



MEDIA RELEASE

NOTICE OF TUITION FEE FRAUD

Divine Word University warns about tuition fee fraudulent activities

(Madang, Madang Province, April 27th, 2020): Divine Word University (DWU) has discovered, in recent months, a syndicate that is operating in certain province in the Highlands has defrauded students, parents, guardians and institutions of higher education of thousands of kina.

As a result, students' whose tuition cheque payments were dishonored by the bank, have been deregistered from the University. From interviews conducted with students who were victims of this fraudulent scheme, this racket seems to involve people within their local communities who were seen to be respectable, upstanding and honorable pillars and members of the community, thus giving unsuspecting students, parents and guardians the confidence and assurance to invest in such a scheme.

This scheme involves students depositing hard-earned cash with the syndicate in the pretext of having their fees paid in full, such as a 50% investment, whereby a student would deposit K7,000.00 into the syndicate's bank account and receive a cheque payable to the institution of choice, double the amount deposited. For instance, if the institution of choice was Divine Word University, a cheque payable of K14,000.00 would be paid to DWU.

The cheques look real. However, these bank accounts do not exist in the banks. Most of these bank accounts either have been closed or do not exist.

Many students, parents and guardians are being conned into depositing their hard-earned cash.

DWU warns all high schools, secondary schools and institutions of higher learning to ensure that you follow through with your bank deposits and ensure that dishonored deposits are identified before you lose thousands of kina through the actions of the syndicate. Ends/

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