Vaal University of Technology

Your world to a better future

VUT

CHAMPION a student VUT

AN APPEAL FOR SPONSORSHIP FOR ACADEMICALLY DESERVING AND FINANCIALLY NEEDY STUDENTS

Since its inception as the Vaal Triangle College for Advanced Technical Education in 1966, the Vaal University of Technology has evolved into a formidable tertiary institution, drawing students from all over the country and the African continent. It is physically located some 68km South of Johannesburg in the small town of Vanderbijlpark.

The Vaal University of Technology boasts of Four Faculties, viz,

- ***FACULTY OF HUMAN SCIENCES;***
- ***FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES;***
- ***FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY; AND***
- ***FACULTY OF APPLIED & COMPUTER SCIENCES***

Over the years, the University has produced a number of Graduates who have, in their own right become incredible Entrepreneurs and thus contributing to the growth and development of the Country's economy and Human Capital Development. There are just too many of such people to mention as to do so may lead to unintended consequences of leaving out some and so, it is better to embrace them all for having walked across the stage of VUT on their respective Graduation Days. To this end, we are justly proud of the roles our Graduates continue to play in the Communities in which they live

The above having been said though, the financial situation of the University is quite depressing and precarious, especially due to the spiralling student debt. The Historic Student Debt currently stands at about R350 million and the same has been occasioned by the students' inability to pay their outstanding fees, due to the poor backgrounds from which many of them come.

Whilst the University Community is quite excited, exhilarated and enthused about the State President's announcement of "Free Education" for the first time entrance students and that the scheme will be phased in over a period of five years, the announcement will evidently take away the heavy burden off the shoulders of those parents and/or guardians whose joint family income is up to R350 000-00 p.a, fact of the matter is that the University still has a Historic Debt of R350m.

It is because of this challenge that the University Management deemed it appropriate to make this special appeal for sponsorships and/or financial assistance from the "Good Samaritans" out there to come to the rescue of those students whose situation is so precarious that they cannot afford to wipe off the student debt. The DHET has made announcement on how it would take care of the Historic Debt of the NSFAS Beneficiaries, but the University still needs to play its own part as a sign of its commitment to access to Higher Education. The situation is so dire that to keep quiet about it would simply mean that we, as Management are simply happy with the status quo and yet the opposite is true.

The VUT Management continues to effect and to implement the Council's approved Student Debt Reduction Strategy, but the road ahead is quite arduous and bumpy, hence this appeal. A University is a national asset which cannot be allowed to go under and therefore needs all those who have the best interest in its affairs and those of the Country and not to mention the Sedibeng District Municipality to come on board and give a helping hand. The majority of our students come from extremely poor backgrounds and are accordingly unable to service their debts. Even though faced with this debt, the commitment which many display towards their studies is just amazing, hence a call for financial assistance.

The future of our Country lies in the hands of the present-day generation and so, we have to do our very best to assist those who are academically deserving and financially needy. The Government's announcement of "Community Service" by those who shall have benefitted from the NSFAS resonates with what we are currently pleading for, i.e the VUT's Convocants, Alumni, Members of Staff, Business and Industry and particularly those Service Providers who are doing business with the University to come forward and pledge their financial support for the Institution. The Management and the Student Leadership have agreed to establish a Fund-Raising Committee which will boost and bolster the efforts of the Director: Resources Mobilization and Fund-raising, when the position has been filled .

The purpose of this request is not to publish the names of those students whose debts are quite high, as to do so would be more embarrassing and counter-productive for them and their families, as the University does communicate with them on a regular basis.

This appeal is made particularly to the following groups of people:

- ***VUT Council***
- ***VUT Chancellor***
- ***VUT Management***
- ***VUT Staff***
- ***VUT Convocants and Alumni***
- ***Business and Industry***
- ***Religious Leaders***
- ***Traditional Leaders***
- ***Those Service Providers who do business with the University - they need to plough back to the University.***

Any contribution made will be appreciated as the saying goes:

"Blessed is The Hand
That Gives than the
Hand that Receiveth!"

Finally, the request for financial assistance as herein articulated is premised on the Philosophy of the late King Sobhuza II, to wit:

"Akusiko kwami kwebantfu"
[it is not about me – it is about the people]

The same can be said about VUT – it is not about us, but about VUT and its future which ties in well with the VUT slogan "*Your world to a better future*".

The Vice-Chancellor has already committed and pledged to sponsor one of our needy and deserving students and is therefore pleading for a similar commitment from whoever will be touched by this appeal.

Here are the University's Banking Details for those who would wish to make some contribution:

Name	:	**Vaal University of Technology**
Bank	:	**ABSA**
Type of Account	:	**Current**
Account Number	:	**5-3086-1945**
Branch Code	:	**630-237**
Your Reference	:	**Champion (student number)**

Those who make payments as above requested and can show proof thereof will be furnished with Tax Certificates for purposes of their Tax Returns.

Proof of payment should be e-mailed to Mr Neo Masulubele (Acting Executive Director : Finance Department) at the following contact details:

E-mail	:	**neo@vut.ac.za**
Fax Number	:	**016 950 9120**

All other general enquiries should be directed to:
Ms Kediemetse Mokotsi, Director: Marketing & Public Relations,
Corporate Affairs (016) 950 9225/9353 or kedie@vut.ac.za or thenji@vut.ac.za.

Your support to the ***Champion a Student*** campaign will be highly appreciated.

Professor Gordon N Zide (PhD)
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
Professor Emeritus (Anthropology) (UNISA)

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