

STUDENT MATTERS



MUT improves security at its residences

The month of May 2018 will always be remembered at MUT for the trauma suffered by all those connected to the University in one way or the other. At this time the University lost one of its students, Zolile Khumalo, a 21-year-old quantity surveying student from Eshowe, in the north of KwaZulu-Natal. On 2 May the MUT community awoke to the devastating news that a female student had been shot dead at Lonsdale, one of the residences in the Durban Central Business District, by her ex-boyfriend and former MUT student.

The strength of government support for the Khumalo family and MUT was confirmed by a visit to the Khumalo family from Buti Manamela, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, on 6 June 2018 to convey his condolences. The family was informed that the government had plans to improve security at all higher education institutions.



Deputy Minister of Police, Bongani Mkongi, (middle) with MUT Executive Management, Prof Nokwethemba Ndlaazi, (left) and VC & Principal Dr Duma Enoch Malaza

From then on life at MUT became extremely tense and many questions were asked about the University security system and various procedures. What was most pleasing, was the numerous offers of assistance and general support, and the manner in which MUT dealt with the situation. Amongst other precautions, security at all the University residences has been 'beefed up' to prevent any further threats or loss of life.

The Deputy Minister of Police, Bongani Mkongi, showed support for the Khumalo family and MUT by going to court at least twice when the suspect appeared for a bail hearing. At the courthouse on 17 May 2018, Mkongi took some time to address the media on the issue. He reassured the nation that the police would do whatever was necessary to ensure that justice for Zolile was done. Mkongi also spoke about the general security at the country's universities as he had already been to Lonsdale and other residences that morning.

On the same day the Deputy Minister also visited MUT, where he held a meeting with the University's management team. "As Deputy Minister, one of my briefs is to improve security at the country's higher education institutions," he explained. Mkongi shared his views with MUT management and pointed out what he thought needed to be done in order to improve security. He said that from a security perspective, some of the residences were unsuitable as student residences because of their location. Mkongi promised that his ministry would assist MUT to improve security at the University.

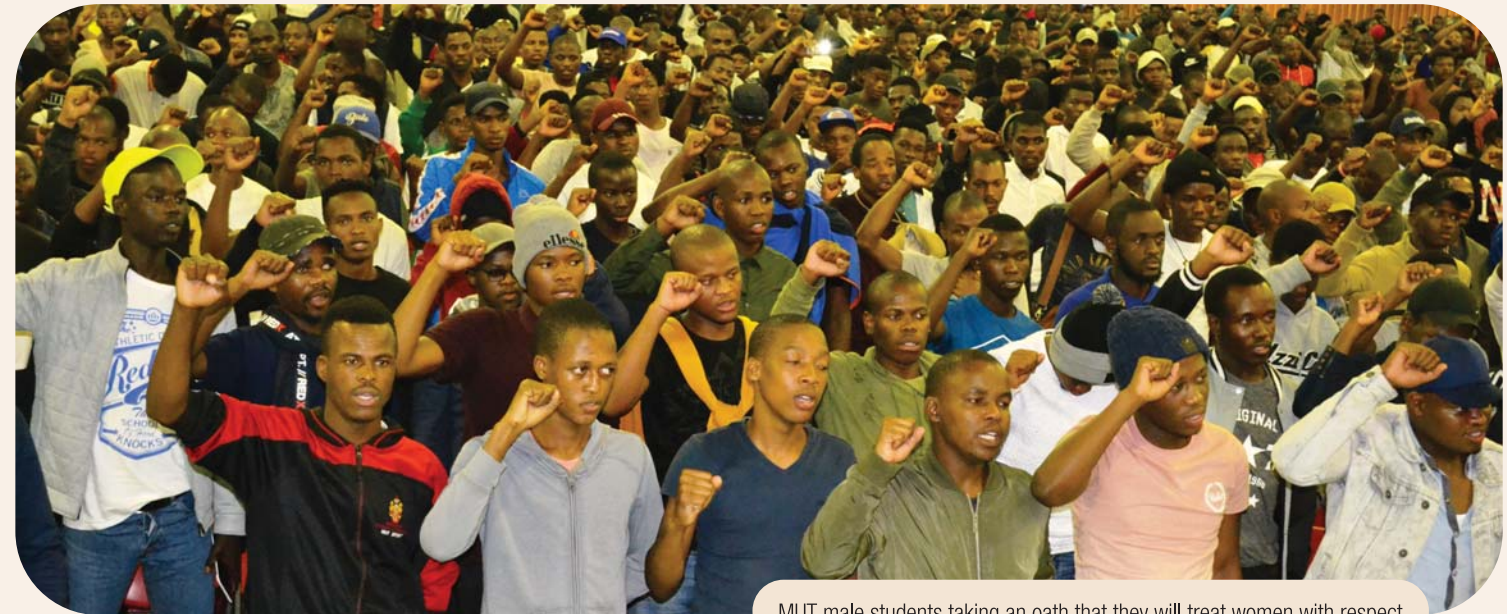
Manamela appealed to all young men and women at the University to change their attitude towards one another. Also present during the visit were Ms Nonhle Mkhulisi, District Mayor of King Cetshwayo District, Ms Bongie Simelane, Deputy Mayor of Mlalazi Municipality and Ms Fikile Luvuno, Ward Councillor. This was an indication that all stakeholders should stand together against all forms of violence, particularly gender-based violence.

Zolile Khumalo was laid to rest on 12 May 2018 in Eshowe.



Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Buti Manamela, (middle) with Zolile's father, (left) and MUT's Senior Director of Planning, Dr Johan van Kolller at Zolile's home in Eshowe

Student Affairs department organises programmes to empower students



MUT male students taking an oath that they will treat women with respect

Women should feel safe when we are around

- Musa Mseleku

Don't be a victim of rejection

- Khuzani

Only true men should be here

- Ndlelenhle Jiyane

Uphuma endlini eshayo, ugena endlini esha kakhulu. Asizilungise izinkinga

- Khuzani

MUT has viewed the killing of Zolile Khumalo as an opportunity to teach its students what is necessary in order for them to be better people who are not only ready for the future, but who will contribute to improving the future for themselves and future generations. The Department of Student Affairs, along with the Department of Marketing and Communications, compiled two programmes for male and female students. These were called Enough and Khuzani. The former programme was based on the movie Enough which highlighted violence against women. This was meant for the benefit of the female students. On 23 May 2018, MUT female students spent the evening at the University's Bozzoli Hall. Clad in pyjamas, they watched the movie then discussed the scourge of violence directed at women, and explored possible solutions.

A psychologist in the Department of Student Counselling, Lungi Mkhize, said they ran these programmes mainly as a result of the Zolile incident, and because there were cases of women abuse being reported. "We thought it was important to bring to our students' attention the importance of good behaviour. We are continuing with our programmes where we tell the students about the signs that indicate that something is not normal in a relationship, and what to do when bad signs appear," said Lungi. She added that the Housing Unit also carries the same message in the students' residences. She said they could only hope that students would comply. Perpetrators are put through the disciplinary process and those found guilty are expelled from the University.

The following night saw the University's male students gathering at Seme Hall to be part of the *Khuzani* campaign. The campaign echoed the traditional cultural practice of men gathering together to find a solution whenever there was a major problem in the village. The act of "coming together and finding a solution" was an affirmation of their manhood, and the village could look upon them as protectors.

The spirit of finding a solution was brought to the fore when the male students arrived in their numbers, singing traditional songs and doing Zulu dances before the formal programme began. They were more than ready to listen to guest speakers like Pastor Abraham Masinga; the Maskandi artist Nkosikhona 'Khuzani' Mpungose; and the well-known polygamist and reality show personality, Musa Mseleku. The speakers all told the students about the importance of respecting women. They agreed that the road to true manhood is difficult and that is why they need mentors.

Pastor Abraham Masinga addressed the students about the importance of being a good father and touched on the dangers of having a father who did not fulfil his role. He told the students how they could deal with growing up, and how that could affect women. He stressed that it was not right to sleep around and underlined the importance of waiting for the right time. "As a young man, you need an older person to coach you to be a better man. The only one that talks to you is the television. This can lead you to have delusions about your relationships. Stop watching porn. Stop wasting your data on things you don't need. Don't spend time on things that don't add value to your life. Find a father figure who will guide you and don't always try to impress others. Stop trying to be like other people, but be yourself and get satisfaction out of that. Focus on your dreams and don't worship other people's dreams," he said.