

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

23 March 2022

THE PASSING OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR BHARTI ODHAV

The university community was shocked to learn about the passing of Emeritus Professor Bharti Odhav this week. On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Thandwa Mthembu and the staff and students of DUT, we convey our most sincere condolences to her husband Dr Naranbhai, her two sons, Vivek and Anand and members of the family. We also extend our sympathies to the friends and colleagues of the late Emeritus Professor Bharti Odhav. We pray for their strength and comfort during this difficult time.

Prof Odhav was a highly respected academic and a prolific researcher in the biological sciences, with a specialist area in medicinal plants. She was one of the first academics at DUT to be awarded a full professorship. During her time at DUT, Prof Odhav was a Professor of Biotechnology in the Faculty of Applied Sciences and a former Head of Department in the Department of Biological Sciences at the then ML Sultan Technikon.

DUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Thandwa Mthembu said that Prof Odhav's passing was "a loss to her family, colleagues, DUT and the research community. Though she may be gone in flesh, Prof Odhav's legacy keeps her alive in spirit and in the souls she touched. Long live Prof Odhav."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Engagement, Prof Sibusiso Moyo said that "Prof Odhav was an Emeritus Professor at DUT and worked very hard to advance her research and that of her students, despite being physically challenged. We will miss her tremendously. May her soul rest in eternal peace and we will keep her family in our prayers."

Prof Suren Singh, Executive Dean in the Faculty of Applied Sciences and former colleague of Prof Bharti Odhav said, "this is a great loss to science, a great loss to DUT and a great loss to humanity. A lady who persevered despite the challenges. Research was born in biotechnology at the former ML Sultan Technikon in the early 1990's through her efforts and many staff, including myself, are now carrying that flame today. Let's salute her for what she did best from her heart and contributed to everybody around her."

Over the years, Prof Odhav invested significant amounts of time and expertise to supervise and guide numerous Masters and Doctoral students, some of whom have become highly rated academics and professors. Prof Odhav will always be remembered for her indomitable spirit and for her kindness and support, especially to fledgling researchers.

Prof Odhav's funeral will take place between 15H15 and 16H30 today, Wednesday, 23 March 2022, in Hall 2 at the Clare Estate Crematorium in Durban. May her memory always be a blessing...

