

Wits students vow to make Joburg ungovernable

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Johannesburg - Wits University students have vowed to intensify their protest on Tuesday following what they said was a successful fourth day of protesting.

Addressing students, Wits EFF student chair, Vuyani Phambo said they plan to push their protest further, taking power away from Vice Chancellor Adam Habib. The students said they want to make Johannesburg ungovernable by "frustrating white monopoly capital".

This comes after negotiations reached a deadlock when Wits council refused to meet with the students, after they allegedly broke into a locked Senate House concourse on Monday morning. Students said they would gather at Senate House on Tuesday morning and intensify their protest. As the student leaders addressed the thousands of students in attendance at Senate House, the media was asked to leave by students, who said they fear that the cameras would expose their strategy to university management.

While gathered at the Senate House, students demanded that Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande come and address them saying they felt insulted by him.

The minister is scheduled to meet with various vice chancellors on Tuesday after turbulent days as Rhodes University, the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University have all joined the Wits protest against fee hikes.

Earlier students marched to Empire Road where reports emerged that students had overturned a van and threw stones at cars.

Former Wits SRC president Mcebo Dlamini said they needed to be tactical in their next move against the proposal by the university for a 10.5% fee hike.

"We need to be very tactical. We managed to frustrate the city. Our march in the streets of Braamfontein was an awareness. Now that the public has seen us, they must go to government to make a change," said

SRC sitting president at Wits, Shaeera Kalla, said they will demand that the university extend their exam timetable for a week as well as assignments and tests.

"It is very important that we do not lose our momentum. We are in control," she said.

Students were dressed in Progressive Youth Association (PYA) shirts with some wearing red EFF beret.

Medical students wore their white coats and uniforms.

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