



PRESS RELEASE

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LESOTHO COUNCIL OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (LCN)

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HABITUAL STUDENTS' DEATH AT LEROTOLI POLYTECHNIC AND MYSTERIOUS ONES AT POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE.

The Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (LCN) as an umbrella body for non-governmental organisations in Lesotho jointly with its member organisations, through its Sectorial Commission of Democracy and Human Rights whose mandate amidst others, is to monitor the promotion and protection of human rights in Lesotho, condemns activities that threaten safety, peace, disrupted vision of schools, security and welfare of students.

The Council have learned with great shock, dismay and sadness of yet other deaths of students that occurred at Lerotholi Polytechnic (LP). The Council is perturbed by LP acknowledgement of the malpractice that has been claiming life of students year in year out. In its urgent circular informing staff and students of the Missing LP Students the circular does not either condemn or provide confidence that the school disassociates itself with the practice.

The Council is mindful of the fact that school is traditionally a place of learning and growth where violence is neither ordained nor a necessary evil as it has long term damages like loss of one's quality of life.

LCN believes the price of either inaction or lack of enough publicity on the part of LP management on the punitive measures of perpetrators of these atrocities is costly. The repercussions of this perpetuated violence continue to affect not only students but society at large. No form of violence and its manifestation can be justified even if it can be called by glorified names. The council through its members further prioritises efforts to end violence across all its work through practical programmes and supporting services that focus on prevention, intervention, responses in ensuring safe learning environment for students, secure vision of schools, creating healing restoration and peace, which subsequently will build sense of values, personal integrity and accountability at large.

LCN also advocate for a broad based and/or comprehensive approach that incorporates human rights approach which includes amidst others, students, educators, parents and entire community to address school safety. The Council urges government to take investigative action to end this malpractice which should not have a place in progressive societies.

The Council is further disturbed by, and condemns the death of recruits at PTC. The Council urges the government to investigate the matter in a manner that, though life can no longer be restored but parents, guardians, relatives and the nation at large find solace and justice least the situation recurs and subject the Police Training to mistrust and leave a disdain that Police Service will find it insurmountable to resolve.

LCN is ready to work with relevant stakeholders to bring about finality to this matters. Issues and stakeholders have already been identified, to ensure the matter is brought to finality and that justice is served. The public will be kept abreast of all developments, as matters progress.

Done at Maseru at LCN offices on the

26 February 2021