

Students strike paralyses Makerere

By Carol Kasujja and Eddie Ssejjoba

The Police yesterday morning fired teargas to disperse students of Makerere University who were protesting increased tuition fees for post-graduate students. They were also protesting over missing marks, scrapping of meals in halls of residence and evening lectures.

They also claimed the university administration planned to increase tuition for undergraduate students. But sources said the 10% tuition increment will only affect students joining the university in August.

New fees structure

Last month, the university advertised a new fees structure for the year 2018/2019.

Post-graduate and master's students will be required to pay a minimum of sh5m and doctoral students to pay an average of sh7m for any given programme applied for.

Over the past years, post-graduate students at Makerere University have been paying tuition ranging between sh1.7m (for a postgraduate diploma in education) and sh5.7m.

In spite of the heavy Police deployment at the campus, students wearing red gowns engaged in running battles with the Police. The strike paralysed business at the main university campus. The situation calmed down later in the day. The Police arrested at least six students including the guild president, Salim Were.

Call to strike

On Sunday, Were called on fellow students to stage a demonstration over what he called unfair policies. He posted a video on social media.

"It is sad that in the recent past, a number of policies have been passed or suggested by either the vice-chancellor or the university council. As students, we continue to live as a by-the-way in a setting where we are the biggest stakeholders. When will this stop?" Were asked.

He said the university management had never pronounced itself on the recommendations of the visiting committee, yet they found some recommendations unjust.

"Tuition fees have drastically increased without justification, we pay tuition through hustle yet the services offered are bogus, meals in the halls of residence have been scrapped in exchange for peanuts. We want our food and not just food but quality food. We cannot go silent when it comes to students rights," Were said.

"The new vice-chancellor is a dictator. Ever since he came in office, he has changed so many things. If the university is in debts, the Government should pay for it. This is not a private university that we are supposed to pay for everything," Job Namara, a student of computing and information science, said.

Namara said the proposed sh4,500 for a student per day was not enough for a meal.

University responds

After receiving Were's message on social media, the university issued a statement signed by the university spokesperson, Ritah Namisango, calling for calm.

She said the vice-chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, promised to meet and address their concerns upon his return from Nairobi on Wednesday.

"Regarding evening programmes, it is important to note that they were not scrapped. This is to reiterate that we will continue to conduct evening programmes. We have already advertised the evening programmes for the next academic year 2018/2019. On the issue of student meals for the 2,000 resident government sponsored students, this matter is now before Parliament and we have to wait for their recommendation," the statement read.

According to the statement, the vice-chancellor requested Were and the guild representative council to submit a written petition to enable him consult in order to give a credible response. He also appointed a committee to handle all cases of sexual harassment.

CURRENT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY TUITION FEES

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY		College of Health Sci.	
COURSE	Uganda's Tuition Per Sem		
Bach. of Pharmacy	1,344,000	Bach. of Sci. in Land Economics	1,155,000
Bach. of Medicine and Bach. of Surgery	1,344,000	Bach. of Sci. in Construction Management	1,155,000
Bach. of Dental Surgery	1,344,000	Bach. of Sci. in Computer Engineering	1,250,000
Bach. of Sci. in Nursing	1,344,000	Bach. of Sci. in Telecommunication Engineering	840,000
Bachelor of Sci. in Medical Radiography	1,344,000		
Bach. of Environmental Health Sci.	1,500,000	C) Evening Programmes	
Bach. of Sci. in Speech and Language Therapy	1,050,000	Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning	700,000
Bach. of Sci. in Dental Tech.	2,000,000		
Bach. of Sci. in Biomedical Sci.	1,552,000	4 College of Business and Management Sci.	
Bach. of Sci. in Biomedical Engineering	1,500,000	A) Day Programmes	
Bach. of Sci. in Cytotechnology	1,200,000	Bach. of Statistics	1,008,000
		Bach. of Sci. in Quantitative Economics	1,050,000
2 College of Agric. and Environmental Sci.		Bach. of Sci. in Population Studies	700,000
A) Day Programmes		Bach. of Sci. in Actuarial Sci.	1,050,000
Bach. of Sci. in Agric.	1,344,000	Bach. of Sci. in Business Statistics	980,000
Bach. of Sci. in Food Sci. and Tech.	1,344,000	Bach. of Arts in Economics	1,050,000
Bach. of Sci. in Agricultural Engineering	1,344,000	Bach. of Arts in Development Economics	1,120,000
Bach. of Sci. in Agricultural Land Use and Mgt	840,000	Bach. of Commerce	1,120,000
Bach. of Sci. in Agribusiness Management	770,000	Bach. of Business Administration	1,150,000
Bach. of Sci. in Horticulture	980,000		
Bach. of Sci. in Agricultural & Rural Innovation	1,400,000	B) Evening Programmes	
Bach. of Science in Human Nutrition	1,200,000	Bach. of Sci. in Quantitative Economics	1,050,000
B. of Sci. in Conservation Forestry & Products	840,000	Bach. of Sci. in Population Studies	700,000
Bach. of Social & Entrepreneurial Forestry	840,000	Bach. of Sci. in Actuarial Sci.	1,050,000
Bach. of Environmental Sci.	840,000	Bach. of Sci. in Business Statistics	980,000
Bach. of Tourism	700,000	Bach. of Arts in Economics	1,050,000
Bach. of Sci. in Meteorology	900,000	Bach. of Arts in Development Economics	1,120,000
		Bach. of Commerce	1,120,000
B) Evening Programmes		Bach. of Business Administration	1,150,000
Bach. of Tourism	700,000		
External Programmes		5 College of Humanities and Social Sci.	
Bach. of Agricultural and rural innovations/ Ext	50,000	A) Day Programmes	
		Bach. of Social Work and Social Administration	840,000
3 College of Engineering, Design, Art, Tech.		Bach. of Arts (Social Sci.)	700,000
Day Programmes		Bach. of Journalism and Communication	980,000
Bach. of Sci. in Civil Engineering	1,155,000	Bach. of Arts (Arts)	630,000
Bach. of Sci. in Electrical Engineering	1,155,000	Bach. of Development Studies	700,000
Bach. of Sci. in Mechanical Engineering	1,155,000	Bach. of Arts in Music	700,000
Bach. of Sci. in Land Surveying & Geomatics	1,155,000	Bach. of Arts in Drama and Film	700,000
Bach. of Architecture	1,155,000	Bach. of Community Psychology	840,000
Bach. of Sci. in Telecomm. Engineering	1,155,000	Bach. of Industrial & Organisational Psychology	840,000
Bach. of Science in Quantity Surveying	1,155,000	Bach. of Arts in Ethics and Human Rights	800,000
Bach. of Sci. in Land Economics	1,155,000	Diploma in Performing Arts	350,000
Bach. of Sci. in Construction Management	1,155,000		
Bach. of Sci. in Computer Engineering	1,250,000	B) Evening Programme	
Bach. of Industrial and Fine Arts	840,000	Bach. of Arts (Social Sci.)	700,000
Bach. of Urban and Regional Planning	700,000	Bach. of Journalism and Communication	980,000
		Bach. of Arts (Arts)	630,000
B) Parallel Programmes (Classes are conducted both during the day and in the afternoon)		Bach. of Development Studies	700,000
Bach. of Sci. in Civil Engineering	1,155,000	Bach. of Arts in Music	700,000
Bach. of Sci. in Electrical Engineering	1,155,000	Bach. of Arts in Drama and Film	700,000
Bach. of Sci. in Mechanical Engineering	1,155,000	Bach. of Community Psychology	840,000
Bach. of Sci. in Land Surveying & Geomatics	1,155,000	Bach. of Industrial & Organisational Psychology	840,000
Bach. of Architecture	1,155,000	Bach. of Arts in Ethics and Human Rights	800,000
Bach. of Science in Quantity Surveying	1,155,000	Diploma in Performing Arts	350,000
		6 College of Education and External Studies	
		A) Day Programmes	
		Bach. of Arts With Educ./ Bach. of sci. With Educ	672,000
		(i) Physical	672,000
		(ii) Biological	672,000
		(iii) Economics	672,000
		Bach. of Adult and Community Education	700,000
		B) Evening Programme	
		Bach. of Arts (Social Sci.)	700,000
		Bach. of Journalism and Communication	980,000
		Bach. of Arts (Arts)	630,000
		Bach. of Development Studies	700,000
		Bach. of Community Psychology	840,000
		Bach. of Industrial & Organisational Psychology	840,000
		Bach. of Arts in Ethics and Human Rights	800,000
		7 College Of Natural Sciences	
		A) Day Programmes	
		Bach. of Sci. in Chemistry	840,000
		Bach. of Sci. in Fisheries and Aquaculture	840,000
		Bach. of Sports Sci.	840,000
		Bach. of Sci. - Biological	756,000
		Bach. of Sci. - Physical	756,000
		Bach. of Sci. - Economics	756,000
		Bach. of Sci. in Petroleum Geoscience & Prod.	1,300,000
		Bach. of Sci. in Conservation Biology	756,000
		Bach. of Sci. in Ethnobotany	700,000
		Bach. of Sci. in Biotechnology	1,200,000
		8 College of Computing and information Sci.	
		A) Day Programmes	
		Bach. of Science in Computer Sci.	1,260,000
		Bach. of information Tech.	1,260,000
		Bach. of Sci. in Software Engineering	1,300,000
		Bach. of information Systems	1,300,000
		Bach. of Library and information Science	1,050,000
		Bach. of Records and Archives Management	1,050,000
		Diploma in Records and Archives Management	378,000
		Diploma in Library and information Studies	378,000
		B) Evening Programmes	
		Bach. of Science in Computer Sci.	1,260,000
		Bach. of information Tech.	1,260,000
		Bach. of Sci. in Software Engineering	1,300,000
		Bach. of Information Systems	1,300,000
		Bach. of Library and information Sci.	1,050,000
		Bach. in Records and Archives Management	1,050,000
		Diploma in Records and Archives Management	378,000
		Diploma in Library and Information Studies	378,000
		9 Coll. of Vet. Medicine, Animal Resources	
		A) Day Programme	
		Bach. of Veterinary Medicine	1,344,000
		Bach. of Sci. in Wildlife Health and Mgt	980,000
		Bach. of Biomedical Laboratory Tech.	784,000
		Bach. of Animal Production Tech. and Mgt	1,050,000
		Dip. in Livestock Product Dev't & Entrep.	1,000,000
		Diploma in Livestock Health Sci.	1,000,000
		B) Evening Programme	
		Bach. of Medical Laboratory Tech.	784,000
		10 School of Law	
		A) Day Programme	
		Bachelor of Laws	1,280,000
		B) Evening Programme	
		Bach. of Laws	1,280,000

No communication yet

Speaking to *New Vision*, a source at the university said the proposal to increase fees for undergraduate students had been considered but no official communication has been made.

In a tweet yesterday, Nawangwe called on students to stay calm and say no to violence.

"I call upon all Makerereans to stay calm and go about their studies normally. Issues raised by a section of the guild leadership have been explained. There is no cause for a strike which will disrupt activities of our great university and endanger opportunities for our graduates. All issues can be resolved amicably through negotiation. Say no to violence," he tweeted.

When contacted yesterday, Namisango said there had been no increase in the tuition paid by the undergraduate students.

On the issue of meals, Namisango explained that when the dean of students conducted a survey among resident students, 80% of them requested to receive the money instead of meals. "This means for the semester, it is sh476,000

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which is the same amount of money given to resident government sponsored students.

"However, the proposal to give students money for feeding was discussed recently in Parliament and the university management is waiting for its recommendation," she added.

Namisango dismissed as false reports that the

second semester exams had been scrapped.

"This is not true. The examination timetable was displayed on the respective noticeboards and students were preparing for the exams scheduled to start on April 30," she said.

Police explain

The Police spokesperson, Emilia Kayima, told journalists during yesterday's briefing that the Police had been engaging student leaders with a view of stopping the demonstration but they did not listen.

He said yesterday, the Police moved to block students from leaving their hostels and halls to go out for the demonstration as they had planned but many forced their way out.

Kayima said in the ensuing battles, several students were arrested and taken to Wandegaya Police Station, where they were still being questioned.

Kayima, however, assured residents and the business community in Wandegaya that the Police would remain in place to ensure peace.