



**THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA STUDENTS UNION
(UNZASU)**

C/O The Dean of Students Affairs, Great East Road Campus, P.O Box 32379, Lusaka

PRESS STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

FROM: UNZASU

DATE: 31ST MAY, 2017.

RE: REACTION TO THE SUSPENSION OF UNZASU ACTIVITIES BY GOVERNMENT

All media houses present, the university community and the general public, we as the university of Zambia Students Union (UNZASU) acknowledge your existence and your positive contribution to the development of this Nation. Country men and women, this statement focuses on the issue involving the suspension of all UNZASU activities at the University of Zambia due to protests that occurred on 28th and 29th of May 2017.

Country Men and Women, on the above mentioned dates, students from the university of Zambia great east Road campus decided to take off to the street to air out their grievances on the issue of Lecturers on Go-Slow and the delay of Accommodation and Project allowances that have not yet been resolved by the Government and Management.

First and Foremost, the protests that occurred had no blessings from the Union because we believe in the doctrine of upholding the rules and regulations of the institution and the Nation on the procedures of holding an Assembly according to Article 20 and 21 of the Public Order Act of the 2016 Amended Constitution of the Republic of Zambia.

Country Men and Women, our national house of laws – the Parliament, by law established under paragraph 27(Cap 1.) of the Third Schedule of the National Assembly Bill Number 4 of 2013 in the Higher Education Act states that,

“there shall be a student’s union in a higher education institution.”

To this effect, we would love to remind the nation that UNZASU is by law established and mandated to coin its constitution to govern, organize, coordinate and administer student’s activities. According to the UNZASU constitution article 4 section (c), the Union has a major objective to work for the cooperation of students and other sections of the community and develop in students a sense of responsibility towards society. It is in this light that the current union since day one has been engaging management and the government on various issues in an intellectual, objective and civilized manner. Furthermore, the Union is aware of the powers of the minister as established under Part 3 of the Higher Education Act of 2013, such as her duty to “take steps considered necessary in the best interest of the higher education institution, where the minister reasonably believes to do so”. Therefore, suspending activities such as the current illegal UNZASU election campaigns that are likely to cause public pandemonium within the University is reasonable, but suspending all UNZASU activities is questionable, improbable and illogical.

Country Men and Women, we wish to let you know that the Union has a number of vital activities and projects that are currently underway, some of these include;

- Renovating the Library and Purchasing Library Furniture
- Offering Sponsorship to Vulnerable students
- Initiate various community services such as (Environmental Awareness, Carrier Talks etc.) to mention but a few

Expounding the causes of the protests, lecturers are on go slow as confirmed by The University of Zambia Lecturers and Researchers Union (UNZALARU) since Tuesday 23rd of May, 2017 and Project and Accommodation allowances have not been paid by Government, this has made most students idle when they are supposed to be in their lecture rooms learning.

We urge the Government to focus on solving the problems that students and lecturers are facing and not add fresh crisis to already existing problems as Nothing is more important to us than

upholding peace and tranquility among students and the general public stating the fact that we are partners in development. We challenge Government to call for an urgent meeting with all affected stakeholders in order to solve these issues in an amicable and harmonious manner.

It is to this effect that UNZASU Was, Is and Shall continue to operate without interference as its Constitution states.

May God Bless The University of Zambia,

May God Bless The Republic of Zambia. Thank You.

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HINYAMBWE NOAH

UNZASU SECRETARY GENERAL

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MATOLE ADRIAN

UNZASU PRESIDENT

Cc. Minister of Higher Education

Vice Chancellor

Registrar

Dean of Students

Student Populace