



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

18 April 2020

Dear staff, students and alumni

DUT COVID-19 SOLIDARITY FUND *(Committed and Compassionate, Caring and Supporting)*

There is no doubt that South Africa and the rest of world is facing tremendous challenges in dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak. Over the last few weeks, it has become increasingly evident that there is an urgent need to establish a programme to support members of the DUT community, especially our students, who are most vulnerable and have been negatively affected by the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Commitment and **compassion** are two of our DUT values and principles that the DUT Covid-19 Solidarity Fund is aimed at demonstrating. In line with the President's Solidarity Fund, its aim is to provide **care** and **support** to the most vulnerable in our DUT community.

As a result, the Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Executive Committee of Senate (SENEX) have endorsed a proposal to establish a special **DUT Covid-19 Solidarity Fund: Committed, Compassionate**. The University appreciates the generosity of the members of these committees, constituting the five (5) top levels of Management (Peromnes levels 1 to 5), who will make contributions from their monthly salaries.

To kickstart the *DUT Covid-19 Solidarity Fund*, members of this group will contribute, as a collective, a minimum amount of R282 619.00 per month, for the next 3 months. Given that this is just a minimum, some of the members in this category and in other categories will be contributing more, depending on their personal and family circumstances. Given the minimum, we estimate that this group of staff members will contribute close to R1 million over the 3 months' period.

Management urges other members of staff, students, alumni, external partners, service providers and friends of DUT to make their financial contributions, of whatever amounts, towards the *DUT Covid-19 Solidarity Fund*. In a small way, this institutional initiative demonstrates our collective **commitment** and **compassion** as we seek to **care** and **support** those in our midst whose lives will be disrupted considerably by Covid-19. This fund will be administered by

our Advancement and Alumni Relations department. As stated above, it will be used for **care** and **support** programmes, two of the aims specified in the national Covid-19 Solidarity Fund. Our Chief Financial Officer, Mrs Nthanyiseni Dhumazi and our Senior Director: Human Resources, Dr Vuyo Mthethwa will be working closely with Prof Sibusiso Moyo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement to ensure that the *DUT Covid-19 Solidarity Fund* is in place before the end of the national lockdown on 30 April 2020.

Given similar funds DUT already has, the Advancement and Alumni Relations section, under the leadership of Mr Zwakele Ngubane, has systems and processes in place to facilitate philanthropic initiatives of this nature.

Our University will also be setting aside funds, towards the other two aims of the national Covid-19 Solidarity Funds; that is, **prevention** and **detection**, and depending on how the fight against Covid-19 proceeds. So far, the University has allocated R4.5 million towards these two aims. Prevention and detection programmes will be particularly important to assure safety and health when lockdown ends and our staff and students eventually return to the University.

The Advancement and Alumni Relations office will inform you of the account details and they will send you the relevant documentation, so that you can also consider contributing to our fund. As noted above, every cent that is generously donated by individuals, groups of individuals from among our staff and students, including our alumni and external partners, service providers and friends, will be spent on care and support of those most vulnerable members of our DUT community affected by the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Finally, we remind all staff, students, alumni, external partners, service providers and friends to remain vigilant in the fight against Covid-19. Please remember to strictly comply with the national lockdown regulations. Together, we can make a positive difference in the fight against Covid-19.

Stay home, stay safe and save lives...

Sincerely

DUT Management team