



UGANDA NATIONAL TEACHERS' UNION (UNATU)

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CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF KASESE OVER THE RECENT ATTACK ON LHUBIRIHA COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL

UNATU greatly sympathizes with the bereaved families that lost their loved ones in the recent horrific attack on Lhubiriha Community Secondary School in Mpondwe, Kasese District where it has been confirmed that 37 learners, and 5 community members including the school's night watchman lost their lives. We are in solidarity with all the bereaved and all those that are suffering in one way or another as a result of this tragedy.

This attack has left some of our learners in captivity as a result of suspected abduction; others are wounded physically and emotionally emerging from the horrific torture and degrading treatment that they had to experience and witness in the hands of the assailants. As UNATU, we are greatly disheartened by these occurrences and strongly condemn them. Our members/ teachers who are at the heart of the education system are not safe either. Our learners deserve an education that is of high quality provided in environments that are safe and secure.

School should be a safe space. These acts of terror must be handled with utmost urgency. As UNATU, we continue to raise the alarm and emphasize the need for safe schools and education institutions. Schools serve as important avenues for the development and dissemination of values of non-violence, cooperation, tolerance and respect, not only

among learners and staff, but also beyond, in the wider community. This means that promotion of peace education and prevention of violent extremism can begin in our schools and education institutions spearheaded by well supported, respected, empowered and motivated teachers.

Our thoughts remain with the entire community of Lhubiriha Community Secondary School and the people of Kasese District. On behalf of the entire UNATU family, we hope that you find the much needed strength to go through these very difficult times.

Proudly UNATU: Committed, Connected and Accountable to the members' cause.

BECAUSE WE ARE, THE NATION IS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Baguma Filbert Bates', with a stylized flourish at the end.

BAGUMA FILBERT BATES

GENERAL SECRETARY