



The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

The Diocese of Saldana Bay

Vicar-General during the Vacancy in See

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A DIOCESAN STATEMENT

Condemning Violence at CPUT and Standing in Solidarity with all who Suffer

The Diocese of Saldanha Bay expresses its deep concern and sadness at the violent unrest at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), including the destruction of property and the burning of university buildings.

We **unequivocally condemn violence, intimidation, arson and destruction**. Such actions endanger students, staff and security personnel and ultimately harm the very young people whose future is at stake. Legitimate grievances must be addressed through peaceful and constructive engagement.

At the same time, we recognise the genuine financial concerns that have contributed to the unrest. Students and families are understandably anxious about the proposed 2027 financial recovery measures, including significant upfront payments and the burden of existing student debt.

As a Church, we wish particularly to stand with **young people whose education and future are at stake, and with the parents and families who carry the enormous cost of giving their children an opportunity for a better future.**

For many families, university education represents years of sacrifice. Parents stretch limited incomes, take on debt and go without necessities because they believe in the transformative power of education.

The prospect of additional financial demands in 2027 therefore creates real fear and uncertainty.

We call on CPUT management, Council, student representatives, government, parents and all stakeholders to pursue a peaceful and just solution. We appeal for:

- An immediate end to violence, intimidation and destruction.
- Meaningful and transparent consultation with students and families.
- Financial solutions that protect access to higher education, particularly for poor and working-class families.
- Greater transparency regarding CPUT's financial challenges.
- Urgent attention to student debt, accommodation and sustainable university funding.
- Compassion and flexibility towards families who cannot carry additional financial burdens.

We also appeal to student leaders to exercise responsible leadership. The concerns of students deserve to be heard, but violence and destruction undermine those concerns and create further hardship.

To the students, we say: your education matters, your future and your concerns matter.

To parents and families, we say: we see your burden. We recognise the sacrifices you make to ensure that your children can study and build a better future.

We urge all parties to choose dialogue over confrontation, peace over violence, and solidarity over division.

The Diocese of Saldanha Bay stands with the students, their parents and families, the staff of CPUT, and all who seek a peaceful and just resolution to this crisis.

May wisdom, compassion and justice guide those responsible for finding a sustainable solution, so that no young person is denied an education because of poverty.

Archdeacon Rus Blassoples
Vicar General of the Diocese