



## DOORS OF LEARNING: The University of Limpopo has been closed in the wake of protests.

MONTSHO MATLALA

**VIOLENCE** accompanying #Fees-Must-Fall student protests have not only resulted in the shattering of windows and burning of plastic bins at the University of Limpopo (UL) outside Polokwane, but has also seen the palisade fence surrounding the institution broken down yesterday.

"It is chaos here, we are trying to navigate our way out, students are throwing stones in and outside campus while security guards and police are trying to intervene.

"Any student or staff member carrying luggage or a laptop is attacked and prevented from leaving by stone throwers," a source inside the campus said yesterday.

"As some elements ignited fires,

some pushed down the palisade fence surrounding the university and we then found escape routes and mingled with confused residents outside," a general worker at the UL said.

In response to the mayhem, disappointed vice-chancellor Prof Mahlo Mokgalong yesterday issued a notice saying all academic activities were suspended indefinitely.

"The suspension is with immediate effect. All students are instructed to vacate student residences by 5pm. The decision was taken in the interests of safety and security of our students, staff and university property," Mokgalong said.

Some students have accused the university management of provoking them by setting armed security guards on them on Tuesday night dur-

ing a power blackout.

"It was dark on campus when security guards beat and shot at us. Now management must take the blame for these riots. All that we want is free quality tertiary education," a student said.

Health authorities yesterday confirmed that several students were treated for rubber bullet wounds at the nearby Mankweng Hospital but have since been discharged.

Police spokesperson Brig Motlafela Mojapelo said police were not involved in Tuesday night's shooting incidents.

"We arrested six students on Tuesday night but released three. Those still under arrest will face charges of public violence in the local magistrate's court today," Mojapelo said yesterday.

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## Palabora builds on its culture cohesion

THE Palabora Mining Company, which is owned by a Chinese consortium in Phalaborwa said it was impressed by the fusions of diverse cultures of its employees. Company spokesperson Lydia Radebe said a total of 3 700 employees represented a balanced and diversified workforce that was keeping social cohesion in motion at the workplace. "Out of this workforce, 2 993 employees are from local communities corresponding exactly with the demographics of the local areas. This is more than 80% of the total workforce being local and from Limpopo province," Radebe said. — Montsho Matlala

between cultures. They make the world slightly smaller by breaking down language barriers and allowing great literature to be enjoyed by all," spokesperson Kola Maila said. The theme for this year is: "Translation and interpreting: connecting worlds." — Montsho Matlala