



MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

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Media Statement

Monday, 29 February 2016

COURTESY VISIT TO INJURED NWU STUDENTS

Mahikeng- MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Oageng Molapisi assembled a team led by the Chief Director for Civilian Oversight, Nikiwe Num and Director for Communications, Shuping Sebolecwe to pay a courteous visit to the injured students at Victoria and Bophelong Provincial hospital following the recent student's protest at the North West University, Mahikeng Campus. The University was predominantly covered by anarchy and torching of buildings which resulted to students being injured. Accordingly, 14 injured students were admitted at both Victoria and Bophelong Provincial Hospital. Nine students who suffered minor injuries were treated and discharged. Two students were shot, one on the buttocks and the other one was shot on the leg. One student was left blinded in his right eye after he was shot by a rubber bullet. A 21-year-old student who is highly expectant fell when she was running away and was hospitalised. The other 18-year-old student was hospitalised and treated for shock.

The same morning MEC Molapisi, convened a meeting with South African Police Service Management (SAPS) and the University represented by the Rector and Professor Maselesele. MEC engaged the two parties to get a full briefing on the ugly events at the University and a way forward thereof. MEC first and foremost strongly condemned the torching and destruction of the university property. Subsequently, SAPS and the Universities' representatives indicated that they are going to assess the extent of the damage though it will take time to reconstruct as the damages are severe. MEC Molapisi urged the university to be considerate on their decision to close the University while resolving the current problem and send the students home for their safety. He believes that the problems at the university are insurmountable and at some point parties need to reach a compromise. He implored the SAPS to investigate and use everything at their disposal to arrest the perpetrators and those inciting violence. A task team was formed that will work closely together to make sure that sanity prevails and everyone in campus feels free and safe and there is no further anarchy.

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