

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALLMEDIA
DATE: 06 APRIL 2009
ATTENTION: NEWS EDITORS/ REPORTERS AND WIRE

UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND CONVOCAATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONDEMNS THE POLITICAL VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS

The University of Zululand Convocation Executive Committee has noted the recent spate of political violence that took place from 26-27 March 2009 and wants to express itself that the campus residences has been reduced into no go areas and there is no freedom of political association.

We (University of Zululand Convocation Executive Committee) regret and condemn the conduct of students' formation SADESMO in stopping the President of the ANCYL from addressing students on campus and the physical obstruction and damage to his car. We also commend the University Protective Services and SAPS in trying to manage the situation. The alleged perpetrators have been swiftly arrested and the law has been allowed to take its course.

The weekend of the 26-27 March 2009 brings back ugly memories of the past. We are not proud of that history where students were maimed and killed. Students had to run for their dear lives and had to jump through high floors of their residence for their safety. As a result serious bodily damage and injuries were incurred and some students are still in hospital.

We are dismayed by the lack of leadership by the University management. On the first day after that weekend management could not bring the warring factions together to resolve the matter. There was notable conspicuous absence of management during the hour of need. As a result, the injured students were not visited by management at hospitals. Executive committee of council of the university had not issued a statement condemning the violence.

We commend the MEC for Community Safety and Liaison, Bheki Cele for his swift leadership and response in maintaining law and order. We note the role of SAPS in bringing calm and stability in a tense environment on campus. We support the work of the provincial government and provincial task team set up by MEC Bheki Cele.

We commend all student formations and organizations who signed a Peace Declaration on 30 March 2009 at Bhhekuzulu Hall on campus of University of Zululand. We make a call to University Council to act decisively against failure of leadership on campus to deal with events on continued deployment of law enforcement agencies to stabilize the situation, all witnesses to report all perpetrators to the police, a speedy arrest of those involved to be brought to book, reinstating all withdrawn cases due to failure by law enforcement agencies

and for all parties to refrain from political intolerance and violence and adhere to the signed Peace Declaration and electoral code

Lastly, we wish the affected families comfort and peace and injured students speedy recovery and the executive of Convocation will pay you a visit during this hour of need.

Contact Person: Advocate Simo Chamane
President of University of Zululand Convocation
Email: Simo.chamane@kzntransport.gov.za
Mobile. 082 884 9100

David Ntombela
Secretary-General
University of Zululand Convocation
Email: mahlobod@dwaf.gov.za
Mobile. 076 906 6090