



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

MEDIA RELEASE – August 22, 2018

Official Statement Issued by NUL Senior Management Team regarding students' protest.

Yesterday, on Tuesday the 21st August, 2018, students of the National University of Lesotho (Roma Campus) embarked on class disruptions; trashing of the campus; and mounted a blockade of the main Maseru Roma road where they burned tyres and timber, obstructing the free flow of traffic. This episode repeated itself from around 10:00hrs on Wednesday 22nd August, 2018.

In a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor who went to quell the riot on Tuesday 21st August, 2018, students seemed to complain about delays in the payment of their NMDS allowances. The Vice-Chancellor explained that NMDS had committed to transfer the allowances of first year students latest by Wednesday 22nd August, 2018. The University can confirm that today Wednesday 22nd August, 2018, first year allowances have reached the university, and are being transferred into students' personal accounts this afternoon.

The University management is extremely concerned about a culture of anarchy that seems to embed itself into a normal practice during the beginning of every academic year. To pre-empt this disruptive pattern, the University management already addressed the student body on Wednesday 15th August, 2018 where it assured them that working together with NMDS and the SRC, student allowances will be released within the contracted 21 days period.

The NUL management wants the public to know that the orchestrated anarchy which started on Tuesday the 21st August, 2018 was not because NMDS had delayed in the release of the funds, but was rather organised by anarchists, some of whom investigations indicate are not students. The University management wishes to assure the public that those who are behind this chaos will be sought and hauled before the disciplinary processes of the University. These investigations have already commenced.

The NUL management wishes to appeal to law abiding students to go back to classes and resume their studies with the assurance that they will be fully protected. In the same light, staff members are requested to continue with their teaching and other academic assignments. This message will duly be communicated directly to the Student Union meeting which the management has convened at 15:00hrs this afternoon.