

MAKERERE

P.O. Box 7062
Kampala Uganda
Website: <http://mak.ac.ug>



UNIVERSITY

Tel: (Gen) +256-414-532631/4
Fax: +256-414-541068
E-mail: pro@admin.mak.ac.ug

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

17th August 2010

Dear Sir,

Re: Response to “MUASA backs Barya on part-time lecturers” article

This is in response to Isaac Khisa & Al Mahdi Ssenkibirwa’s article titled “MUASA backs Barya on part-time lecturers” (Daily Monitor, Monday August 16, 2010). I wish to clarify that;

It is not true that Makerere has an average lecturer to student ratio of 1:1500 as alleged. On the contrary, our latest statistics indicate an average lecturer to student ratio of 1:25. The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) recommends a lecturer to student ratio of 1:8 for Medicine and 1:25 for Arts/Social Sciences. However, Makerere’s current ratio is 1:4 for Medicine and 1:24 for Arts/Social Sciences, which is satisfactory.

Furthermore, the current Makerere University Academic Staff figure stands at approximately 1,628 members. Of these: 915 are Permanent staff; 442 are Temporary staff (Please note that less than 150 of these are Part-time) and 271 staff are employed on contract.

In essence, Makerere University’s lecturers to student ratios are not only above stipulated standard but also in tandem with Makerere’s Strategic Plan to shift from teacher centered instruction to learner centered pedagogy.

Regarding the Makerere University Academic Staff Association’s backing of the Academic reforms, the Academic Programmes Restructuring Committee as constituted by the Vice-Chancellor completed its exercise on 30th June 2010. This exercise saw the reduction in the number of academic programmes and merging of others to 40 percent. Additionally the University’s Quality Assurance Policy Framework recommends that minimum workload for an academic staff is 10 contact hours. One contact hour = 1 lecture hour = 2 tutorial hours = 2 practical hours. So a minimum workload for an academic member of staff is 10 lecture hours or its equivalent.

Therefore, with the implementation of the above academic reforms, and as full time lecturers fulfill their minimum 10 contact hours work load, there will **gradually** be less need for part time lecturers.

In consideration of the above, we therefore wish to reassure all stakeholders that the Academic reforms being undertaken by the University Management are focused on strengthening the quality of education at Makerere University.

Sincerely: Ritah Namisango Acting PRO, Makerere University, 0702944224