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## OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

Saturday, May 04, 2013

### PRESS STATEMENT

#### **University Management and Council revises budget to include 100% salary increment; Appeal to Government of Uganda to increase salaries of staff starting July 2013**

Following a resolution by the staff during their Joint General Assembly held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013, and I quote, “ **To lay down tools effective midnight 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 until our demand to include 100% salary increment in the financial year starting July 2013/2014 Makerere University Budget as a starting point is fulfilled,**” the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, in consultation with the University Council has convened a University Management meeting today, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013 to incorporate the 100% salary increment for all staff in the Makerere University Budget for the financial year July 2013/2014.

Commenting on the demand for 100% salary increment and the resolution to lay down tools, the Vice Chancellor, Professor John Ddumba-Ssentamu said:

“I do share the concerns of staff to increase the salaries by 100%. A Professor (highly qualified) gets only UGX.3million per month. Their demand is justifiable; we need a better remuneration for all Makerere University staff. However, the University Management and the University Council do not support the strike because it will affect the smooth running of the University including the examinations, which are scheduled to start on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013.”

The University Council, which is the supreme governing body of the University held a special meeting on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 (starting at 9:00am), in which they discussed the request from members of staff to increase salaries of all staff by 100% in the next financial year starting July 2013. The University Council chaired by Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem fully appreciated the concerns raised by staff regarding salary increment and concluded that the University Council would take up the matter with Government.

Cognizant of the fact that Makerere University had submitted her budget for the financial year July 2013/2014 to the Ministry of Education and Sports on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, the University Council resolved to send a **letter** to the Ministry of Education and Sports and

**An Addendum** (indicating the inclusion of 100% salary increment) in the Makerere University budget for the next financial Year starting July 2013.

When the aforementioned decision of the University Council was communicated to the Academic, Administrative and Support staff during their Joint General Assembly which started at 3:00pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013, the staff said they were not satisfied with the fact that their demand for salary increment would be presented as an Addendum, and thus demanded that the University Council includes the (100% salary increment for all staff) in the Main Body of the Makerere University Budget for the financial Year July 2013/2014.

Subsequently, the staff at their Joint General Assembly resolved as follows: ***“To lay down tools effective midnight 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 until our demand to include 100% salary increment in the financial year starting July 2013/2014 Makerere University Budget as a starting point is fulfilled.”***

The Chairpersons of the three staff associations (MUASA, MASA and NUEIU) communicated the aforementioned resolution to the Chairperson of Makerere University Council in a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013. The letter was received at 6:20pm.

Today, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013, in consultation with the Chairperson of Makerere University Council, the Vice Chancellor, Professor John Ddumba Ssentamu has convened a management meeting to incorporate the 100% salary increment into the Makerere University budget for the financial year July 2013/2014.

The University Management has also held a meeting with the Executives of the three staff associations (MUASA, MASA and NUEIU) today, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 2:45pm and I quote the Vice Chancellor:

“I welcome you to this meeting. In respect of your letter to the Chairperson of Council dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013, in which you resolved to lay down tools effective midnight of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013, I am happy to inform you the University Management, at the advice of the University Council, is incorporating the 100% salary increment into the Makerere University budget for the Financial Year 2013/2014. The revised budget will be delivered to the Ministry of Education and Sports on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013. I appeal to all staff to lift their tools to enable the University to go through a successful examination season.”

During the meeting, the Vice Chancellor, Professor John Ddumba- Ssentamu has further informed the Executives of the three staff associations that the University Bursar and the Finance Department are reviewing the Makerere University budget which had been submitted to the Ministry of Education and Sports on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 (excluding the 100% salary increment) and are computing figures to come up with a revised Makerere University budget for the Financial year July 2013/2014 (including the 100% salary increment for all staff).

As soon as the University Bursar and the Finance Department complete the work (this evening), the Vice Chancellor will share a copy of the revised Makerere University Budget with the Executive of the staff associations and we are optimistic that these efforts will be fruitful.

Makerere University is a public funded institution, the University Council, Management and Staff strongly appeal to the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports to increase the salaries of staff by 100% in the next financial year starting July 2013, to allow the University to deliver a befitting remuneration to her staff; operate normally; attract the best brains and be in position to retain her highly qualified staff at the different levels.

We appeal to the students to remain calm, and to continue reading in preparation for the end of Academic Year examinations scheduled to start on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

**Note:** For any information regarding the MUASA position, please contact the MUASA Spokesperson, Mr. Louis Kakinda on telephone No.0702516000.

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