

Phase out Arts courses to get pay raise, Museveni tells Mak

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KAMPALA. President Museveni yesterday directed that "irrelevant" courses at Makerere University should immediately be phased out as a precondition for the government to increase salary of the institution's lecturers.

"You have been asking for salary increment for lecturers, but you must first solve the issue of too many courses, which are irrelevant," he said at the installation of Prof Barnabas Nawangwe as the university's 11th vice chancellor.

The President, who expressed frustration that his previous orders to end teaching of the courses had been ignored, added: "Why should the government waste its money paying lecturers teaching courses that are not marketable? It's not fair to the country and parents who are paying tuition for disciplines which have left their children meandering in the [job] market."

Mr Museveni, who studied Political Science at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, yesterday named Psychology, Political Science, Economics, Development Studies, Social Work and Social Administration as "useless" undergraduate courses.

In 2016, Makerere University dropped 21 courses following an interview triggered by concerns about duplication and less-than-satisfactory employment rate of its graduates.

An ad hoc committee chaired by Prof Richard Odoi Adome that same year recommended that 30 degree programmes be merged, 18 be re-



Ordered. President Museveni (left), talks to ministers: Dr Elioda Tumwesigye (Science, Technology and Innovation) and Ms Rosemary Seninde (State for Primary Education) during the installation of Prof Barnabas Nawangwe (right) as the new vice chancellor of Makerere University yesterday. PHOTO BY ALEX NADALA

structured while 21 undergraduate diplomas, 11 undergraduate certificates and three degree programmes be phased out.

The President, who is the official visitor of Makerere University, has over the years repeated his demand for many of the courses taught at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS) to be phased out.

He was the last to speak at yesterday's function, and it remained unclear how the would-be affected will respond to the president's renewed demand.

Mr Museveni, however, had hinted that he planned a meeting with CHUSS Principal, Prof Edward Kirumira and some of the loud-mouthed academics at the college.

KEY ISSUES

Useless. Mr Museveni named Psychology, Political Science, Economics, Development Studies, Social Work and Social Administration as "useless" undergraduate courses.

Promise. Prof Nawangwe, who was elected in July, yesterday announced that his administration will comprehensively review the courses taught at the institution to make them "more practical".

The new vice chancellor, Prof Nawangwe, who was elected in July, yesterday had announced that his administration will comprehensively review the courses taught at the institution to make them "more practical".

He committed to undertake all measures necessary to protect the integrity of Makerere's academic awards by fighting marks alteration and sex-for-marks transactions, the institution's Achilles Heels.

Outgoing VC Ddumba Ssentamu advised his successor to follow the university's 10-year development plan, a presidential pledge for construction of a conference hall and perimeter wall fence, and construction of a students' centre.