



## NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

*MEDIA RELEASE – August 26, 2019*

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### **NUL STATEMENT ON THE RECENT STUDENT UNREST AT NUL**

On Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2019, some members of the NUL Student Body embarked on boycotting lectures and this led to the ultimate destruction of property on and off-campus. During this disorder, one student was hit and injured by a stray stone when students who stay off-campus forced their way into the school residences to coerce on-campus students (mainly first years) to join the strike. Police came to disperse the rioters at the Main Gate using teargas.

This, despite the fact that earlier that morning, NUL Management held a meeting with the Student Representative Council (SRC) and considered the fourteen (14) grievances listed in the letter of notice for the boycott which the SRC had only sent to the Acting Vice-Chancellor the previous day at midday.

At the meeting, it had been agreed that a plan of action on the four (4) items which were identified as those requiring attention be put in place for immediate implementation while the remaining ten (10) had long been acted upon or were already being addressed. Further to that, Management and the SRC had agreed that the proposed boycott of lectures be called off.

The destruction includes vandalism of the boom gates, doors and windows at the Halls of Residence and Maintenance Office as well as the burning of tyres and wood outside main gate scorching the tarred road.

The Department of Campus Services is still assessing the extent of damage in order to charge the Student Body for the repairs. Investigations are on-going in order to bring the perpetrators to book.

The Student Body is reminded that a decision to suspend lectures can only be made by Senate and nobody else. Students on demonstration must not interfere with the rights of other students and staff who wish to continue with their work.

The University Management wishes to alert members of the Student Body, the University Community and the Basotho nation that there seems to be an organised clique that has infiltrated the Student Body with the view to orchestrate the destabilization of the University.

Organisers of this destructive campaign are warned to desist from their intended unlawful acts. The National University of Lesotho is an institution governed by law and rules to uphold order and good governance. No student is immune from the application of the laws, rules and regulations governing the University; and they shall be applied where circumstances warrant so.

The University Management wishes to assure all law abiding members of the Student Union and members of the University Community of their safety and security and urges them to continue with their ordinary business as the perpetrators are brought to book.