



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INVUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

31 January 2020

Dear staff and students

STATEMENT ON STUDENT HOUSING

Kindly take note that the perceived student housing challenges are being given the urgency that they deserve to ensure that our students are accommodated in habitable establishments that do not demean their dignity. To this end, the university has so far issued three Requests for Proposals (RFPs) two of which were finalized yesterday by the Bid Adjudication Committee (BAC) as well as granting one-year extensions to those landlords whose contracts had expired in November 2019. It must further be noted that any procurement of goods and services is subjected to a rigorous process as prescribed by the university's Supply Chain Management Policy from which Student Housing is not immune. As indicated, the BAC has just completed its work yesterday and thorough by also taking into consideration a submission compiled by Student Services and the SRC regarding extensions of expired contracts.

In the light of the foregoing, a special appeal is made to the university community to exercise calm, patience and restraint while this process is being brought to its logical conclusion in compliance with the university's regulatory framework. It must further be noted that every effort is being made to protect our students from unscrupulous landlords who have historically had a tendency to accommodate our students in establishments that are not habitable and continue to disregard compliance with DHET/NSFAS prescribed norms and standards. It is for this reason that the university has embarked upon a more rigorous procurement of additional beds for our students and to mitigate against ageing audit queries, which do not bode well for the university. We continue to be mindful of the growing anxiety associated with the enrolment process and our Student Housing Department continues to work tirelessly to ensure that not a single student ends sleeping on the streets by providing temporary overnight accommodation as and when required to do so.

Once again, I wish to appeal for calm and restraint, and thank you very much for your co-operation and understanding.

Kind regards,

Dr Maditsane Nkonoane

Dean of Students