

Kyambogo boss refuses to hand over office

By Nelson Kiya

Confusion reigned at Kyambogo University yesterday following the refusal by the acting academic registrar, Dr Peter Okello, to hand over office to the newly recruited academic registrar Dr Annie Begumisa.

Begumisa was appointed last month as the new academic registrar for a term of five years. She is the former academic registrar of Makerere University Business School.

Okello, who has served the university since 1993, as a substantive assistant academic registrar, faults the process through which Begumisa was recruited.

He dismissed it as influenced by the vice-chancellor (VC), Prof. Eli Katunguka, purporting that the university boss was biased against him.

Okello, who had been acting academic registrar since March 17, 2017, competed with Begumisa along with others when the university advertised to fill the post on May 10, 2017.

"Interviews were done in December and the appointments council shortlisted two of us. But basing on what transpired and what was circulating in the corridors of the university, the process was manipulated,"



Peter Okello

he alleged. Okello said Katunguka had vowed to frustrate all efforts that could see him become the academic registrar of the university.

"I do not know why the VC would do all this. Since I took over office the university has witnessed significant improvement," he said.

Okello has since petitioned the High Court.

In the petition Okello filed on April 10, 2018, he alleges that the process leading to the appointment of Begumisa was illegal, faulted procedures and it breached all standards. "I could have petitioned the university staff tribunal, but I couldn't do it after realising that everybody was scared of the VC. I have a lot of evidence I would present in court to argue my case," he said.

After leaving court yesterday seeking an injunction to block the hand over, Okello allegedly hurried back to ensure that all

efforts to take over his office do not yield fruit.

"When I reached here, I found the university carpenters changing the office padlocks. I asked them to tell me who sent them, they just told me, 'order from above,' he said. He added: "When I asked my secretaries of any document sanctioning the process, they had no knowledge." After the

locks were changed, blocking Okello from accessing the office yesterday, he reported the matter to Police. By last evening the Police was overseeing the office security as Okello stayed out of office.

"For now, I am out of office since all the office doors are locked with new padlocks. But the Police has taken charge of the matter," Dr. Okello said.

"If court rules that the process through which Dr Begumisa was appointed followed rightful procedures, I am a law-biding person. I will hand over office and continue serving the university," he said.

However, Dr Begumisa did not turn up for the hand over as planned, neither did any of the university administrators. When contacted by the *New*

Vision on phone, Katunguka declined to comment on the matter, saying he was out of the country in Rwanda for other important matters.

The chairperson of the university academic staff, Grace Lubaale, said: "I cannot comment on that because it is a technical matter. If Dr Okello has gone to court, we shall wait for the court's decision."

