Makerere University sets date for mature entry exams

By Vivian Agaba

Makerere University has set February 25 as the date when mature age entry scheme examinations will start.

According to a letter from the university's academic registrar, Alfred Masikye Namoah, the examinations are for the coming academic year 2017/2018, which starts in August.

A total number of 2,500 slots for the mature entry exams are available for all categories, including government-sponsored and privately-sponsored programmes.

On who qualifies to sit for these exams, the university's spokesperson, Ritah Namisango, said anyone, both Ugandans and non-Ugandans that are 25 years and above, except the bachelors of medicine and surgery, which are reserved for only Ugandans.

"The closing date for submitting the completed form is February 10," said Masikye.

The mature age entry scheme is one of the three avenues through which one can be admitted to public universities for undergraduate academic programmes. The others are direct entry for A' level leavers and the diploma scheme for holders of ordinary diplomas.

Masikye explained that to be eligible for the mature age entry exams, the candidate must be at least 25 years old before August 1, this year.

Mature age application forms are issued at the university's senate building and can also be accessed on the university's website. The university charges *sh150,000* non-refundable application fee.

Namisango said the mature age exams are usually done in December, but the university's closure in November last year disrupted the academic calendar.

The process resumed on Monday, when the university re-opened.

Meanwhile, examinations for the undergraduate students are scheduled to start on January 30 and end on February 19.

Activities at the institution yesterday were picking up slowly and there is life again.

Offices of teaching and non-teaching staff were open, and the student turnout has fairly increased, compared to Monday, when it re-opened.

However, lectures have resumed at a slow pace in some faculties. By press time, most of the lecture rooms *New Vision* visited had students seated, but no lecturers.

Hellen Biira, a first-year mass communication student, said about 20 students, out of 130 doing the course, turned up for the lecture, but did not study because the lecturer did not show up.

Just like lectures, businesses have also not yet fully taken off. Businesspeople around the campus say it feels like the university has not yet re-opened.

Ronald Wanji, a bodboda cyclist said: "Business is still not good; students are still few and even those that are around, it seems they are broke. They just walk past us (instead of using bodabodas). Hopefully, things will be better next week."

BETWEEN THE LINES:

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