



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

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MEDIA STATEMENT

Immediate: Thursday, May 21, 2026

WARNING AGAINST WHATSAPP IMPERSONATION AND FRAUDULENT FINANCIAL REQUESTS

The University of Limpopo (UL) wishes to alert staff members, students, stakeholders, service providers, alumni, and members of the public about fraudulent WhatsApp messages and calls being circulated by individuals impersonating the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Jeffrey Mabelebele.

The scammers are using the name, profile picture, and identity of the Vice-Chancellor to solicit money, request urgent financial assistance, and deceive unsuspecting individuals into making payments into private bank accounts under false pretences.

The University categorically states the following:

- The Vice-Chancellor and Principal does not, and will never, request money, loans, donations, or financial favours from staff members, students, or members of the public via WhatsApp, phone calls, or private messages.
- The Vice-Chancellor does not handle admissions, registration, procurement, payments, or financial transactions through personal communication platforms.
- The Vice-Chancellor will not send unsolicited WhatsApp messages to random individuals or staff members requesting urgent transfers or confidential financial assistance.

All official University financial processes are administered through approved institutional systems and authorised University departments.

Members of the public are urged to remain vigilant and to refrain from responding to suspicious messages, making payments, or sharing personal or banking information with unknown individuals claiming to represent the University leadership.

The University further encourages anyone who receives such communication to:

- Ignore and block the number immediately
- Avoid making any payments or commitments
- Report the incident to the South African Police Service (SAPS)
- Notify the University through official communication channels

The University of Limpopo condemns these fraudulent activities in the strongest possible terms and is taking the matter seriously.

Issued by Office of the Registrar



PROF J.K MASHA
UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

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