

M E T R O

Minister's Newlands home gutted

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newspapers like Imvo Zabantsundu, among others,” said Nzimande.

He has directed Higher Health to work with other emergency relief agencies to offer students debriefing support and for Higher Health’s mobile clinic and psychologists to support the UCT in-house team for psychosocial services to further support students.

Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille said one minister’s Cape Town residence in Newlands (owned by the department) was completely destroyed on Sunday afternoon.

“(On) Monday, family members of three members of the executive were evacuated from Walmer Estate properties as there was an immediate threat on Monday morning as the fire moved over Philip Kgosana Drive.

“The family members of one minister and two deputy ministers were evacuated from Walmer Estate.”

She said police have advised the families not to return to the houses due to heavy smoke and strong winds.

“In Groote Schuur Estate, on Sunday, the fire had come close to the deputy president’s residence but police worked with the firefighters and the fire was brought under control quickly.

“There was no damage to this property,” she said.

Visiting the site of extensive damage at UCT, Premier Alan Winde, accompanied by mayor Dan Plato, thanked the firefighters and residents for their efforts.

“Thank you for your efforts to put a stop to the fire and help those in need.

“I further wish a speedy recovery to five firefighters who were injured in the line of duty.”

He called on police to leave no stone unturned in their investigations into the fires.

Gift of the Givers founder Imtiaz Sooliman said the organisation has been requested to provide three meals for the next seven days to evacuated students, a task he welcomed.

Gift of the Givers urged people to support its disaster response initiative: <https://giftofthegivers.org/make-a-difference/>. Details to send financial donations: Account name: UCT Donations Account, Bank: Standard Bank of South Africa, Branch code: Rondebosch Branch, 025009, Account number: 071522387, Swift code: SBZAZAJJ