

**VAAL UNIVERSITY** OF TECHNOLOGY Inspiring thought. Shaping talent.

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Notice 10: Payments to students who were asked to pay for services and/or a deposit by landlords

Dear Landlords,

It has recently come to our attention, as the management of Vaal University of Technology (VUT), that certain landlords have been engaging in practices that are of concern to both the university and its students. Specifically, it has been brought to our notice that some landlords have requested students, who are utilizing their accommodations, to make advance payments or deposits for their stay.

We wish to emphasize that many of the students residing in your accommodations receive financial assistance through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). As such, their accommodation fees are covered directly by NSFAS. Therefore, any additional payments made by these students, such as deposits or advance rent, are not only unnecessary but also potentially result in overpayment to the landlords. This practice is strongly discouraged and if not rectified the university will have to report it to the NSFAS.

In the interest of fairness and transparency, we urge all landlords who have engaged in such practices to promptly refund any money paid by students for deposits or advance rent on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2024. Failure to do so may result in the university having to take formal action to address this matter.

Please understand that our primary concern is the well-being and financial security of our students. Any discrepancies or irregularities in their accommodation payments must be rectified to ensure that they are not unduly burdened financially.

We kindly request your immediate attention to this matter and prompt action to rectify any discrepancies. Your cooperation in resolving this issue is crucial to maintaining the integrity of the student accommodation process at VUT.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**VUT Management**