



William V. S. Tubman University

Tubman Town, Maryland County

MAILING: P. O. Box 3570 Harper, Maryland County, Republic Of Liberia, West Africa

Monrovia Office: 25th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia

Telephone: +231 886-720-692

EMAIL: info@tubmanu.edu.lr WEBSITE: www.tubmanu.edu.lr

For Immediate Release:

To: The Press/Media Outlets/General Public

From: The Administration of Tubman University

Thru: Public and Media Relations Department

Date: May 1, 2018

RE: Tubman University Response to Misinformation Propagated by George Momo

The Administration of William V.S. Tubman University (TU) has learned of reports aired on the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) by its Maryland County Correspondent George Momo alleging that the University is involved in manipulating Student Government Association (SGA) elections that were held on April 26, 2018. The University is aware that this smear campaign by George Momo is aimed at damaging the character and reputation of Tubman University Administration. The University strongly condemns such act. We at TU therefore, want to use this opportunity to register our concern that the LBS Correspondent, George Momo could manipulate the state radio to misinform the public, and in the process, attempt to damage the reputation and integrity of the University and its administrators. Tubman University is an accessible community and bound by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of the Republic of Liberia which makes it possible for any individual/entity (the media not excluded) to request any information from the University, within the confines of the law.

By the same token, Tubman University would like to remind the LBS Reporter (George Momo) who is being used to propagate these half-truths, to guide himself by the Code of Ethics of the Press Union of Liberia, whose Article 13 cautions journalists against 'spreading false information or unproven allegations'. The public is assured that the University is not deterred by George Momo's misleading information and remains focused on the education of our students.

Here are clarifications to some of the misinformation shared by George Momo in the media:

Misinformation:

“Disruption of Campus Life”

Clarification:

There was no disruption of campus life on Friday, April 27, 2017 as was reported by George Momo on state radio (LBS). As reported by George Momo during the 2:00 pm news that campus life was disrupted by some aggrieved students about the SGA elections results, students were competing in a two-day intercollegiate tournament organized by the Division of Students Affairs through the Department of Students Club and Activities. The tournament peacefully ended on Sunday, April 29, 2018 and winners were awarded trophies. Germane to conduct, we (students, faculty, & staff) remind ourselves that principle six of our **Principles of Operation** states *“Tubman University operations shall promote mutual respect and ethical behavior that lead to positive outcomes.”* Tubman University’s policy on violence and disruption of campus life does not condone abuse, belligerence, hooliganism, profanity, or threats (physical and / or psychological). Slander and libel are also intolerable and unbecoming, with deference to the University disciplinary processes and Liberian laws.

Misinformation:

“The University Administration Manipulated Students Elections Results”

Clarification:

Actions of Tubman University administration are guided by our principles of operation, core values, policies, procedures, and, most importantly, the laws of the Republic of Liberia. The student governance process of Tubman University operates on a unique model that provides a platform for leadership development for our students whereby they are adequately prepared to deal with challenges and opportunities in the larger society during and after their studies at the institution. The Student Government Association has two primary branches –the Executive Branch and Student Senate. According to the Student Government Association Constitution, Student elections are handled by the Student Government Association in that an autonomous Elections Committee is appointed by the president of the Student Government Association and not the administration of the University. The printing of ballot

papers and deployment of poll watchers are also handled by the Student Government Association. Though the University Administration has received complaints of electoral fraud from a group of aggrieved students, the Office of the President of Tubman University has in no way manipulated the Student Government Association elections and has no interest in doing so. It is a misinformation that the president of the University visited polling stations at 10:00 pm to instruct election committee members to manipulate the elections in favor of a student(s). Currently, the aggrieved students complaint is being adjudicated by a committee of nine headed by Prof. Dr. Mle-Too Wesley that has been constituted to investigate said allegations. The general public and TU Community are assured that findings of the investigation shall be made known to the public and appropriate action shall be taken if need be.

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