

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

March 29, 2010

To: All Media Houses

From: Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba,
Acting Vice-Chancellor, Makerere University

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Venansius Baryamureeba', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is slanted upwards to the right and ends with a small arrowhead.

c.c. Minister of Education and Sports, the Republic of Uganda
Minister of State for Higher Education, the Republic of Uganda
Chancellor, Makerere University
Chairperson, Makerere University Council
Vice-Chairperson, Makerere University Council
University Management, Makerere University
All staff and Students of Makerere University

RE: MAKERERE UNIVERSITY GUILD ELECTIONS PRESS RELEASE

Makerere University Students' Guild Constitution [as Amended, approved and adopted on 17th October 1999] is the guiding legislation/document employed for elections and any other activity concerning the Students Guild. While recognizing that the Uganda Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land and as such any section of the Guild Constitution shall be invalid to the extent that it contravenes the National Constitution.

At a consultative meeting held on Thursday, 25th March 2010 that was Chaired by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba, and attended by members of University Management, Guild Presidential Candidates, and members of the Electoral Commission, it was agreed that the Guild Constitution [as Amended, approved and adopted on 17th October 1999] be adhered to, in so far as resolving all matters arising out of, and pertaining to, the Guild Elections held on Tuesday, 23rd March 2010.

It was also agreed that the Electoral Commission (EC) as provided for in the Guild Constitution was an independent body just like any other Electoral Commission. Article 9 Section 5 (b) of the Guild Constitution provides that a candidate or any member of the Guild may lodge a petition to the Tribunal whenever he thinks that there has been a contravention of any election procedure during the elections. Article 9 Section 5 (c) states that the petition must be lodged within 3 (three) days after the elections and must be supported by at least 200 students of Makerere University. Subsequently, dissatisfied students petitioned the EC on account of their related dissatisfaction and the Election Petition Tribunal has started its work of considering the merits of the matter.

The decision of the Election Petition Tribunal is the final stage at Makerere University level as provided for in the Guild Constitution. As per Section 42 of the 1995 Constitution **“any person appearing before any administrative official or body has a right to be treated justly and fairly and shall have the right to apply to a Court of law in respect of any administrative decision taken against him or her”**. Therefore, the right to appeal to a Court of law, by any one aggrieved by the decision of the Election Petition Tribunal is a constitutional right and shall not be abrogated.

Meanwhile, Makerere University would like to assure all its stakeholders and the public that all acts of hooliganism and indiscipline shall be investigated and handled by the relevant University organs and the culprits brought to book.

Makerere University has initiated a process aimed at amending the current Guild Constitution to ensure that it's *in tandem* with the Vision and Mission of Makerere University and that it encourages worthy traditions of an excellent academic life and cultivates a genuine and responsible sense of leadership and an efficient students Government.

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