

**9 August 2023**

**COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR: TEACHING AND  
LEARNING**

**SWITCHING TO ONLINE LEARNING**

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Dear Staff and Students

The Higher Education sector in the country is currently experiencing challenges, with protests erupting at some universities. These demonstrations, which have been characterised by violence in some instances, have led to a strained atmosphere nationwide. Concerns have been raised about the safety of staff, students and property during this time.

As a precautionary measure and to allay these fears, the University of KwaZulu-Natal is switching to the Senate-approved emergency teaching and learning plan, effective **Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2023**.

We understand that the root cause of these protests is discontentment regarding the NSFAS allowances. Nationwide, various universities have been affected, and there are indications that these protests will continue. This has necessitated the decision to switch to online learning.

This means that besides academic activities that necessitate in-person engagement, such as practicals and clinics, all other teaching and learning endeavours will transition to an emergency remote mode.

This shift aims to maintain the seamless progression of the academic mission. In order to facilitate this transition, UKZN has already commenced the provision of data to both staff and students. Data distribution is anticipated to conclude by Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Regarding the delegations of authority in the emergency remote teaching and learning mode, academic staff and students are referred to their academic leaders of teaching and learning and research as well as their College Deans of Teaching and Learning and Research for any further information and support. Among other support, this includes the confirmation of the mode of teaching and learning for each module, whether it will be remote online or physical.

While this move might be seen as regrettable, it will attest to our agility and rapid response to disruptions to keep people safe while assuring the continuity and quality of the academic project.

Please allow me to express my sincere gratitude to all staff and students for your cooperation and support as we switch to emergency remote mode.

**Issued by**

**Professor Sandile Phinda Songca**

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning**