

Mak lecturers stop teaching over distress

BY EPHRAIM KASOZI
ekasozi@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. Lecturers from Makerere University's School of Statistics and Planning (SSP) have resolved to withdraw their labour effective today, citing failure by the vice chancellor, Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, to remove their dean from office.

"Following our submission to your office, we have for about three months awaited action that would save us from humiliation and distress. Several civil engagements have been made to help resolve this paralysis including attempts to meet you. We are grossly demoralised which deprives our key stakeholders- the students and others of our optimal service," the lecturers' February 22 letter to the vice chancellor reads in part.

The letter, signed by three lecturers on behalf of the others, is a follow-up to the one they wrote to Prof Nawangwe on November 22, withdrawing their 'elective support' to Dr Robert Wamala as their dean.

Two thirds of the lecturers from SSP voted for the removal of Dr Wamala from the office of the dean, accusing him of

usurping responsibilities of departments by appointing staff without consultations with the relevant units, holding ill constituted management meetings and holding doctoral committee meetings without informing the committee member.

The lecturers also accuse him of diminishing the visibility of the school by not responding to important communications from development partners, frustrating the appointment of supervisors for graduate students and blocking staff promotions and appointments.

Legal suit

They have since sued the university, Prof Nawangwe jointly his deputy, Prof William Bazeyo, and Dr Wamala.

Prof Nawangwe could not be reached on his known mobile cellphone despite repeated calls but in a February 24 e-mail response to the lecturers, Prof Nawangwe said on February 20, the appointments board considered and dismissed the petition as it was not signed by two thirds of the staff from the school as required by law.

He asked the staff to submit another petition in accordance with the law.