



27 April 2020

Dear colleagues, students and stakeholders

Freedom Day 2020 will go down in history as another memorable first for South Africa. Today, 26 years ago, we cast our votes in the first democratic elections in the country.

Ironically, for the first time we celebrate the day that symbolises freedom and solidarity in solitude in our own spaces. However, during the past five weeks, we have again demonstrated what a nation can achieve with courage, determination and solidarity. It has taken an unforeseen pandemic to slow us down and, although we might be anxious, it has compelled us to think of our future in new ways and to take up our collective fight against this unseen enemy with the same courage and determination that we started our journey in 1994.

Enjoy Freedom Day, while remembering the significance of this day for our country and Rainbow Nation.

Our student leaders' and our students' opinions and inputs are vital for the planning of emergency remote learning. Therefore, the deadline for participation in the TUT Student Online Access Survey has been extended to **1 May 2020**. To date 33 075 students have responded. We would like every student who has not yet participated in the survey to please use this opportunity to make your voice heard on [bit.ly/2JF4Z6u](https://bit.ly/2JF4Z6u).

On Friday, I indicated in my communicate that the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, was expected to hold a joint press conference with the Department of Basic Education today to make a public announcement on the Department's measures and interventions. However, we've been informed that the media briefing is postponed for later in the week to allow for alignment with other interventions that are to be taken by the National Command Council (NCC) this week.

We will keep you informed of the new details of the media briefing.

Please keep safe and healthy until we talk again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. van Staden'.

**PROF LOURENS VAN STADEN**  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL**