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UCT students to benefit from R2.5m Eskom/Mpumalanga Valves bursaries

The University of Cape Town (UCT) students will benefit from bursaries worth R2.5 million from Mpumalanga Valves Services and Eskom Rotek Industries as part of their contribution to creating a home away from home for every student, thereby breaking the gap created by the NSFAS accommodation cap.

Mpumalanga Valves Services – an Eskom contractor – awarded 23 bursaries totalling R1 551 099, while Eskom Rotek Industries awarded bursaries for 12 students totalling R964 627.

With an undergraduate degree's running costs of approximately R200 000 per year, many UCT students struggle to fund their higher education from their household income. These students from households of less than R350 000 gross per annum face an unprecedented fee debt that will impact their ability to graduate.

"These bursaries are not just about providing financial aid; it's about promoting equal access to quality education and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. It's about ensuring that no student is left behind because of financial constraints. Together, we can make a difference in their lives and continue UCT's tradition of academic excellence. We truly appreciate our partners in providing much needed support to ensure that students are able to continue with their studies," said Nobi Rululu, Funder Liaison Coordinator at the Financial Aid Division of UCT's Department of Student Affairs.

The Supplier Development Localization and Industrialization (SDL&I), the department executing the Eskom bursary programme, said its mandate is to achieve maximum and sustainable local development impact through leveraging Eskom's procurement spend in a manner that allows flexibility within the business to accommodate government and local development initiatives and policies. Their focus areas are skills development, job creation, localisation, industrialisation and transformation.

The funding comes in response to the Financial Aid Division campaign to raise R110 million to bridge the gap created by the NSFAS accommodation cap, break financial barriers and foster academic success. The funding will ensure that the affected students have a safe place to live, study and thrive.

The handover ceremony was attended by Mr Vincent Mtholo, UCT Chief Financial Officer; Mr Junior Mogola, Operations Manager of Mpumalanga Valves Services; Mr Gerhard Potgieter, General Manager of Eskom Rotek Industries; and Mr Pura Mgolombane, Executive Director of the Department of Student Affairs at UCT.

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