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MEDIA RELEASE

LETABA TVET COLLEGE MANAGEMENT CONDEMS STUDENTS PROTEST AT MAAKE, GIYANI, AND TZANEEN CAMPUS.

For immediate release

15 March 2024

Since Monday, 11 March 2024, students have been protesting outside the main entrance of the Campuses in solidarity with the call for NSFAS allowances, teaching and learning was disrupted at Giyani Campus, staff were unable to access the campus to render services to deserving students.

Various roads leading to the Tzaneen campus have been barricaded and tyres burnt on Monday, 11 March 2024. During the evening of 12 March 2024, protesters tried to force their way into the campus by breaking the lock of the main gate. They were however prevented from entering the Maake campus. Later in the evening, protesters vandalised at the guard house. Fortunately, no injuries were sustained but windows of the guard house were broken.

There is reasonable suspicion that not all the protesters are students. As a result, College policies will be used for both criminal and/or student disciplinary cases. The case of malicious damage to property have also been registered with the South African Police Service.

Letaba TVET College Management strongly condemns the recent spate of violence and disruption of teaching and learning. We will need to use the already limited funds to fix the damaged property. We urge students to respect the College property and adhere to the necessary regulations and protocols. We remain committed to continue engaging with the students' leaders to ensure that all outstanding issues relating to students' allowances are resolved speedily. NSFAS has deployed a team to assist with student's allowance queries from 14 – 18 March 2024.

To mitigate and resolve the college management held a meeting on 14 March 2024 with College EXCO SRC, SATVETSA, NSFAS, DHET and Regional officials. The meeting agreed that teaching and learning has to continue at all the affected sites with effect from 15 March 2024. The common assessments affecting Giyani campus will be re-scheduled to be completed within the week of 18-22 March 2024 because the trimester exam starts on 26 March 2024 while the marks are to be submitted to DHET by 10 April 2024. The common assessments for NCV will be rescheduled to take place after the March recess.

As of 15 March 2024; the situation is calm in all the college delivery sites. The common teaching and learning and assessments are taking place in all the campuses except for Giyani Campus.

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Issued by Management