

Mubs lecturers plot strike over Shs45b arrears

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KAMPALA. Makerere University Business School (Mubs) academic staff have warned their employers that they will stop work next week if they are not paid their Shs45b arrears following a 14-day ultimatum which expires on Monday.

Through their association, Dr Isaac Magoola, the chairperson, wrote to the institution's principal on May 24 notifying him of the intended strike if no action is taken.

The lecturers are opposed to management's proposal to stop top-up allowances and accuse them of underpayments and failure to pay teaching assistants their salaries.

In total, the staff want Shs45 billion which they say arose from government's failure to equitably honour the salary enhancement since 2015.

According to Dr Magoola, out of the Shs35b they were supposed to get in this ending financial year, the staff only received Shs22.4b. This, he explained, meant that some staff received their pay raise, leaving about 200 others without any enhancement.

Withdraw of services

"We have been in negotiation with government and management for three years now. People live once. It is unfair for some people to continue earning more than those with higher qualifications," Dr Magoola said.

If the association members agree in today's meeting to lay down their tools on June 12 as earlier planned, the students' scripts will not be marked while those on industrial training will not be supervised.

"The underpaid staff continue to offer full services and failure to pay them while utilising their services is illegal. The school should rectify the enhancement anomaly and pay staff according to the levels they are entitled. The staff will meet tomorrow (today) to resolve the payment issues and if management doesn't address the issues all academic staff will withdraw their services," Dr Magoola said yesterday.

He added: "Marking will not continue and semester one for academic year 2018/19 will not open."

But Mr Peter Odoki, the institution's spokesperson, yesterday called for calm, saying the institution's management was already processing the payment.

"Payments in institutions go through processes. Some are being paid. But if you submit your claim late, that is the time it will take," Mr Odoki said in an interview.

STAFF POSITION

But Dr Magoola said they will stay away from the institution until their demands are met. He revealed that a committee has been set up to identify and shame some of their members who will defy their decision.