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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL IS HANDLING THE HARMONIZATION OF ALLOWANCES

I write to respond to various media reports highlighting the *disparities in top-up allowances at Makerere University*.

The current University Council, the supreme governing body of the university, is handling the issue of the disparities in the top-up allowance paid to staff through its Finance, Planning and Administration Committee, and is expected to start on the implementation of the harmonization of allowances in the next financial year, July 2011.

The former University Council headed by Mr. Matthew Rukikaire had previously discussed the *Report submitted by the MTC Associates on utilization of Internally Generated Funds with special reference to harmonization of allowances, on 3rd December 2010*. This Report from MTC Associates highlighted that there were disparities in the different allowances paid by the University. With regard to top-up allowances, the Consultants noted that there were also disparities in the amounts paid as top-up allowances to the staff in the University.

The Consultants further noted that the disparity in the top-up allowances dated way back to the 1990s following the introduction of the private students' entry scheme. In addition, the consultants observed that the introduction of the internally Generated Funds (IGFs) came along with its own challenges of management, distribution, and reduction in

government funding. This further led to the categorization of units within the university as 'wet' and 'dry', based on respective amounts contributed to the IGFs.

Nevertheless, the Consultants recommended that the payment of top-up allowance should be retained, and paid monthly, based on salary scale.

However, the term of the former University Council ended on 21st December 2010, before the completion of this critical business. It was therefore highlighted in the former Council's hand over report as *unfinished business*, which the current University Council was supposed to take on.

The Current University Council headed by Eng. Dr. Charles Wana Etyem assumed office on 22nd December 2010. On 7th April 2011, The University Council tasked its Finance, Planning and Administration Committee to study the recommendations of the MTC Associate Reports on allowances and undertake wide consultations with the Units. The Finance, Planning and Administration Committee have embarked on this critical consultative process, and will present their proposals by end of June 2011.

Therefore, it is important to note that the issue of harmonization of allowances is still before the Makerere University Council, and we look forward to the Committee's presentation of its findings.

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