Mak staff, students face arrest over marks scam

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KAMPALA. As investigations into altered exams marks gain momentum at Makerere University, the university management has directed the police to arrest 88 lecturers, administrators from the Senate, and students named in the scam.

A letter from the Academic Registrar, Mr Alfred Namoah Masikye, dated September 7, directs the university's chief security officer, Mr Jackson Muchuguzi, to arrest all the people involved in tinkering with exams marks.

"Please refer to our discussion on people who were involved in the change of marks on the results management system (RMS). This is to request you to apprehend the following people (list attached) for prosecution in liaison with Ag [acting] director, Legal Affairs," the letter stated.

"You are requested to make massive progressive reports on the actions taken on each of the listed people in a period of one month," it added.

BACKGROUND

Degrees to be recalled. Yesterday, this newspaper reported that Makerere University is undertaking a comprehensive audit of marks of students over the past several years to identify and recall degrees obtained on the basis of forged or altered results. Our investigations show that Dr Damalie Naggitta-Musoke, the former dean of the School of Law, is heading the inquiries being conducted by what is officially called the central ad hoc examinations, irregularities and malpractices committee. It began its work last November.



Counted. Makerere University students line up during a head count recently. At least 44 students and 44 lectures face arrest over examination results scandal. PHOTO BY ALEX ESAGALA.

The list comprises 44 staff and 44 students, but *Daily Monitor* has withheld names of those accused in order not to compromise police investigations.

Busted

But a highly placed source at the university told *Daily Monitor* that the students, while appearing before the ad hoc committee investigating the exams marks malpractices, named the staff involved.

The students reportedly said their marks were altered by the university administrators after paying a fee.

The source indicated that the staff charged the students between Shs200,000 and Shs1 million per course unit, depending on the course and status of the student.

Majority of the students affected are those who had retakes in some course units.

Mr Muchuguzi confirmed receipt of the letter and said he was only waiting for instruction from other security agencies to enforce the order.

"I am on standby waiting for national joint security agencies to effect the university management request," Mr Muchuguzi said.

Mr Masikye had not picked up several of our calls to his known telephone number by press time. But the new vice chancellor, Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, who was also copied in the letter, said he was not sure about the arrest but confirmed that some staff members were under investigation.

"I have not yet received the letter directing the arrest, but I know investigations of those who participated in altering the marks are still under way. I assure you that once they are found guilty, they will be dealt with respectively," Prof Nawangwe told *Daily Monitor* in a phone interview yesterday.

Police invest five NGOs ov terrorism fin

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KAMPALA. Police's investigations unit i local non-government (NGOs) over alleged terrorism financing.

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