



24 April 2020

Dear colleagues, students and stakeholders

Last night, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a phased, risk-adjusted strategy to start easing the lockdown restrictions from level 5 to 4, which will allow some sectors of the economy to gradually resume work from 1 May 2020.

In the previous communique, I indicated that the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande's 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. This media briefing will now take place on **Monday, 27 April 2020 at 11:00**.

We will consult key stakeholders, including staff and student representatives, on the plans and the way forward for TUT following Minister Nzimande announcement.

In his address, President Ramaphosa again emphasised the importance of following public health guidelines to prevent transmission of the coronavirus. These include the regular washing or sanitising of hands, social distancing, avoiding touching your face and covering your nose and mouth with a flexed elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. He also called on all South Africans to wear a facemask when leaving their homes.

Given the continued risk of the spread of the coronavirus and in line with the OHS Act, Management will be consulting Labour in the coming week, through the Bargaining Forum, on measures that the University will put in place to ensure the safety of staff as the lockdown measures are eased.

The student online access survey, which ends today, has provided useful, much needed data to assist with the implementation of emergency remote learning.

Although universities are working tirelessly on preparing for the implementation of emergency remote learning, we have agreed that no student will be left behind in the 2020 academic year. Therefore, I would like to call on students who have not yet participated in the survey to complete the questionnaire on bit.ly/2JF4Z6u and have your voice in your academic future heard.

As the South African Islamic community enters into the holy month of Ramadan, I would like to wish all Muslims well over the fasting period, which will be observed under unusual circumstances where the global community is battling with the deadly coronavirus.

Until we talk again, please remember we are all in this together. Let's stay safe, healthy and take care of each other.

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

PROF LOURENS VAN STADEN
VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL