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URGENT COMMUNIQUE WITH REGARDS TO CYBERBULLYING ON SOCIAL MEDIA REGARDING STUDENT ELECTIONS

It is noted with serious concern that in the context of the forthcoming Student Elections, a minority of students have been reported for engaging in cyberbullying (in terms of harassment, hostility and negative comments) against other students on social media for their campaigns. Such behaviour is highly defamatory and harms the reputation, integrity and mental health of some students and goes against our core values as a University and as citizens.

The Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Bill 2021, refers: “cyberbullying” means any behaviour by means of information and communication technologies, which –

(a) is repetitive, persistent and intentionally harmful; or

(b) involves an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim and causes feelings of distress, fear, loneliness or lack of confidence in the victim, and which results in serious physical or psychological harm to the victim, disability of the victim or death of the victim;

Your attention is drawn that this kind of misconduct will not be tolerated by the University and disciplinary action will be taken against students engaged in cyberbullying.

Students are also reminded that they have signed a pledge in accordance with ethical behaviour during the whole election process and failure to do so will be sanctioned.

All students are kindly advised to behave like mature and disciplined adults.

Registrar

29.11.21