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PROTESTS: Zuma steps in



● 66 students appear in court

● Library looted in North West

● Students march to ANC HQ

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SIXTY-SIX students appeared in courts across the country this morning on charges of public violence and contravention of illegal gatherings laws, following protests about university fees yesterday.

While 23 UCT students appeared on charges related to chaotic scenes that saw police firing stun grenades outside Parliament yesterday, 43 students from the North-West University's Mahikeng Campus appeared after a residence was vandalised and the library and book shop looted. National police spokesman Brigadier Vishnu Naidoo could not confirm reports that the group had looted the library and book shop and vandalised the residence, but said they had been arrested because they had provoked police and incited violence at the campus.

Several pictures circulating on social media this morning showed the trashed library and book shop.

Undeterred by the arrests and the police's action, hundreds of students continued protesting at various universities this morning, with Wits students marching to the ANC's headquarters in Joburg's city centre.

From as early as 4am, #Joburgshutdown was trending in the city in anticipation of today's march by students through the CBD and their descent on Luthuli House, the ANC headquarters.

With Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene having failed to address students' needs in his mid-term budget speech yesterday, it was expected that President Jacob Zuma would help reduce tension at a planned meeting with university and student leaders tomorrow.

According to a statement released by the Presidency today, Zuma will hold the meeting at the Union Buildings in Pretoria "to discuss the stalemate with regards to university fee increases".

"It is important that we work together to find solutions. Nobody disagrees with the message that students from poor households are facing financial difficulties and possible exclusion," Zuma was quoted as saying.

In yesterday's adjusted budget, the allocation for university subsidies this year stayed the same at R26.243 billion.

The total budget for Higher Edu-



See pages 2, 3, 11, 34, 35 and Business Report

FEE FIGHT: South African students clash with police during violent protests in the Parliament precinct, Cape Town, yesterday. Protesters broke through the gates of Parliament.

PICTURE: NIC BOTHMA / EPA

cation and Training increased by R36 million for 2015/6.

The department had spent 71 percent of its budget in the first half of the financial year.

"We have been reminded this past week of the challenges of financing the expansion of further education and university opportuni-

ties," the minister said.

"It needs to be said that disruption of learning is not constructive. But Minister (Blade) Nzimande has rightly indicated the need to strengthen student financing further and to find solutions where current arrangements are inadequate," Nene said.

Students at universities around the country have been protesting against plans for a 10.5 percent fee hike.

This week Nzimande said the increases would be capped at 6 percent, but students say they can't afford that.

The department's budget

planned for a million university students and another million students at technical and vocational education and training colleges, which fall under separate programmes.

These two programmes are the bulk of the department's spending: R32.8bn for university education and R8.5bn for vocational and con-

tinuing education for 2015/16.

The vocational and continuing education programme took a cut overall of R13m. There was some shifting of funds within the vocational programme, with payments for goods and services halved and a cut in employee costs.

"The department's targets for

headcount and full-time equivalent enrolments at technical and vocational education and training colleges are unlikely to be achieved by the end of 2015/16, as the majority of enrolments take place in the first six months of the year," according to the adjusted budget. - Additional reporting by ANA

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