

Court summons vice-chancellor, Tanga Odoi over defying orders

By Michael Odeng

The High Court has summoned Makerere University deputy vice-chancellor Dr Okello Ogwang and the university convocation chairperson, Dr Tanga Odoi, over defying court orders.

On Friday, the civil division of the High Court Judge, Lydia Mugambe, summoned the duo, together with Makerere's director of human resources, Mary Tizikara, academic registrar Alfred Masikye Namoah and chairperson of the appointments board Bruce Kabaasa.

Odoi and the university bosses are slated to appear in court tomorrow to explain Margaret Etuusa's claims of being blocked from accessing her office, in spite of a court ruling by civil court registrar Alex Ajji, dated on May 19 re-instating her. Etuusa is the institution's deputy registrar.

The judge warned that failure to appear in court on the said date will amount to contempt of court. Mugambe made the order in the presence of Etuusa's lawyer, Rashid Ssemambo and John Kanyemibwa who represented Makerere.

On the same date, the court will also hear an application in which Etuusa, through Kalenge, Ssemambo and Company Advocates is demanding over sh5b in compensation as inconveniences for being blocked from her office.



Tanga Odoi

Her lawyer also wants the respondents to be sent to civil prison for six months for disobeying court orders.

"If you are dissatisfied with the court's order, you either appeal or apply for review of the proceedings, but you cannot ask court to administratively take over the matter," a furious Ssemambo advised.

Genesis of case

On March 7, Etuusa was suspended by Ogwang as the university management carries out investigations into her conduct.

According to the university management, Etuusa flouted several university policy regulations by allegedly awarding contracts to companies and persons to supply various goods and services during the 67th graduation ceremony in February this year.

On May 5, 2017, Etuusa filed an application for judicial review, challenging the process leading to her suspension on grounds that it was done without following the due process of the law and that she was never given the right to be heard.

Ssemambo accused Odoi of writing to the Criminal Investigation and Crime Intelligence director, Grace Akullo, requesting her to carry out investigations into illegal activities and abuse of office by Etuusa, yet court had issued an order, restraining the respondents from taking further disciplinary actions against her.

Meanwhile, Ogwang, Namoah, Kabaasa and Tizikara are accused of blocking Etuusa from accessing her office. According to Etuusa, when she reported to office, the respondents, are said to have told Etuusa that the keys to her office were lost.