

Wits calm once more after chaos

Classes resume, but student body remains divided and suspicious

KATE MORRISSEY,
LERATO MBANGENI
AND ILANIT CHERNICK
kathleen.morrissey@inl.co.za
lerato.mbangeni@inl.co.za
ilanit.chernick@inl.co.za



WITS returned to normality this morning following yesterday's violent protests that saw students and security guards hurling rocks at each other.

Couples held hands, late students power-walked to their classes; police officers at the main entrance kept watch.

"I feel like crying tears of joy. When we started this week, the chances of classes resuming looked slim," said Yanga Damane, a first-year student.

Remnants of the protest remained, with "Run Habib, run" tagged on a wall. One room contained a stockpile of donated food.

Another student acknowledged the hanging sense of disruption.

"There's not as many people as there was before. It's got a weird feel," Keegan Fraser said.

Unlike last week's protests, yesterday's wasn't peaceful as students pelted security guards with stones, burnt vehicles and attacked fellow students returning to class.

A trail of litter lined parts of the campus after bins were overturned and attempts made to torch a bookshop.

As the violence escalated, police officers in riot gear arrived and fired stun grenades at protesting students blocking one of the entrances.

One student was arrested but later released without being charged.

Yesterday's protest was sparked by the university's announcement on Monday that an agreement had been reached between the Wits council and the student representative council (SRC) for the resumption of academic programmes.

It followed President Jacob Zuma's announcement of a zero percent fee increase next year.

But some students are unhappy because the issue of the outsourcing of university workers remains unresolved.



DEFIANCE: Students prevented vehicles from entering Wits at the Yale Road entrance yesterday. Members of a private security company forcibly removed the students from the security check point. Today, although a tense mood prevailed, campus was calm.

PICTURE: CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE

The violence highlighted the simmering tension and fragility of relations between some of the protesters and the SRC, following accusations of bribery and secret meetings levelled at the SRC.

The refusal to end the protests at Wits and other universities has caused consternation among university and government authorities.

Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande appealed to students to return to class.

Wits vice-chancellor Professor Adam Habib seemed to be at the end of his tether yesterday as he made an impassioned

plea to the same effect.

Habib told the students gathered at the Yale Road entrance he'd considered closing the university for longer, but had received a petition signed by 5 000 students and memorandums from four other student bodies – including post-graduate students, international students and the SRC – asking for Wits to reopen and exams to be written.

His mention of the SRC angered the protesters. Leigh-Ann Naidoo, a PhD student, said the SRC and the university's management were not to be trusted. Other students shouted that they were not rep-

resented by the SRC.

Of the leaders who started the #FeesMustFall campaign, only one, Wits EFF leader Vuyani Pambo, was present at yesterday's protest.

He expressed his distrust of the outgoing and incoming SRC presidents, Shaera Kalla and Nompandulo Mkhathswa.

Pambo told the vice-chancellor: "You disrespected us by calling the police."

He suggested Habib close Wits until Monday while they all came up with a solution for the outsourcing issue, but Habib refused. He asked them to work together for a month to see if "the numbers work".

The crowd collectively said no to meeting with him.

"We don't want any private meetings with you," said Pambo, referring to private meetings allegedly held with the SRC.

Some of the workers then spoke to Habib, saying they were paid a pittance, and asking him to promise to secure their jobs. "I will call all the service providers and tell them not to suspend or dismiss anyone," he said.

At the heart of the conflict seems to be the university-released SRC statement that Wits would reopen yesterday.

Earlier, a student said the

group that wanted to continue the protest didn't feel the SRC was listening to them.

Kalla questioned the origin of the statement.

"I want to know what agreement the SRC has reached with management because I am not aware of such. Aluta Continua," she tweeted.

She and Mkhathswa have denied negotiating with the university. "Disunity among students is what will kill the movement for Free Education," Kalla tweeted yesterday.

Kalla and Mkhathswa have also denied accepting a R40 000 bribe to stop the protests.

See Page 6

Go local for president's cars, says professor

MARIANNE MERTEN

TALK that the president, his deputy, cabinet and deputy ministers should use locally made cars, which "still can be painted black to intimidate other road users", elicited gasps and giggles at yesterday's public hearings into the medium-term budget policy statement.

There's little room for lightness when it comes to matters budgetary in a tough low-growth environment, but a Wits professor nonetheless suggested members of the executive could be transported "quite comfortably" in a C-Class Mercedes-Benz, a 3-Series BMW or a Toyota Fortuner.

When the School of Economic and Business Science head Professor Jannie Rossouw added "these vehicles can still be painted black to intimidate other road users", there were guffaws in Parliament's Good Hope Chambers.

The government's use of luxury cars, or the blue light brigade, has long been a red flag for opposition parties, but in 2013, cutbacks on luxury cars were introduced as part of the "haircut", officially known as cost-containment measures, to curb government spending.

Going local for official transportation was one suggestion among many on how to find dearly needed cash during yesterday's public hearings.

While a wealth tax was opposed, higher taxes for the wealthy, the 150 000 South Africans earning more than R1 million a year, was proposed.

Increasing the tax rate to 45 percent on those individuals earning between R1m and R2m, and increasing tax to 50 percent for those earning more than R2m, would net the national coffers R6.8 billion.

Labour federation Cosatu supported a tax on luxury goods, and a wealth tax, but rejected the possibility of VAT increases and a repeat of general tax increases, as happened in February's Budget.

Cosatu parliamentary liai-

son official Matthew Parks said the federation had been "deeply distressed" by the tax hikes which hit the pockets of the already squeezed working and middle class. Increases in VAT would be even worse as these would also hit the poor.

And he tackled the elephant in the room – the public service wage bill boosted by an above inflation salary increase, which Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene said had gobbled up the R5bn contingency fund.

"It's a bit unfair to make teachers and nurses the scapegoats for our problem," Parks said. Instead, he said, "bling expenditures" should be brought to an end.

Generals were in the wrong, MPs say

MARIANNE MERTEN

THERE was agreement across the party political divide that the provincial police commissioners acted wrongly by issuing a public statement backing their then boss General Riah Phiyega.

This was while President Jacob Zuma was considering whether she should face a disciplinary inquiry.

This emerged in Parliament's police committee deliberations on documents, transcripts and original recordings of the Magoebaskloof meeting where the decision to back Phiyega was taken, although it took another two weeks to issue the statement.

The MPs instituted the



BACKED BY THE BRASS: Suspended police commissioner Riah Phiyega

unprecedented Rule 201 inquiry in August, taking exception to what they called "the entry into politics" by the provincial police bosses, who are public servants.

Yesterday, concerns were again expressed that the generals, who appeared before the committee in August and apologised for their actions, had not quite been truthful in their account of events.

The police claimed that the statement issued a day after Phiyega told Zuma why she should not face a board of inquiry for

misleading the Marikana commission of inquiry, as the commission had recommended, was to reassure the rank and file there was no dissent.

MPs rejected this, saying the provincial police generals' actions were tantamount to "blurring" the line between the role of civil servants/police officers and the executive, who were elected representatives.

The committee will meet again on Wednesday to discuss its draft report and determine findings.

Under Rule 201 a parliamentary committee can summons any document or person to appear before it as part of an inquiry, which leads to recommendations to the relevant minister.

Union hell-bent on defying interdict

THETO MAHLAKOANA

THOUSANDS of SA Post Office (Sapo) employees were due to take to the streets of Joburg this morning despite a court interdict barring their actions.

The order was issued by the Labour Court, preventing workers from any form of industrial action against the Post Office.

Communication Workers Union (CWU) leaders yesterday said the action would go ahead as planned. The union's Gauteng chairman, Velaphi Zulu, said they had followed all due processes and were taken aback by the interdict.

"We are continuing with the action despite the interdict. We are still going to march. They have interdicted us from going to their offices but I doubt that they can stop us from marching to other places," Zulu said.

The union was to march to the offices of the premier and the public protector, demanding the release of reports on the Post Office by the Special Investigating Unit and findings of an investigation conducted by the Public Protector into the state of the organisation.

The CWU said they would demand the total and immediate bailout of the Post Office. The union said the government had the capacity to resolve the problems at the entity, and they would keep knocking on its door until they were heard.

Today's march follows dozens of others on similar issues at the Post Office which have halted operations after workers downed tools.

Earlier this month, Sapo general manager for public affairs Andrew Nongogo told Parliament that the state entity was on the brink of collapse.

He said it was losing customers and revenue as a result of strike actions.

Undeterred, the CWU said the company was pleading poverty as part of a strategy to get rid of workers.

"They are trying their utmost to frustrate workers so that they leave the employment of the Post Office voluntarily. That will help them in achieving their turnaround strategy of reducing staff. We are worried about what will happen next month. There might be no salary," Nongogo said.

This month, the entity failed to pay workers their full salaries on time, which saw the payment of 70 percent of total pay on Friday and the rest yesterday.

The move enraged the CWU, which had already been planning the march, which was meant to address the conversion of temporary staff to permanent and a demand for 10 percent wage increases, among others.

The company rushed to court yesterday, requesting an interdict to stop the costly action.

The Post Office said it would lose much-needed revenue when workers downed tools.

"The CWU has been interdicted and restrained from striking and marching to and/or picketing at the SA Post Office's work premises," the entity said in a statement.

Post Office workers who opt to ignore the interdict would be taking part in the march unprocedurally.

APPLY NOW TO STUDY IN 2016

GIVE YOURSELF THE BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESS

AREAS OF STUDY:

- Business Administration
- Management
- Banking and Investment
- Financial Planning
- Insurance
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Commerce
- International Computer Certification

PROGRAMMES

- Degrees
- Diplomas
- Higher and Advanced Certificate courses
- Tuition towards Technical & Vocational Education Training (TVET)
- Short courses (Contact or Online)

We have full-time, part-time, distance and online learning options.

Email us: Study@milpark.ac.za | Call us: 086 999 0711 | Visit: www.milpark.ac.za

Milpark Education (Pty) Ltd is registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) as a Private Higher Education Institution (No 2707/HET/003).

Quality education. Flexible learning.

Encounter Botswana

Proceeds benefit the society for animals in distress

'ENCOUNTER BOTSWANA' - SUPPORT THE SOCIETY FOR ANIMALS IN DISTRESS!

Tickets cost R350 - and only 2000 will be sold!

Draw takes place on 31 October 2015 and the winner will be announced on 6 November.

Prize includes a spectacular trip for two to the luxurious Stanley's Camp in the Okavango Delta and Chobe Chilwero riverside bush retreat on the edge of Chobe National Park - valued at over R150 000!

4 nights luxury accommodation - 2 nights at Sanctuary Stanley's Camp and 2 nights at Sanctuary Chobe Chilwero, International and National flights, airport transfers, 30 minute photographic/scenic helicopter flight, game viewing activities, beverages (non-alcoholic), a Canon EOS 265HS camera and 2 Cutler and Buck Weekender Travel Bags.

Contact Julia - 082 871 8360 or Lydia - 083 601 6177, or email your name and cell number to lydia@sodapop.co.za and we will send you the banking details.

www.animalsondistress.org.za / 011 466 0281 / NLB No: 00113701 / PBO No: 930012662 / NPO Reg No: 001-249

TO ALL SOUTH AFRICA'S MATRICULANTS AND OTHER GRADES BELOW MATRIC

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR EXAMS!

South West Gauteng Technical and Vocational Education and Training College joins all South Africans in wishing you success in your Matric and other exams. We also salute all SA's educators for the hard work and dedication they showed in preparing our young people for this period of reckoning.

When it's all over and it's time to focus on further studies, look no further than South West Gauteng TVET College. We are proud to offer a number of programmes of study (Engineering, Business, Utility Studies, Learnerships and Skills Programmes) and six easily accessible campuses, including Distance Education. The College prides itself in the fact that it is one of the biggest TVET Colleges in Gauteng, as well as in the country.

These wishes are from "SWGC, Period! Enough Said!" Who better to trust with your education and training?

The number to call is 086 176 8849. Website: www.swgc.co.za

Come experience our "cool2b@swgc" pledge

Apply now for 2016!

Delivering quality education right on your doorstep!

SAMSUNG SUPPORTS THE BOKS

Samsung products make match day even better

SM-N920

SM-G925

FREE Level Link Wireless Adapter

Galaxy Note 5 (32GB)
MODEL: SM-N920 + EO-RG920B
R13 999.00

FREE Level Link Wireless Adapter

Galaxy S6 edge+ (32GB)
MODEL: SM-G925 + EO-RG920B
R13 599.00

55" J7200

55" FLAT SUHD SMART TV
MODEL: UA55J7200
R19 999.00

55" J6400

55" FLAT UHD SMART TV
MODEL: UA55J6400
R15 999.00

40L GLASS MIRROR MICROWAVE
MODEL: MS40SM
R1 799.00

BUY ANY SAMSUNG PRODUCT AND YOU COULD WIN A SAMSUNG SPRINGBOK SUPPORTER PACK.

To enter, SMS your name to 47490.*

*Each SMS costs R1.50. Free SMSes and SMS bundles do not apply. Campaign runs from 12 September - 31 October 2015. Accessories not included. Terms and conditions apply.

Terms and conditions apply. For a full copy of the terms and conditions please go to www.samsung.com/za/promotions. *Offers valid from 19 October - 8 November 2015 at Samsung Brand Stores.

www.samsung.com 0860 726 784