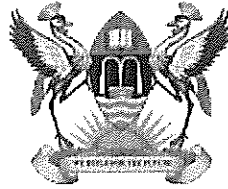


# MAKERERE

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](mailto:pro@admin.mak.ac.ug)

## OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013

### PRESS STATEMENT

#### Clarification on the Tuition Policy at Makerere University

At an emergency Council meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006, Council agreed on the following in regard to the payment of fees at Makerere University

- i. Tuition and other university fees are due on the first day of the academic year. Privately sponsored students who cannot pay full fees at the beginning of the academic year are required to pay at least 60% of the tuition which is equivalent to 60% of the course load.
- ii. A First year privately sponsored student who fails to pay all first semester fees in full by the end of the second week of the beginning of an academic year shall forfeit his/her place in the university.
- iii. A continuing privately sponsored student who shall not have paid fees by the end of the sixth week shall be de-registered.
  - a. Student should complete paying all the university fees by the sixth week of a semester and be registered then.
  - b. In case a student fails to raise enough money to pay for a full semester load, a student can choose courses within the first six weeks and make payment for the courses load he/she can afford and get registered.
  - c. The minimum course load to be permitted under this arrangement should be 60% of the total credit units for that semester
  - d. A student will not be allowed to pay university fees and register after the end of the sixth week of a semester
  - e. Only registered students will be allowed to use university facilities to attend lecturers, do course work and sit for final examinations

In September 2012, the Vice Chancellor was instructed by University Council to implement this policy and communication was made to the students. Students opposed it and consequently, I had a meeting with them. During that meeting, they requested to postpone the implementation of the policy to the second semester. The Vice Chancellor agreed to this request on the condition that they would comply in the second semester.

The University Council reluctantly agreed to postpone the policy and cautioned management to implement the policy in the subsequent semester. The postponement of the policy impacted on the smooth running of the University.

In the course of this semester, the Academic Registrar issued a circular reminding the students to pay in compliance with the policy by 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The students staged a demonstration contrary to their previous promise. They met with the Vice Chancellor on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 who requested them to put their grievances in writing to be forwarded to the Chairman, University Council.

The students submitted their petition at 3.00 p.m. on the same day which was immediately forwarded to the Chairman, Council. In their petition, students demanded that the policy be scrapped but Council is unwilling to do so because this will compromise the provision of quality services.

#### **Why the policy is being implemented**

1. The total wage bill of Makerere University is 5.4bn of which 2.4bn per month is contributed from Internally Generated Funds (including money contributed by the privately sponsored students)
2. Makerere University is operating at less at 50% of the total staff establishment. We need the money to require to pay for temporary and part time lecturers.
3. To pay for utilities (electricity and water) to the tune of 800m per month
4. Teaching materials and laboratory equipment
5. To pay for the bandwidth, computer software and maintenance

#### **What happened during the course of the day (18/02/2013)?**

1. Less than 100 students are involved in the demonstration. A number of these students have retakes; have disciplinary cases to answer while some have used their tuition to engage in business like money lending.
2. Students are turning up for lectures but are being chased out of class, as is the case in College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Business and Management Sciences.
3. Classes are on going in a number of Colleges for example College of Health Sciences and College of Design, Art and Technology,
4. Property has been destroyed within the University and some people have sustained injuries. The University Management would like to caution students against acts of hooliganism, which hamper operations in the University. The culprits of such behaviour will be dealt with accordingly
5. A number of students have been identified and have been summoned to meet the University Disciplinary Committee.

**Concluding remarks**

The lecturers are ready to teach and students are advised to report to class. Students are hereby requested to get in touch with their sponsors to pay all the tuition fees, ahead of the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013 deadline so that the University can run smoothly.

I would also like to emphasize that University Management is simply implementing Council policy and has not increased tuition fees.

**Yours Sincerely,**



**Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu**

**Vice Chancellor**