



# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

## SENATE STATEMENT OF ALARM

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### 1. Background

At its 368<sup>th</sup> special meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, Senate considered a report from Management on the deteriorating financial state of affairs at the National University of Lesotho following a steep decline in the allocated subvention for the 2019/2020 financial year, coupled with the announcement that the Government of Lesotho [GOL] through the Ministry of Development Planning has suffered a highly reduced budget which has implications on the scholarships that the National Manpower Development Planning [NMDS] finances.

In this context, Senate noted with alarm that the GOL presented three options to the institutions of higher learning for consideration and implementation to address the current financial short-fall. The proposed options are that;

#### **1.1 Option 1: *Maintain Fees and the Sponsorship Absorption @ the 2018/2019 Levels***

Institutions should maintain the 2018/2019 tuition fees and not implement any fee increases while also maintaining their 2018/2019 student absorption and not insist on filling their allocated quota. For NUL this converts to 1,630 sponsorships against the allocated quota of 2,330 sponsorships. This is the preferred option for the GOL.

#### **1.2 Option 2: *Maintain 2018/2019 Fees and Maintain 2018/2019 Sponsorship Quotas***

Institutions that maintain the current year's tuition fees by not effecting any fee increases may continue to benefit from the allocated sponsorship quotas provided NMDS is allocated additional funds. The number of sponsorships related to this option are difficult to compute as the benefit is conditional.

#### **1.3 Option 3: *Increase Fees for Reduced Sponsorship Quota***

Institutions that implement fee increases would have their sponsorship quotas reduced in relation to the budget. Indications are that with the approved fee increases, the total quota



allocation for NUL would be reduced from 2,330 new sponsorships to around 1,500 new sponsorships.

## 2. Implications

The immediate implications that would result from implementing any of the proposed options is that NUL would, at the most, operate only up to the end of the first semester in the 2019/2020 financial year before it runs out of funds to cover personnel emoluments.

## 3. Decisions

Having deliberated on the matters extensively, Senate decided to;

- 3.1 Advise Council that in the light of the permutations worked out from the proposed options, none is advisable to implement. Council should, instead, reiterate the required level of funding for NUL to operate to the GOL for it to make the relevant decisions and take appropriate action.
- 3.2 Form a task team made up of representatives from the four (4) public institutions of higher learning that would adopt a common action plan for consultations with government to work towards a lasting solution.
- 3.3 Engage the Basotho nation on the prevailing financial crisis facing institutions of higher learning and allow them to contribute in finding a lasting solution.
- 3.4 In the event that none of the above strategies bear fruit, the University should prepare to shut down until the GOL is able to finance it to the required level.

Signed:

  
L. Maqalika-Lerotholi  
REGISTRAR

