



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

27 February 2024

## MEDIA RELEASE

### University of Pretoria Obtains Court Interdict Against Striking Workers



PRETORIA - The University of Pretoria has successfully obtained a court interdict today against striking workers, affirming its commitment to the safety and security of the university community. The court's decision, which comes amidst ongoing labour unrest, imposes restrictions on activities that could disrupt the university's operations.

The interdict prohibits any unlawful interference with the University's operations, activities, and academic programmes. It further mandates a ban on any violent or unlawful conduct in pursuit of wage demands, including harassment, assault, prevention of services, interference with traffic, and damage to property.

The University emphasises the importance of upholding the rule of law and ensuring the safety and security of all individuals on its campuses. We remain committed to resolving labour disputes through constructive dialogue and within the framework of the law.

In light of recent developments, the University wishes to address the ongoing negotiations with NEHAWU regarding proposed salary increases. While appreciating NEHAWU's dedication to their members, the University faces significant financial challenges that prevent immediate compliance with the demands. Factors

such as modest income growth (2.5% growth in its main source of revenue), high staff costs, high student debt, and operational expenses have contributed to the decision to manage the salary bill.

In the interest of responsible financial management, the University encourages NEHAWU to collaborate closely with University management as they implement the Financial Sustainability Plan. This plan aims to reduce costs and explore revenue enhancement opportunities, ensuring the institution's long-term financial stability.

The University of Pretoria remains optimistic that through constructive cooperation, it can continue to provide quality education and support to its community while navigating the current labour landscape.

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## **ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, with its administration offices located on its Hatfield Campus in Pretoria. This 115-year-old institution is also one of the largest producers of research in South Africa.

Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). It is the only university in the country with a Faculty of Veterinary Science, which is ranked the best in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than 56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The [2024 Times Higher Education subject rankings](#) placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of Law, Veterinary Science, Accounting and Finance; Agriculture and Forestry and Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranked the University among the top five in Africa, as part of their [2024 World University Rankings \(WUR\)](#). UP was the only South African university featured in the [2023 World University Rankings for Innovation \(WURI\)](#), falling within in the 101-200 range of innovative universities.

For more information, please go to [www.up.ac.za](http://www.up.ac.za)