

Muteesa varsity offering illegal courses - Mengo

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KAMPALA. Buganda Kingdom has admitted to running unaccredited courses at its embattled Muteesa I Royal University (MRU) and blamed former vice chancellor Arthur Sserwanga for mismanaging the institution.

Speaking during the Lukiiko on Monday, the kingdom's state minister for Education, Ms Prosperous Nankindu, said one of the unaccredited courses is Bachelors of Engineering.

Ms Nankindu said students who completed the course cannot graduate until they are cleared by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE).

"For NHCE to recognise our engineering students, they must undertake the required practical in a fully equipped laboratory. We think this will have been done by February 2018," she said.

The kingdom's state minister for Education admitted the university has faced many challenges since its founding in 2007 but said they are committed to rectify them.

CAUSES

Ownership. MRU is owned by Mengo and was started in 2007. It has three branches: Kakeeka in Kampala, Mubende and Bugerere with its headquarters in Masaka.

Acrimony. The university has suffered rounds of protests by staff and students, with lecturers claiming they last received salary in June.

"MRU has been dogged by massive resignations of high ranking staff, student protests. We have received so many petitions and we decided to close the university for a month to diagnose the issues," Ms. Nankindu said.

"New policy guidelines such as staff appraisals, disciplinary measures, salary pay structures, job specifications, procurement policies and public relations are going to be put in force," Ms Nankindu said.

Former VC under fire

She accused former vice chancellor Sserwanga of mismanaging staff.

"He is so proud and refused to sit at the headquarters in Masaka; he rarely attends kingdom functions, he has ignored teamwork, he expels lower staff summarily, he failed to deliver the university charter as directed by the governing body. Staff has been divided and he has failed to vocationalise certain courses," Ms Nankindu said.

She added that the acting vice chancellor, Prof Umar Kasule, and other senior staff have been directed to manage the university from its headquarters in Masaka while other director manages the Kampala campus.