

MAKERERE

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OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

7th October 2015

PRESS RELEASE ON THE ONGOING STUDENT UNREST AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

The Management of Makerere University wishes to inform all parents, guardians and the general public that there is student unrest at the University. Management wishes to clarify as follows:

1. The implementation of the tuition policy is a Makerere University Council decision passed at its 106th Council Meeting held on 6th and 7th July 2006 on recommendation from the University Senate.
2. On **Wednesday, September 30, 2015**, the Vice Chancellor and the Dean of Students met with the Guild Cabinet and members of the Guild Representative Council where the students' request to extend the registration period was discussed. Extension of registration was granted for one month from October 2 to October 30, 2015.
3. On **Friday, October 2, 2015**, the Offices of the Deputy Vice Chancellor [Finance and Administration] and the Academic Registrar wrote to the Guild President and the Student Community respectively, communicating the decision of Management to extend the registration period by one [1] month until October 30, 2015.
4. On **Tuesday 6th October 2015** at its 136th Council meeting, Council agreed to:
 - a) Ratify the decision of University Management to extend the tuition and registration for Semester I 2015/2016 from 5th October to 30th October 2015.
 - b) Encourage all students to have paid all their tuition and functional fees by or before the end of the extension period [i.e. 30th October 2015]
 - c) Re-affirm the *University tuition policy* of paying 100% tuition and functional fees by the end of the 6th week of each semester.
5. Today, **Wednesday 7th October 2015**, some students have remained on strike despite the granting of the one-month extension as requested. The students now demand that the tuition policy be scrapped and are allowed to pay when they wish.

6. Consequently, some students destroyed and looted properties within and outside [in the neighborhood] the University; and disrupted University activities including lectures.
7. On **Wednesday 7th October 2015** Management had a meeting with top Security Officers of Kampala, in the Council room starting at 11.00 a.m.; at which it was noted that:
 - a) Some students exhibited gross indiscipline by barring on-going classes and destroying property within and outside the University [in the neighborhood].
 - b) Acts of hooliganism were displayed such as looting of property and causing injury to people.
 - c) Students who had already paid their tuition and did not want to participate in the strike were distracted.

Accordingly, it was agreed that:

- a) All those engaged in criminal acts be identified and apprehended by the Police.
 - b) Vice Chancellor suspends all students apprehended as culprits pending further investigation and disciplinary action.
 - c) The list of all apprehended students be published on all student noticeboards, University website and in the media.
8. Management also held a meeting with the Student leadership and appealed to them to persuade their fellow students to call off the strike and resume lectures.
 9. The University Council requirement to pay tuition and register by the 6th week of each semester helps the university to ascertain the actual numbers of registered students so as to effectively plan for teaching and learning processes.

It should be noted that Makerere University operates like any other organization and is guided by rules, regulations and other relevant laws.

Management appreciates the prompt intervention of Uganda Police and is calling upon all students community to abide by the University Council regulation and remain calm and continue with their studies. The general public and all stakeholders are hereby informed.

Signed:



Prof. John Dumba-Ssentamu
Vice Chancellor

