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PRESS RELEASE

Pre-Entry Exams for LL.B Entrants introduced by the School of Law

Applicants for the Bachelor of Law program in Makerere University are to be subjected to pre entry exams with effect from the 2012/2013 academic year. This is intended to examine the student's academic maturity and preparedness for the legal career. The results of the pre entry exam shall be the sole criteria for admission.

The exam, to be undertaken immediately after the release of the A level results, will be publicized well in advance to allow preparation. It will include an aptitude test, English comprehension and composition, current affairs covering domestic, regional and international issues, economics and history among others. The pre entry exams shall also be open to holders of Diplomas, Degrees, mature age entry applicants and will cater for students with both arts and science combinations.

This comes with the realization that over the past ten years the quality of students for the Bachelor of Laws degree has been declining, in spite of the improving performance in the UACE exams.

There has therefore been a mismatch between entry grades and the performance during the LL.B program and the legal profession. Students recruited for the Law programs are those with triple or even quadruple "As", which unfortunately is in many cases, not reflected in their performance once enrolled.

It is on record through the observation of the lecturers that students have reading and English comprehension problems and in many cases are not well versed with contemporary social, economic and political issues which are relevant in the study of Law. In addition, some students lack academic maturity and have in some cases not thoughtfully chosen law as a career. The grades students have obtained from high school do not often reflect their level of academic maturity as observed from some students in the Law program.

Applicants will be required to pay pre entry exam fee, which is yet to be discussed, but will be subject to the prevailing conditions then.

This is not going to be a new phenomenon given that pre entry exams are already administered in the Graduate programs in Law, Mature entry and Business Management. Additionally, many schools of Law the world over, as well as the Law Development Centre (LDC) in Uganda have adopted this procedure as one way of producing quality legal professionals.

Parents and Secondary schools are therefore advised to adequately guide their students in their selection of University courses.

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