Police question Makerere varsity officials over abuse of office

BY ANDREW BAGALA
abagala@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. Detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations on Thursday recorded statements from two Makerere University employees accused of abuse of office.

Mr Vicent Ssekate, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations spokesman, confirmed that Ms Margaret Etuusa, the deputy registrar in charge of the certificates and ceremonies division, and Ms Dorothy Kabanda, an administrative assistant, recorded statements with the police.

"The two officials were arrested after they refused to respond to our summonses over allegations of abuse of office. Once they were arrested, they accepted to record statements. We released them on police bond thereafter," Mr Ssekate said on Thursday.

The two were arrested at Makerere University on Wednesday on orders of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

Mr Sekate said investigations into the case are "nearly complete".

Investigations

The police are investigating allegations that the duo hired a private company that took control of keeping electronic gadgets, especially mobile phones, for the parents and graduands who attended the 67th graduation at Makerere University.

It is alleged that each gadget was kept at a cost of Shs4,000, with an undisclosed amount collected by or on behalf of the duo during the graduation ceremony earlier this year. This prompted Makerere University to investigate the matter, leading to the suspension of Ms Etuusa from her job.

The university then forwarded the case to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, but Ms Etuusa applied for a court injunction to block the police investigations, which she lost.

Mr Ssekatte said several other officials, including the head of procurement from Makerere University, have recorded statements with the police to assist with the investigations.

