



**ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES  
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITÉS AFRICAINES**

**اتحاد الجامعات الافريقية**

**Ref:** SC/1

**Date:** April 20, 2021

**Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng**

Vice-Chancellor

University of Cape Town

Dear **Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng**,

**Solidarity Message from the  
Association of African Universities (AAU)  
on the unfortunate incident of Fire Outbreak at the  
Rondebosch Campus of the University of Cape Town (UCT)**

It was with a deep sense of sorrow and shock that we followed reports on the unexpected fire outbreak which affected the University of Cape Town's Jagger Library and other structures on the Rondebosch Campus of UCT.

On my own behalf as the AAU Secretary General and on behalf of all 400 plus member institutions of this great Association, we express our heartfelt sympathy to the University of Cape Town.

We applaud management for prioritizing the safety of staff and students by suspending all academic activities, including classes, tutorials, and laboratory work.

We share in your loss and know that the cost in infrastructure and the general impact from the loss of valuable collections and official documents cannot be



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comprehended. We will therefore further popularize the details of the UCT Fire Emergency relief fund widely among stakeholders on the continent so that they support your recovery efforts.

The AAU values the membership of the University of Cape Town and wish you and your team well, as you continue to evaluate and manage the situation.

Yours in the Service of Higher Education in Africa

Professor Etienne Ehouan EHILE  
**SECRETARY GENERAL**