

UKZN committed to rooting out corruption

UNIVERSITY of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) Forensic Services Department has been working with law enforcement agencies on its investigation into a syndicate responsible for selling admission spaces at the university's medical school.

UKZN Vice-chancellor, Albert van Jaarsveld, said forensic services and the police had been working tirelessly to identify accomplices and beneficiaries of these illegal acts, and anticipated that further arrests would be made soon. He said anyone found to have participated in, or benefited from, this illegal practice would face criminal prosecution.

Van Jaarsveld said the University Executive Management had prioritised the matter and was fully supportive of the investigation.

"University Management initiated this investigation and has been cooperating fully with the investigation to ensure that all those persons implicated face the full might of the law. We should also be mindful that expecting the Hawks to take action without a thorough investigation will jeopardise the process, and premature interventions may compromise all the progress that has been made thus far. The University is engaging with the Hawks on an ongoing basis to facilitate their work proceeding



Vice-chancellor of UKZN, Albert van Jaarsveld.

resources away from the university's core operations and threaten not only the university's reputation, but also the integrity of our selection and admission processes. For us to remain successful, it is imperative that the university community remains committed to protecting and ensuring the integrity and reputation of all qualifications awarded through our institution," he said.

He said the Executive was also deeply concerned about the Medical School's reputation, and the negative effect that any corruption of Medical School selection and admission processes would have on this reputation. He said additional checks and balances in the university's selection and admission processes led to detection of specific corrupt practices, which were then referred to the Hawks for further investigation, and the university was continually improving its procedures and practice to reduce risks.

"We are committed to rooting out all corruption at the University and require the assistance of staff and students to contact the University Fraud Hotline with information," he said.

Report corruption on the toll free number 0800 20 32 85. All reports will be treated anonymously and in the strictest of confidence.

as fast as possible. We, therefore, appeal to all our stakeholders to remain calm and allow the process to unfold. Let's allow the process to take its course," he said.

Van Jaarsveld said acts of fraud, bribery and other corrupt behaviour would not be tolerated at the university in any way or form, and offenders would be prosecuted and pursued to the full extent of the law.

"I remind the university community that acts of fraud, bribery and corruption divert scarce

Foreman Road community demands land for housing

ETHEKWINI Municipality has been accused of sidelining and neglecting the Foreman Road community which claims its needs have not been included in the city's budget and IDP plans. Angry residents marched on the Sydenham Police Station this week to hand over a memorandum to a delegate from the Mayor's office, demanding amongst other things, that the land they occupy be transferred to the community for the construction of dignified housing. The city was given three days in which to respond to the demands.

Ward 25 Councillor Hassan Haniff confirmed that the Foreman Road informal settlement residents had embarked on a protest march because they were not included in the ward draft budget.

"They directed their concerns to the Mayor's office," he said, adding that the budget had been allocated before he was elected ward councillor.

Meanwhile, the Abahlali baseMjondolo (Shack Dwellers) Movement released a statement earlier this week as they marched to Sydenham Police Station after police raided the settlement. The group carried the body of a two-week-old baby Jayden Khoza claiming the child had died during the brutal police attack, and others had been injured and one person arrested.

"The comrades in the Foreman Road settlement organised a road blockade on Tuesday 23 May. They organised another blockade on Monday, at 5am. The police responded by attacking the settlement as a whole with fists, batons, rubber bullets and tear gas. Many shacks filled up with teargas.

"Children started crying, coughing and vomiting. Residents told the police that they were putting the children in grave danger, but the police continued the attack. These road blockades, and this po-

lice attack, do not come out of nowhere. Comrades in Foreman Road have been organizing and protesting for land and housing, and in defence of their human dignity since 2005. They have suffered a number of serious police attacks over the years.

"The new administration that came to power after the local government elections in August 2016 promised to break with this history of repression and begin negotiations with our movement. The new mayor even made public apologies for the repression in the past, including assassinations," the statement read.

Haniff, however dismissed the claims made by the group. "I have liaised with Sydenham police about the child. They said that they interviewed the mother at the station. The mother said the child was very sick and had a high fever. SAPS said that the child was very thin," he said.



With a model of the UMBILO and the real tug in the background, are Richard Vallihu (Chief Executive of Transnet National Ports Authority), marine cadet Darren Moolman, marine cadet Nompumelelo Chauke, eThekweni Mayor Zandile Gumede and marine cadet Mxolisi Makhanya.

Port takes delivery of new tug

DURBAN port will soon take delivery of its first new tug - the sixth of nine powerful new vessels to roll off the production line in the port city on time and within budget.

Named *Umbilo*, the vessel was launched at an official ceremony in Durban on Friday, 26 May with Mayor Zandile Gumede, performing the ceremonial duty of Lady Sponsor to christen the vessel in line with maritime tradition.

The new tug is part of Transnet National Ports Authority's (TNPA) R1.4 billion tug building contract awarded to Durban-based Southern African Shipyards - the largest ever awarded to a South African company for the building of harbour craft.

TNPA Chief Executive, Richard Vallihu, said the new

tug was exactly what the Port of Durban needed. "Over the past few years, the Port of Durban has seen larger vessels calling at the port. This has put a strain on our marine fleet. Currently the port has a total of eight tugs of which four are old shuttle tugs with only 32 and 38 ton bollard pull power," he said.

The TNPA tug procurement project also complements the skills development programme currently underway through TNPA's Maritime School of Excellence.

Speaking at the naming ceremony, Vallihu said it was essential to have well-trained people in place to support Transnet's major drive to ramp up infrastructure and efficiency at South Africa's ports. Transnet has set aside a record-

breaking R7,7 billion for training over the next 10 years. The port authority will contribute in excess of R56 billion of capital expenditure under Transnet's rolling R300 billion-plus Market Demand Strategy (MDS), which is now in its fifth year.

The nine tugs are being built for TNPA over three-and-a-half years, as part of a wider fleet replacement programme that also includes new dredging vessels and new marine aviation helicopters. The programme is aimed at improving operational efficiency in the ports.

TNPA's new fleet of nine tugs are each 31 metres long with a 70 ton bollard pull. They feature the latest global technology such as Voith Schneider propulsion which makes them highly manoeuvrable.

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