

ZUMA ON PROTESTS 'Student rampages must end'

UNIVERSITIES must take stern action against students who embarked on violence and destruction of property at South African campuses, President Jacob Zuma said yesterday.

Addressing reporters at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, after a meeting that lasted several hours with the vice-chancellors of South African universities, Zuma said the law should take its course when students engaged in violent protests.

"I wish to reiterate that any shortfalls in financial aid should not be used as a justification for hooliganism and vandalism of state property. Equally, students protesting for the transformation of institutions must focus on dialogue and legitimate means of negotiation and protest to bring about change," said Zuma.

"Where such unacceptable violent behaviour occurs, institutional management must take firm action in line with the law and their respective policies and rules."

The meeting was requested by the University Council Chairpersons Forum of South Africa, led by Mbulelo Bikiwani, and Universities South Africa led by Professor Adam Habib.

Zuma said while the government supported the right of students to protest, the same right should be exercised with utmost responsibility.

"We strongly condemn the violence and destruction of property that have taken place at some of our universities in the name of student protests over the past year or so," said Zuma.

"The meeting agreed all forms of dispute must be resolved through negotiation and where wanton acts of criminality take place, the law must take its course."

The shortage of funds in the government's National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) also came under the spotlight at the meeting.

Zuma said even though the purse had increased from R441 million in 1997 to more than R9.5 billion in 2015, there was still a major shortfall.

"We agreed to establish a task team made up of officials from the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Presidency, NSFAS, two vice-chancellors representing the leadership of universities, two student representatives as well as other higher education stakeholders, to explore solutions to short-term student funding challenges."

The task team was expected to make recommendations by the end of November. Zuma said while the task team was conducting its processes, students should not engage in violence over the funds.

"At the same time, while violent student responses have been condemned, the management of universities must open up legitimate channels for discussion and dialogue over matters concerning students, with a view to resolving whatever issues they raise," he said.

"We believe that university management must be more proactive and not allow matters to deteriorate to such an extent that students go on a rampage, often due to lack of understanding and knowledge of the situation and spurred by poor communication." - ANA



Orlando Pirates midfielder Thabo Rakhale is welcomed back by fans on the team's arrival at O R Tambo International Airport yesterday.

PICTURE: BACKPAGEPIX

Heroes' welcome as Pirates come home

Mohau Ramashidja

ERIC Tinkler came out smiling at the O R Tambo international arrivals terminal yesterday as he heard Orlando Pirates fans shouting his name.

"Tinkler, Tinkler, Tinkler!" they shouted at the top of their lungs.

Pirates had returned from Egypt with a victory that had secured them a spot in the CAF Confederations Cup final, after beating Al Ahly 5-3 on aggregate.

Police struggled to control the excited crowd as the team made their way to a press conference.

Journalists had to shout: "Media, media... I'm a journalist," as the law enforcers tried to control and assess who deserved entry to the hall.

Call it mayhem if you will, chaos, if you like. But for Tinkler and his charges, it was a true heroes' welcome.

"The reception we've received was fantastic," Tinkler said. "We want to thank our fans, and South Africa at large, for showing the level of support they've shown to this team. They've been fantastic throughout our campaign in this CAF competition."

"We are extremely proud of our achievement, most especially of our second win

against Al Ahly away from home. The boys have truly outdone themselves," he said.

"We always believed that we were going to win playing their way."

"We had a win from the first-leg encounter, and it was a matter of finishing it off playing their way."

"When we went into the half-time break, we had to address some of the key areas we were lacking in. I'm glad we were able to do that with great success."

Meanwhile, Kermit Erasmus, who scored a superb comeback goal for Pirates two minutes after he had replaced Lehlohonolo Majoro in the

55th minute, said he had to study his opponents thoroughly to help his side bounce back into the game.

Pirates were trailing 2-0 before Erasmus's goal.

"I just watched the game from the bench and assessed what I needed to do going in. Majoro was playing on the blind side of our opponents, and he was just unfortunate not to score."

"His first touch let him down on the night, and I knew I had to be more clinical. Luckily enough, I was able to find the back of the net."

"All I had to do was show composure and the goal was in."

Scientist up for another award

Leanne Jansen

THE University of KwaZulu-Natal's Professor Quarraisha Abdoor Karim is one of five scientists from around the world to be named as a L'Oréal-Unesco Award for Women in Science laureate.

Abdoor Karim, an HIV researcher who has several international accolades to her name, was selected as the Africa and Arab States 2016 laureate by a jury of 13 scientists.

This honour recognises her "remarkable contribution" to the prevention and treatment of HIV and associated infections, which has greatly improved the quality of life of women in Africa.

Each of the five laureates will receive a prize of €100 000 (R1.5 million) at a ceremony in Paris in March.

The president of this year's jury, Professor Elizabeth Blackburn, was the 2009 joint winner of the Nobel Prize (in the category physiology or medicine).

Blackburn said that the 2016 laureates brought together immediate solutions to major human health issues and that the women epitomised top-level research.

The L'Oréal-Unesco Award for Women in Science was created in 1998, and nominations were this year made by 2 600

scientists from around the world.

Abdoor Karim has dedicated her career to finding a way to give young women the means to protect themselves from HIV infection.

She is the associate scientific director of the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research

in South Africa (Caprisa) in Durban, an honorary professor of UKZN, and a professor of epidemiology at Columbia University in New York.

She said the award was an honour; as many past recipients were an inspiration to her and the other women researchers she worked with.

Abdoor Karim is the second black woman in South Africa to receive an A-rating from the National Research Foundation – and the first black academic from UKZN to do so. She is a foreign associate member of the Institute of Medicine, a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, a fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa, and a fellow of the African Academy of Sciences.

Abdoor Karim is also the chairwoman of the SA National Aids Council Prevention Technical Task Team, a member of the UNAIDS scientific expert panel, and scientific adviser to the executive director of UNAIDS.



KARIM

Cyanide kills 14 elephants

HARARE: Suspected poachers had used cyanide to kill 14 elephants in Zimbabwe's western Hwange national park and in the north since September 26, the national wildlife agency said yesterday.

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority spokeswoman, Caroline Washaya-Moyo, said poachers

had mixed cyanide with coarse salt and maize cobs as bait for the animals.

Elephant conservation groups said in 2013 as many as 300 elephants died in Hwange park after poachers laced salt pans with cyanide. The government strongly disputed that figure, saying only a few dozen animals had died. - Reuters

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ANC women to back Zuma term

Thabiso Tahkali

ANC WOMEN'S League president Bathabile Dlamini has given the strongest indication yet that the league might support the extension of ANC president Jacob Zuma's term beyond his tenure as party leader.

Loyalists of the ANC's three provincial chairpersons and premiers, the Free State's Ace Magashule, North West's Supra Mahumapelo, and Mpumalanga's David Mabuza, are reportedly planning to table a proposal to extend Zuma's term by two years at the party's national general council meeting this week.

A proposal for Zuma to serve a third term is said to have received support from the ANC Youth League leadership.

Speaking yesterday on the sidelines of the women's league's consultative forum ahead of the national general council talks in Johannesburg, Dlamini said they had neither discussed Zuma's third-term



DLAMINI

bid, nor had they been lobbied by the youth league. But when the right time came, "we will discuss the matter".

"There is nothing in the constitution of the ANC that talks about the terms of the ANC president," she said.

"It is in the constitution of the country (where terms are limited), but we also want to be very fair and try ensure that the ANC becomes a stronger organisation."

"We are going through the process of reviewing the performance of the present execu-

tive committee. We are still going to have a policy conference where we will bring new issues."

The women's league's discussions, Dlamini said, would include positions of premiers, chairpersons of the ANC, secretaries and deputy presidents.

"We are going to be discussing all these in terms of the performance of ANC in putting women in decision-making positions."

Dlamini lashed out at the labelling of the trio of Magashule, Mabuza and Mahumapelo as the Premier League that was seeking to take control of the ANC.

"The people that are called premier league are chairpersons of provinces and ANC structures have always had their own preferences and discussions, and they are lobbied all the time," she said.

"Even the previous president (Angie Motshhega) lobbied some of the chairpersons of provinces while we were having a conference. So it's

wrong to do something and think when it's done by other people, it's wrong."

"If people do not support you, they mustn't be labelled. They must be taken as members of ANC."

Ironically, the league is also steadfast in its resolve that the time has come for a female president of the ANC and the country, as first stated during its elective conference in August. The league will use different strategies within the structures of the party to advance this.

Dlamini said at the national council, the league would be pushing for the 50/50 representation of women premiers even if provinces would be reduced as per proposals in the national general council's discussion documents.

The league would also demand 50% women premiers, even if women were not elected provincial chairpersons, a move that would fly in the face of the party's last resolution against two centres of power.

Fisherman and rescuer Clive Home dies

Spehelele Ngubane

AN UMKOMAAS man, who, with another fisherman, saved 17 people when the ship The Produce sank on the South Coast in 1974, has died of cancer.

The funeral of avid fisherman and pharmacist Clive Home, 74, will be held in Scottburgh today.

Home, whose love for fishing kept him close to the sea most of his life, was celebrated not only for The Produce rescue but for many rescues he and other fishermen carried out when boats got into trouble in the area.

In 1974 The Produce had left Durban just after 11.30am and was going south with its cargo of molasses. The vessel was bound for the UK, but met with disaster just a few hours later, tearing open its hull on Aliwal Shoal.

When the ship got into difficulty at about 2.30pm, it sent out a call for assistance.



HOME

Home and the other fisherman, Tony Janssen, launched their boats from the mouth of the Umkomaas River.

"The launch was both difficult and dangerous, the surf huge as a result of the bad weather – but when Janssen

heard that the desperate crew members of The Produce were jumping from the ship into the ocean, he knew that he needed to help." Umkomaas Lodge's blog recorded.

The two rescued the survivors who were already in the water. All of them were suffering from exposure and exhaustion. They saved the lives of 17 crew members that day, including the four women on board.

Home reported that one of the survivors he rescued was an old man, who had had to be hauled with ropes on to the Oranjeland (a ship which came to the rescue) fearing that the return to shore would be too rough through the heavy surf.

Home chose to deposit those he had rescued on to the bigger ship. All 34 of the crew members on board The Produce were rescued that day, with the most serious injuries being severe shock.

The rescue mission took four hours. Having qualified in his

youth at Rhodes University, he started working as a pharmacist only when he retired from commercial fishing.

His sister-in-law, Laurette Moon, said there was a large potato bass, which made its home at Aliwal Shoal, that was named in his honour.

"He was a very smart man and an astute academic. Although he was a qualified pharmacist, he loved the ocean and spent most of his life making a living as a commercial fisherman," she said.

Moon said Home was a "humanitarian, who risked his own life many times to rescue others".

"His knowledge of the ocean and his ability as a skipper allowed him to brave the ocean when others would not dare.

He would never hesitate to go out and rescue people," she said. - Additional information from South Coast Tourism website and Umkomaas Lodge blog.