

Daily Update, 16 July 2021, 9:30am



**ST CHARLES COLLEGE**  
S O U T H A F R I C A

Dear Parents

**Positive developments in the past 24 hours**

We take encouragement from the presence of the Defence Force in the background which became more visible from late on Wednesday evening. This seemed to enable law enforcement to do their work with increased confidence yesterday and residents began moving around the city without fear.

In the centre of town, the community rallied to clean up the city in co-operation with the city officials. On Wednesday night, communities who have been standing guard around key retail centres, were relieved that the night passed without serious incident in most parts, and they were joined by Defence Force members during the evening. We remain concerned for those on farms who are still on high alert as stock theft and threats of arson need to be brought under control. We know that farming communities are very close-knit but should emergency accommodation be needed overnight they should let us know and we will assist without hesitation.

Although queues extended for fuel and entry to those shops which opened yesterday, there was calm as people patiently waited to obtain fuel and basic goods. Diesel was readily available but petrol queues were very long and will remain so for a while until supplies of fuel are stabilised. Taxis resumed transport services yesterday morning allowing some staff to return to work and this morning many more workers were able to report for work. This morning the fresh produce markets reopened and chains of trucks carrying food stocks arrived in the province to replenish supermarkets and ensure food security.

We are grateful for the new Zulu King, Misuzulu Ka Zwelithini, an Old Boy of the College, who passionately condemned the unrest and called the people of the province to remember what the Zulu nation stands for:

*"I therefore appeal to the Zulu nation to withdraw from participation in the destruction of South Africa. I appeal for calm, and for peace to be restored. I call on our people to lead by example. Let us not allow politics to taint the dignity of our nation and be lead to destruction. We are better than this. We are a people of dignity. Let us respect the rule of law and ensure that order returns to KwaZuluNatal and wherever we are as a people."*

Together with community leaders who have impressed on people to return goods that they have stolen, there are signs of people remembering what it means to be a human being again. The most positive of these is a moral shift in the right direction where people are turning to social media to name and shame influential and wealthy people who have jumped on the bandwagon and disgracefully looted appliances and goods they can well-afford.

At school we have been fortunate that our suppliers have made special plans to ensure that we have access to perishable goods to complement our reserve stocks of non-perishable items. Managers and staff have worked around the clock to establish food stability for staff and the boys in our care and I applaud their efforts. I am grateful to be part of such a dedicated team.

Yours faithfully

Allen van Blerk

Principal