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Charges could follow Durban campus audit

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A KPMG forensic audit into dealings at the Durban University of Technology has uncovered fraud, corruption and mismanagement carried out since 2002, it was revealed yesterday.

Education Minister Naledi Pandor put the university under the administration of Prof Jonathan Jansen, Pretoria University's education dean, in August after an independent assessor found the breakdown in management was so severe that the university could no longer function under its council.

Yesterday Jansen released the final report of the audit and said that criminal charges could potentially be laid in seven of the 64 actual findings made. The report also found 15 cases for disciplinary action and seven cases for civil recovery.

Jansen promised speedy action against all wrongdoers and said criminal charges were already being formulated.

He said "every cent" unlawfully taken from the university's coffers would be returned, and the university would "act without fear or favour" in implementing KPMG's recommendations.

The auditors found no one currently in senior management was directly implicated in fraud.

They found that between April 2002 and June this year "several people" had helped themselves to the university's money and that this happened across a number of departments.

The exact amount lost was still being determined, Jansen said.

KPMG also found the university's computers had been used for the mass mailing of "gross porno-



Jonathan Jansen

graphic images", vehicles had been used "without accountability", contractors were paid before work was done and that the institution's internal controls had been "severely compromised".

Little action had been taken despite previous warnings about the situation, Jansen said.

Substantial findings of corrupt, fraudulent and irregular activity had been found in the areas of third-stream income generation, procurement and maintenance, internal financial management and control, irregular use of university property, management of student accommodation and payroll and human resources, he said.

"The main forensic audit has now been completed.

"Severe action will be taken against companies and individuals, and specific steps will be implemented to ensure that such a descent into corrupt and fraudulent behaviour never happens again," Jansen said.