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the seven districts that make

together with the Ministry of

"The persistent challenges

avoid bureaucracy.

By Conan Businge

The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) has closed Busoga University and warned Stafford University and Lijif International American College of Health Sciences.

The notice was published in the Uganda Gazette of December 1, 2017.

Busoga University, a brainchild of the Church of Uganda, was granted an operational licence in 1998 and it officially opened in 1999.

NCHE revoked the licence due to the absence of adequate qualified staff, admission of students without the requisite admission criteria, illegal affiliation and poor financial health.

The council also noted that Busoga University was teaching unaccredited programmes, lacked up-to-date students records and failed to conduct progressive students assessments and held graduation of students who do not qualify.

"The revocation of the provisional licence does not affect the validity of any certificate, diploma and degree or other academic award granted by the university when still under the provisional licence."

The Gazette also notes that: "The NCHE shall set up a technical committee to work with Busoga University to support the institution in its placement of eligible students to recognised institutions."

However, a university whose provisional licence has been revoked may reapply after two years from the date of revocation.

Court battle

The Iganga-based university was first closed after a year of a court battle in which it sued NCHE for threatening to revoke their licence at the end of last year. NCHE had also stopped the university from admitting any more students.

At the time, the Court of Appeal issued an interim order restraining NCHE from revoking the operational licence of Busoga University.

The order, issued on January 31, by Justice Solomy Balungi Bossa, also halted the NCHE's intention of stopping the university from recruiting students, pending the disposal of the main application for a temporary injunction.

Busoga University dragged

the Attorney General and NCHE to court after the latter published in the Uganda Gazette on December 19, 2016, a notice of intention to revoke its operational licence.

At the time, the NCHE alleges that Busoga University admitted international students from Nigeria and South Sudan with forged academic papers, as well as those without certified academic papers.

It also accused the institution of lacking an updated students' database to provide proof for the exact number of students in the university.

Another accusation was that the university was running a number of campuses within Uganda and Juba in South Sudan, which were totaling to nine, and that it was overstretching the institution's meagre resources.

Busoga University is the second university to be closed following the closure of Lugazi University in December 2010. Lugazi University was closed a month after holding its first graduation.

Lijif International closed

The licence for Lijif International American College of Health

Sciences has also been revoked. According to the council, its problems emanated from teaching unaccredited courses, lack of qualified staff and that they have no premises for operation, since it was evicted from its licensed premises on Buye Road, Ministers Village, in Ntinda, a Kampala suburb.

The NCHE also notes that the institute is poorly governed and has inadequate finances.

Stafford University warned
Stafford University-Uganda was also given an intention of revocation, for its poor governance based on severe disagreements among the proprietors.

One of the founding partners, Dr. Henry Egesa, acting in concert with a senior don at the university, Prof. Otanga Rusoke, had opened another study centre at Tirupati Mazima Mall in Kabalagala, Kampala purporting it is a branch of Stafford University.

Like Busoga University, NCHE says Stafford University is in a poor financial health and has inadequate resources to run as a university. It is said to be running unaccredited courses,

having illegal affiliations with other institutions and holding illegal graduations.

The university has also been stopped from recruiting

and running adverts and that during the six months after the publication in the Uganda Gazette the university is expected to submit an explanation to the council. It is expected to show cause why the revocation should not be issued.

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