



**Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemarkingsdepartement**

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

14 October 2016

Toll from Hilux fire could rise at UCT

Soundbite attachment provided by Elijah Moholola, Head: Media Liaison at UCT

The University of Cape Town is assessing smoke damage to a ventilation system that serves a Geological Sciences laboratory housing highly sensitive equipment, worth millions of rand. The damage could be severe and it is possible the ventilation system will have to be completely replaced. UCT is assessing the ventilation system as well as the lab equipment it serves.

A fire destroyed a UCT Toyota Hilux double cab bakkie in the early hours of this morning. The bakkie, which was used by students and researchers in the Geological Sciences Department, was set alight just after 03h00. No people were injured. However, vents from the specialised air filtration system in the Geological Sciences building took in fumes and smoke from the fire.

The vehicle was parked adjacent to the Geological Sciences building. Members of UCT's Campus Protection Services were able to extinguish the fire so that it did not spread to neighbouring vehicles or UCT buildings. Members of the fire and rescue services and the SA Police Service (SAPS) were called to the scene. A 500ml glass bottle that smelt of petrol and was filled with sand was found at the scene and has been handed to SAPS.

A case of arson has been opened with SAPS.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Patricia Lucas

Tel: (021) 650 5428 Fax (021) 650 5628

Cell: 076 292 8047

E-mail: pat.lucas@uct.ac.za

University of Cape Town

Rondebosch

Website: www.uct.ac.za

Elijah Moholola

Head: Media Liaison

Communication and Marketing Department

University of Cape Town

Rondebosch

Tel: (021) 650 5674

Fax: (021) 650 3780

Cell: (083) 981 7770

Email: elijah.moholola@uct.ac.za

Website: www.uct.ac.za

Website: www.uct.ac.za