

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

14 July 2021

Dear colleagues and students

Our province and our country is experiencing immense turmoil, chaos and uncertainty following the riots, looting and criminal behaviour that we have sadly witnessed in our communities and cities over the last few days. The situation has been exacerbated by the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic which is currently claiming hundreds of lives daily.

On Sunday evening, President Ramaphosa extended Lockdown Level 4 in the national “State of Disaster” for another 14 days, with restrictions remaining in place until 25 July 2021. Therefore, we remind you to please consistently abide by the gazetted regulations and protocols - and help prevent the further spread of the disease. We also ask our colleagues and students who may be part of community patrols and neighbourhood watch structures to please be careful whilst you are helping to serve and protect our communities. The University is extremely grateful to our colleagues and students who are playing a positive role during these challenging times. Thank you for living the values and principles of ENVISION2030.

On 02 July 2021, we issued a statement to you advising: *“Since October 2020, DUT has allowed face-to-face engagements with students only in special cases involving practical and laboratory sessions. In line with the national legislation related to Lockdown Level 4, we are currently prohibited from hosting face-to-face engagements on our campuses, including lectures, assessments, practicals and laboratory sessions.”* We also confirmed that: *“Online teaching and learning will continue. Online assessments will also continue, as previously scheduled by academic departments. We remind all staff to only conduct online teaching and learning and other online engagements with students, during Lockdown Level 4.”* You can access the full statement via this link: <https://www.dut.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/EMC-Senex-statement-02-July-2021.pdf>.

We will notify you about further developments once the lockdown regulations have been revised. In the interim, we urge all students and staff to use your face mask, wash your hands regularly with water and soap, practice social and physical distancing, to act responsibly and to avoid the crowds, rioters and looters. Please remain alert and stay safe.

Sincerely

DUT Management team