THE COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE STUDENT DISTURBANCES AND WORKER'S SIT IN PROTEST AT THE COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY

THE MANAGEENT OF THE COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY WISHES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT THE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCED STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN THE NIGHT OF 22ND/23RD JULY 2024. THE NATURE OF THE DISTURBANCES WAS RIOTING, DAMAGING PROPERTY AND LOOTING.

THE DISTURBANCES WERE IGNITED BY NON-SUPPLY OF WATER FROM NKANA WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANY WHICH HAD ONE OF ITS TRANSFORMERS BLOWN AND COULD NOT PUMP WATER. THIS AFFECTED THE WHOLE RIVERSIDE AREA WHERE THE UNIVERSITY IS SITUATED.

THE UNIVERSITY DID HOWEVER SUPPLY WATER FROM BOREHOLES WHICH WERE RECENTLY SANK AND EQUIPED. THE UNIVERSITY ALSO BROUGHT IN WATER BOUSERS TO BOOST THE SUPPLY FROM BOREHOLES. THE WATER HOWEVER HAD TO BE DRAWN IN BUCKETS AS THE UNIVERSITY IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON CONNECTING THIS WATER TO THE ALREADY EXISTING WATER RETICULATION SYSTEM.

THIS SITUATION AGITATED THE STUDENTS WHO BEGAN THE RIOTUS ACTS AROUND 22:00 HOURS AND WENT ON WELL PAST MIDNIGHT. THE RIOTS WERE STARTED BY A FEW DISGRUNTLED STUDENTS WHO QUICKLY INFLUENCED OTHERS TO JOIN THEM. THESE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND ARE BEING BROUGHT TO BOOK.

MANAGEMENT HAS SINCE ENGAGED THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND THE SITUATION HAS NOW BEEN CONTAINED. CAMPUS IS QUIET. THE FLOW OF WATER HAS ALSO SINCE BEEN RESTORED. MANAGEMNT IS FURTHER STILL ASSESSING THE EXTENT AND LIKELY COST OF THE DAMAGE AND LOOTING.

MANAGEMENT ALSO WISHES TO DISPELL THE RUMOURS GOING ROUND THAT TWO STUDENTS LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE PROCESS. A CHECK HAS BEEN CONDUCTED ON CAMPUS, HOSPITALS AND EVEN MORTURIES IN THE DISTRICT AND SO FAR, THERE IS NO RECORD OF DEATHS.

MANAGEMENT WISHES TO REPORT FURTHER THAT TWO UNIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY HAD DECLARED A SIT-IN PROTEST FROM 19TH JULY 2024. MANAGEMENT MET THE UNIONS ON 22ND JULY 2024 AND CAME UP WITH SOME RESOLUTIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD. THIS MATTER IS YET TO BE CONCLUDED BUT CLASSES ARE PARTIALLY BEING CONDUCTED.

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REGISTRAR