

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COMMUNIQUÉ

As you probably are aware, questions have been raised in the media in respect of a PhD in Mechanical Engineering awarded by the University of Natal in 2003 to Shamin Shaik. The University has launched a full and thorough investigation into this very serious allegation that compromises the academic integrity of our institution. At this point in time, there is a prima facie case which has to be answered; however, the parties involved have not been afforded an opportunity to respond. This principle of natural justice must be adhered to and we therefore call on the University community to exercise patience in order to allow the proper processes to be followed. Regrettably, we are given to understand through correspondence received from Professor Verijenko this morning that he has resigned from the University. This will not hinder the due process that has been put in place.

Professor I Konyn
Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Administration and Corporate Governance)

Professor M W Makgoba
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

21 May 2007