He had to receive medical treatment in hospital. We pray for their safe and speedy recovery.

DUT will offer counselling services to all students and staff who require assistance following the tragic events this week. Once we reopen, students can visit Student Health and staff can liaise with Human Resources EAP office.

The University Management has been meeting daily since the commencement of the unrest on Monday, in order to deal with the resultant challenges facing the university. As a result of the meeting on Wednesday, DUT colleagues were asked to visit the Madonsela family earlier this morning to pay our respects, to convey our deepest condolences and to offer our support during this difficult time. The family were grateful for the visit from DUT and welcomed us into their home. Whilst the family are understandably distraught, they managed to inform us that they are hoping to have the funeral service for Mr Mlungisi Madonsela during the course of next week. They promised to inform us of the specific date once it has been confirmed. We will then advise you once we receive the funeral details.

DUT has offered to assist the family with the funeral service and they have accepted our offer. We will also plan a memorial service for Mr Madonsela on campus but we will need to engage with the family to seek their advice and approval and we will also consult with the SRC.

As you know, the South African Police Services are investigating the tragic events that unfolded on Tuesday afternoon. It has been reported in the media that two security officers from a private security firm contracted to DUT were taken in for questioning by the police.

We understand that the investigation by the police is ongoing. We can confirm that the two guards have been suspended by the security company, pending the outcome of the company's investigation. The university is also conducting its own investigation.

The meeting between the SRC and Management was planned for Thursday, 07 February 2019 however, this was postponed, to allow the student leadership to attend the court case with their peers. A DUT Management delegation will be meeting with a team from NSFAS this evening to address issues raised by the student leadership. Management is then planning to meet with the SRC on Friday, 08 February 2019 to consult with them following the NSFAS engagement and to canvass their opinion about the proposed memorial service for Mr Madonsela.

We are also aware that a number of students still need to complete their 2019 registration. We urge all unregistered students to register online through the DUT website at https://www.dut.ac.za/student_portal/student_registration.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Thandwa Mthembu, along with the Corporate Affairs team are engaging with media stakeholders. Professor Mthembu will be interviewed by Ukhozi FM's Ezisematheni team on Friday at 13H00. The Vice-Chancellor will also be interviewed by Carte Blanche and on SABC Newsbreak on Sunday, 10 February 2019 at 13H00.

Once again we sincerely apologise for the disruption and inconvenience that have been caused to the University's operations. We wish our colleagues a speedy recovery. We also wish the husband of our colleague well. We wish to reiterate the need to offer the Madonsela family and friends of Mlungisi, a chance to peacefully grieve. The university remains closed. We are committed to a peaceful reopening of the university and we shall inform all stakeholders of developments in this regard.

Sincerely,

DUT Management