



**THE SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL TECHNICIANS COUNCIL  
DIE SUID AFRIKAANSE RAAD VIR TANDTEGNICI**

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**Media Release concerning Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) dental technology programme.**

The South African Dental Technicians Council (the “Council”, “SADTC”) is aware that the students at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (“CPUT”) are on strike, and amongst those students are dental technology students. These students have expressed their concerns to the media over the present and future state of their programme. Several media outlets have approached the SADTC for comment, and rather than respond to each, Council releases the following statement.

The CPUT dental technology programme is currently suspended for the following main reasons:

1. In 2019 and 2020 CPUT graduated students knowing that they had not reached the required standard for registration with the SADTC; such registration is required for them to practise their profession, but it meant that Council could not register those students unless they took, and passed, a practical re-examination, which they refused to do.
2. To prevent this happening again, the Ministry of Health has instructed Council to ensure that there will be no further students graduated without simultaneous registration with Council.
3. In order for this to happen, CPUT must commit to not graduating students who cannot simultaneously be registered with Council. To date, CPUT has maintained that it has autonomy to graduate students irrespective of whether they meet the requirements for registration. Council had no option but to make a condition of accreditation be that UoTs must graduate students only if they also can be registered. This condition requires that there be a joint assessment of the final practical exit-level examination by a panel comprising the University and the Council examiners, working together; to date, CPUT has not agreed to this.
4. The premises and approved laboratories used by CPUT were closed in June last year, but the new laboratories developed by CPUT were not ready for occupation as hoped, in July of last year.
5. At an evaluation visit for accreditation in October last year by the SADTC, it was found that CPUT had provided laboratories for the students in the meantime, but without any consultation or prior approval of Council, which is required by law, for the laboratories to be approved and registered. On inspection, Council found that

the laboratories did not conform to regulations and were, in fact, a health and safety hazard, and had no option but to advise the university to cease all activities in those laboratories.

6. CPUT has informed Council that the new laboratories for the dental technology programme have still not been given a certificate of compliance from Cape Town City Council and so cannot be used.
7. Council gave provisional registration to these laboratories last year, and this is subject to a final inspection.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE SADTC**