

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

23 August 2022

Dear staff and students

### ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF IMBALI LODGE

As far back as 2014, the Imbali property, including the Lodge, was identified by the Minister of Higher Education & Training for the creation of an educational precinct, wherein students from the local community could be provided with educational and housing facilities. This included TVET Colleges and the Durban University of Technology (DUT). The property was subsequently purchased by DUT from Transnet, to bring this idea to fruition.

Earlier this morning, the university was notified that illegal occupants at Imbali Lodge in Pietermaritzburg had barricaded the road leading to the entrance of the Indumiso campus in Imbali.

According to the information obtained, this was as a result of the electricity and water services having been stopped at the premises. DUT Management confirms that the university had nothing to do with the stoppage of these services, nor is the university aware of who are the current occupants of Imbali Lodge in Pietermaritzburg.

We apologise to staff and students who were affected by the protest action outside the Indumiso campus this morning.

The university is exploring its legal options.

Sincerely

DUT Management Team