



## **JOINT STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO AND THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO January 18, 2024**

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The Principal Secretaries of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), the Executive Management of the National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS), the Executive Management of the National University of Lesotho (NUL) and the Students Representative Council (SRC) of the NUL held a virtual meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. The meeting addressed the expressed intension by Postgraduate Students of the NUL to stage a strike action on Wednesday January 17, 2024 against delayed payment of their living allowances.

Whilst students had been confused by the inconsistent information they reported to have received about the sharing of lists of registered students between NMDS and NUL, the meeting confirmed that NMDS had received lists of registered students from NUL starting from end of November 2023 up to the second week of January 2024.

The meeting also noted that students' grievances against delay in paying their living allowances could have been aggravated by the initial delays in the submission of admission lists for awarding new Postgraduate students bursaries which were submitted on October 24, 2023 and results for renewals of bursaries for continuing Postgraduate students came in on November 30, 2023 while their studies had commenced.

It was further noted that the NMDS systems have been programmed to process complete and reconciled lists of registered students in line with warrant releases for ease of managing information and financial resources. It is important that complete consolidated registration lists are received on time prior to commencement of studies. However, it was confirmed that NMDS at this point had started paying students' living allowances in which out of 287 registered postgraduate students it had already paid 216 students. Allowances for the remaining 71 students will also be processed accordingly.

As a way forward, the meeting made the following observations and commitments:

- That the NUL SRC should access official information on NMDS related matters through the Director's and / or Deputy Director's offices to avoid inconsistencies and inaccuracies which may end up confusing the SRC and the student body.
- NMDS and NUL agreed to reconcile the lists of registered students shared between them to ensure that they are all well aligned.
- NUL further committed to submit any pending lists of registered students who have been cleared by the NMDS so that allowances for all the remaining sponsored students are also processed and paid.
- NUL committed to observe and adhere to the agreed timelines for submission of admission lists, results and registration lists for sponsorship before commencement of lectures and urged NMDS to also pay allowances for students whose registration lists have been submitted as students are also not contracted at the same time. The need for the timing of the submission of results and the administration of students' registration to be enhanced was noted.
- SRC committed to disseminate the decisions of the meeting with the student body to clear any confusion among students and promised to cancel plans for strike action.

The Government of Lesotho and the Management of the National University of Lesotho are now in a position to confirm that as had been promised by the SRC, the intended strike action was abandoned and no disturbances were observed on Wednesday, January 17, 2024.


**For Government of Lesotho**



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PS Finance & Dev. Planning

**For National University of Lesotho**



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Registrar