

# Nawangwe explains forged marks saga

By Cecilia Okoth

A section of continuing students of Makerere University, who were implicated in altering their results will face outright dismissal, the institution's vice-chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, has said.

Over 100 students, including finalists who were scheduled to graduate in 2015, are currently appearing before a committee that was instituted by the university to probe the matter. The central ad hoc examinations, irregularities and malpractice committee is headed by Dr. Damalie Naggitta, the former dean of the school of law.

Speaking to *New Vision* yesterday, Nawangwe said the exercise began late last year and is about to end.

"The committee is taking the correct legal procedures by giving an opportunity to those suspected of changing marks in 2015 to defend themselves. Upon hearing a given case, the committee then makes various recommendations, including outright dismissal, suspension, cancellation of results and exoneration where there is lack of evidence," he explained.

Nawangwe, however, said



Prof. Nawangwe said the culprits face dismissal

the ongoing exercise does not affect the 380 students whose names were withdrawn from this year's graduation list for forging marks.

"That one was done after it was identified that their results had been altered; so there is no need for an investigation. Unless somebody comes out to complain that they were removed wrongly, then it can be handled administratively," he added.

Previously, a committee

headed by the deputy dean of the College of Engineering, Dr Venny Nakazibwe, unearthed many cases of altered marks of students who were on the graduation list.

The marks scam came to light after some students, who had retakes, strangely secured marks, making them eligible for graduation. The students were suspected to have paid senior officials in the academic registrar's office before their results were altered.

Nawangwe said some of the staff implicated in the 2015 scandal were also cited in the recent forging of marks and are facing disciplinary action.

"The committee has also recommended that even the people alleged to have assisted the alterations be heard. Luckily, some of them were also implicated in the recent forging of marks and are already facing disciplinary action," he stated.

In March this year, the Police arrested two suspects — Christopher Ntwatwa, a systems administrator in the academic registrar's office and Mike Barongo, an ICT expert. The two, who were arrested and interrogated by operatives from the Kireka-based Police Special Investigations Division (SID), were released on bond.

The Criminal Investigations Directorate spokesperson, Vincent Ssekate, could not be reached for a comment. Earlier, the case was being investigated by SID. However in May this year, the Inspector General of Police disbanded the unit over mismanagement of case files. A new team was appointed a fortnight ago to investigate cases, among them, the Makerere exam scandal.