

NEWS FROM:



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UCT blacks out website to protest government move against freedom of information

The University of Cape Town has blacked out its home page (www.uct.ac.za) today in protest against the current version of the Protection of State Information Bill, which has been returned to the National Assembly for vote today.

The media and public interest groups are calling today "Black Tuesday", as part of the campaign to raise awareness about how the proposed legislation will infringe on the principles of academic freedom and the rights of citizens to hold government accountable.

UCT opposes the lack of a "public interest defence" in the current version of the Bill. Without such a defence mechanism, for instance, members of the media would not be able to fulfil their role as a watchdog over government activity in the interests of transparency and the benefit of South African citizens.

Website users can access UCT content by clicking on the navigation tabs above the black area. Quick links at the bottom of the page are still available for users' convenience.

ENDS

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