



# higher education & training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## UPDATES ON UNIVERSITY STABILITY

Update – 9-20 May 2016 (Sources: Universities)	
Institution	Situation Report
University of Fort Hare	<p>The SRC led a peaceful protest action on Tuesday 17 May 2016, and presented a memorandum of demands to the Management. Students were unhappy with the way management has dealt with their grievances which relate to student debt and financing.</p> <p>On Wednesday (18 May 2016) night, protesting students burnt tyres on the streets and the main gate of Alice Campus, set the tent in which the centenary celebrations were supposed to take place alight, looted and vandalized some buildings. The SRC has distanced itself from the violence. On Thursday 19 May 2016, about 15 students were allegedly arrested in connection with the violence and malicious destruction at the campus, and were denied bail when they appeared in Court. The ages range from 19 to 35 and there are four females in the group. There is improved Police presence at the institution to safeguard the Centenary Celebrations happening on Campus.</p> <p>The Department of Higher Education (DHET) and SAPS are working in partnership in advising the university on strategies to maintain the stability at the University. On Thursday, the DHET and SAPS had meetings with both management and students. The university has been handed over to government since Thursday (19 May 2016) until Sunday 22 May, and that means the security at the University is under the control of the state agents but working with campus security.</p>
University of Johannesburg	<p>During the early hours (about 2 am) of Monday 16 May, the 1000—seater main auditorium on the Auckland Park Kingsway Campus was fire bombed. Also destroyed were computer laboratories, including equipment used to conduct career assessment and guidance for students and prospective students, bringing the estimated damage to R100 million. Nobody was injured. The blaze was eventually brought under control by Johannesburg Metro emergency services, but the building has effectively been gutted. Midyear exams, scheduled to take place in the computer laboratories, and a number of graduation ceremonies due to take place in the auditorium, have been directly affected by the arson attack.</p> <p>The University has obtained an interdict to stop any form of grouping at UJ's residences, libraries, lecture venues, laboratories and any buildings operated, owned or managed by the university including off-campus accommodation.</p>
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	<p>On Monday, 16 May 2016, an interdict was issued against a small group of community members who blockaded the entrances of Missionvale campus in the previous week. The group stoned the university's shuttle buses and burned tyres. It was the second time the "Community Steering Group from Wards 31 &amp; 33" had led protest action outside the campus.</p>

Rhodes University	<p>A fire was started early Thursday, 12 May morning on the floor at the south entrance to the council chamber in the main administration building, shortly after the building was unlocked for the day by a member of the Campus Protection Unit. The smell of the fire was quickly picked up by a CPU guard, and his security peers were able to extinguish it before significant damage was done. Investigations by the South African Police Service (including the Police Forensic Unit) and the Fire Department are underway to establish facts.</p> <p>On Friday 20 May 2016, the Student Parliament will be hosting an extra ordinary mass meeting at 19:00 for all current students to consider a vote of no confidence motion launched on all SRC members. Present in the meeting will be the Independent Electoral Body to ensure transparency if a need for a vote occurs.</p>
Vaal University of Technology	<p>Management suspended the academic programme with immediate effect on Thursday, 12 May following violent student protests at Vanderbijlpark Campus on 03, 10 and 11 May, 2016. This resulted in malicious damage to, and the burning of University property. Violence on the Main Campus peaked on the night of Tuesday, 11 May 2016, placing non-protesting students and staff at great risk.</p> <p>Notwithstanding Management's attempts to engage with the SRC and other student leaders involved, the protest persisted and escalated to violence. It is alleged that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the SRC SG tore Management's written response to the protesters without giving students the opportunity to consider the contents thereof;</li> <li>2) Students demand for the appointment of certain service providers without due regard to University procurement processes;</li> <li>3) Students demand the University to withdraw criminal charges and lift the suspension of students facing serious allegations of damage to University property, grievous bodily harm to fellow students and security personnel, and the burning of University property.</li> </ol> <p>The University will remain closed until further notice.</p>
University of Cape Town	<p>Five #RhodesMustFall (RMF) members involved in violent protests at UCT's Rondebosch campus earlier this year are banned from setting foot on any of the university's property due to a scathing judgement handed down in the Western Cape High Court on Wednesday, 11 May 2016.</p>
University of Free State	<p>The University closed the Qwaqwa campus after disruptions and violent protests from 12 -18 May 2016. Students and staff were instructed to leave the campus with immediate effect. Students were also requested to take all their personal belongings and study material for the examinations when they leave the campus. No students were allowed on the campus during this period.</p> <p>The SRC had handed over a memorandum of demands to university management on Tuesday 10 May 2016. Students were unhappy with the slow pace in which management was dealing with their issues and embarked on a protest action. The students were demanding that vacant posts be filled; all classes and hostels transform, and free Wi-Fi on campus, among other things.</p> <p>The SRC met with the institution's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jonathan Jansen, in Bloemfontein on 17 May 2016. According to the SRC the meeting was a success and they had agreed that the university will re-open on Wednesday 18 May 2016 but there will be no academic activities on campus that week, to allow students time to return and get settled in. Exam timetable has also been rescheduled.</p>