

Five lecturers lose case against Victoria University

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KAMPALA. Five senior lecturers have lost a labour related case they lodged against Victoria University protesting unfair dismissal from work.

The lecturers are Drake Kyalimpa Francis, Maximus Byamukama, Dr Francis Wasswa, Dr Gloria Seruwangi and Dr Martha Kibuuka Musoke.

They lodged the complaint before Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)'s labour office on March 7.

While the five lecturers claimed that they were unfairly dismissed from work, Victoria University management accused the aforementioned lecturers of having absconded from duty without notifying their employers when they instantly ceased to work.

According to the university, the lecturers stopped teaching towards the students' examination time last year when the university introduced a new policy requiring all lecturers to clock in once they report for duty and clock-out when leaving the institution's premises.

The new biometric machine would monitor the lecturers' attendance and time spent at the university.

The management then interpreted the lecturers' action as "not being academically loyal" to their students when they laid down their tools without first warning them.

But in a bid to resolve the impasse between the aggrieved lecturers and the university, KCCA Labour office in a meeting on May 22, agreed that the claimants (lecturers) file their witness statements by June 22.

However, they allegedly failed to honour the labour office's request as the university went ahead to file theirs by June 29.

The aggrieved lecturers did not show up when their case came up for hearing on July 6, prompting the presiding KCCA labour officer, Mr Emmanuel Mukiza Rubasha to dismiss the case against the university.

"It's on this background that the matter/case filed against Victoria University Ref. KCCA/CEN/73/2017 is dismissed," ruled Mr Rubasha.

He continued: "The matter is presumed settled under Section 13(1)d of the Employment Act no.6 of 2006 and regulation 8(7) of the 2011 Employment Regulations,"

Victoria University is part of the Ruparelia Group of companies that is located within the city centre on Jinja Road.

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