

# MAKERERE

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## OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

### PRESS STATEMENT

Friday, March 16, 2012

#### **Chairperson of Council sets up Committee of Eminent persons to investigate the allegations/claims against the promotion of Dr. Venansius Baryamureeba as Professor of Computer Science and Dr. Eli Katunguka Rwakishaya as Professor of Veterinary Medicine**

The Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem has set up a committee of three (3) eminent persons to assess the veracity of the promotions of Dr. Venansius Baryamureeba as Professor of Computer Science and Dr. Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya as Professor of Veterinary Medicine.

The Committee of three (3) eminent persons comprises Professor Frederick Kayanja, Vice Chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Professor Mary Okwakol, Vice Chancellor of Busitema University and Eng. Dr. Vincent Kasangaki, the Director of Information and Computer Technology in the ICT Ministry.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2012, the Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Eng. Dr. Charles Wana Etyem informed the Members of Council that he had received a letter from Professor E. Katunguka Rwakishaya titled: *“Challenging the promotion of Dr. Venansius Baryamureeba as Professor of Computer Science and request for the Board to rescind their decision.”*

The Chairperson of Council also informed the Members of Council that he had received a letter dated 9th February 2012 from the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba on the same subject wherein he responded to the allegations/claims contained in the letter written by Professor E. Katunguka-Rwakishaya.

**On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2012, the University Council mandated the Chairperson of Council-Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem to set up a committee of three (3) eminent persons (outside Makerere University) who are familiar with the Makerere University procedures for appointments and promotions among other attributes including the highest level of integrity, to assess the veracity of the allegations/claims raised in Professor Katunguka’s letter and also the defense**

**raised in Professor Baryamureeba’s letter wherein allegations/claims were also raised against Prof. Katunguka Rwakishaya’s promotion to Professor of Veterinary Medicine.**

In lieu of the above, the Chairperson of Makerere University Council, Eng. Dr. Wana Etyem on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012 set up the Committee of three (3) eminent persons namely Professor Frederick Kayanja, Professor Mary Okwakol and Eng. Dr. Vincent Kasangaki.

Commenting on the composition of the Committee, Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem said: “I considered all the factors pertaining to the internal and external environment. All the three (3) eminent persons I appointed are well known to me. They are people of high integrity, people who have a name to protect, people who have served this country diligently, and also who have significantly contributed to the development of higher education and other sectors as well as Uganda and beyond.”

It is also important to remember and respect the fact that the two individuals at the centre of the allegations/claims namely Professor Venansius Baryamureeba and Professor Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya both wrote letters to the Chairperson of Council, a sign of confidence that I would ably address their concerns. In addition, when I tabled the issue before the University Council, all the members unanimously mandated me to handle this matter.

Dr. Wana-Etyem stressed that on completion of their work, the University Council is duty bound to inform all stakeholders the outcome of the investigations. “All the stakeholders should be calm and allow the Committee to do its work without any interference. The Committee will submit its work to the University Council for a discussion aimed at reaching an informed decision. Since Makerere is a public institution, the University Council will then inform all the stakeholders the outcome of the investigations.”

The Ad-hoc Committee has been set up in accordance with Section 43 of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001, and will conduct its work within two (2) weeks from the date of commencement. **The Committee is yet to start its work.**

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***Committees of a University Council***

- 43.** (1) The University Council may –
- (a) appoint Committees and Boards consisting of such number of its members and other persons as it may deem necessary;
  - (b) appoint one of the members of a Committee to be the Chairperson of that Committee;
  - (c) co-opt any person on any Committee of the University Council.
- (2) A University Council may, subject to limitations that the Council may deem fit, delegate any of its functions to any Committee appointed under subsection (1), but the Council shall not delegate the power to approve the budget or the final accounts of the Public University.
- (3) The University Council may authorize any of its Committees to act with any other Committee appointed by the University Senate.

(4) The Chairperson of the University Council shall be an *ex-officio* member of every Committee of the University Council and where no specific Chairperson is appointed for a Committee the Chairperson of the University Council shall be the Chairperson of that Committee.

(5) In the absence of a Chairperson of a Committee, the members present and constituting a quorum shall elect a temporary Chairperson from among themselves.

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**Sincerely: Ritah Namisango, Senior Public Relations Officer**