

6 October 2016



Closure of NMMU

As we entered the second week of suspended academic activities, it was clear that stakeholders were no closer to any resolution in solving the impasse in Higher Education.

With respect to access to campus in emergencies, employees who require access to campus in emergencies must contact their relevant Line Managers who in turn will make the necessary arrangements via their EMANCO member with Derek Huebsch, Protection Services, on 0828230654.



Criminal Matters Amendment Act

A student at NMMU was arrested earlier this week for allegedly burning a tyre at the entrance to North Campus. His arrest follows a national directive by government for the South African Police Service (SAPS) to enforce the law on all university campuses if protests continue. The student was charged in terms of the Criminal Matters Amendment Act.

The Bill of Rights in our Constitution guarantees certain rights and enshrines the right to freedom and security of a person. The Constitution places a duty on the State to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights.

This Criminal Matters amendment act is intended to regulate bail in respect of essential infrastructure-related offences and the imposition of discretionary minimum sentences for essential infrastructure-related offences. It recognises the importance of essential infrastructure in providing basic services to the public and has regard for the high incidence of crime relating to essential infrastructure in SA and which poses a risk to public safety, electricity supply, communications and transportation.

This Act further recognises the harmful consequences to the livelihood, well-being, daily operations and economic activity of the public if basic services cannot be provided due to loss, damage or disruption caused by essential infrastructure-related offences. It is mindful of the negative impact of these offences on South Africa's economy and society and on peace and stability in the country.

Be positive, but stay realistic – How we think and feel about the past, the present and the future plays a big role in how we approach daily challenges. Some of us focus on the good and positive, whilst some focus only on the negatives. Others approach it more in a realistic and balanced manner. No matter how we approach challenging times, let's always provide some room for the colleague who deal with the situation differently than you. Some colleagues absolutely blossom when there are challenging times, whilst others simply fall apart. It is proven that optimistic people tend to be more happier, healthier and cope better when times are tough. So it will be to your advantage to look at your situation through a lens of positivity. But it is also not sensible to be so optimistic that you're unrealistic. One cannot put a spin on every situation and pretend that all is well, when it most definitely is not.

No one knows what the future will hold in Higher Education. We cannot predict whether everything will get back to 'normal'. For now, we can only try and hold a positive outlook, but within the constraints of our challenging circumstances.

nurture a positive outlook despite challenging times