

**KYAMBOGO VC SEARCH**

*The university staff query the age limit in the advert for the VC that is between 45 and 70 years*

By Cecilia Okoth

Fresh controversy has emerged over the prolonged search for a substantive vice-chancellor (VC) for Kyambogo University (KYU).

The *New Vision* yesterday learnt from a reliable source that three candidates have applied for the position that was re-advertised late November last year, after the previous search process hit a snag.

The three are Prof. George Bazirake, the former dean of the faculty of science (KYU); Makerere University Business School's deputy principal, Prof. Geoffrey Bakunda and the university's acting VC, Prof. Eli Katunguka.

The three confirmed yesterday that they were vying for the position.

"I cannot drum and dance," Katunguka remarked when asked about his chances of taking the position. But Bazirake said since he streamlined the previous confusion, he is the best candidate for the position.

Bazirake initially petitioned court over irregularities in the VC search process. Following the petition, the university council ordered a repeat of the process.

Bakunda, on the other hand, said he has what it takes to set a new standard for university management in the country. He noted that since its inception 15 years ago, KYU has never operated normally.

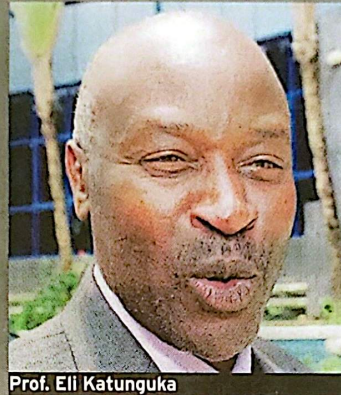
**THE LAW SAYS...**

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**Fresh petition by academic staff**

*New Vision* has learnt that on December 20, 2016, the academic staff under their umbrella, Kyambogo University Academic Staff Association (KYUASA), comprising

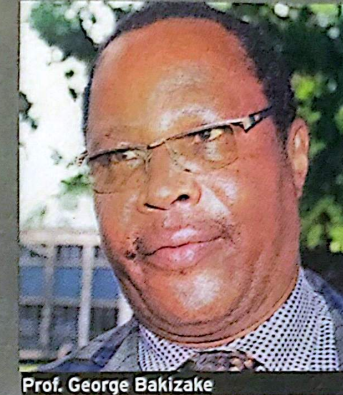
# Fresh controversy over Kyambogo VC search



Prof. Eli Katunguka



Prof. Geoffrey Bakunda



Prof. George Bakizake

**ROLE OF VC**

*The VC is responsible for academic, administrative and financial affairs of the university*

all academic functions take place in a department and not at faculty level," said a source.

**What the law says**

According to the provisions of the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act (UOTIA) of 2001, a person is eligible for appointment as head of department or dean if he is a senior lecturer.

**Why the search faltered**

Initially, the council said eligible applicants for VC should have held a senior position such as dean of a faculty for 10 years. The university staff opposed the requirement.

Ultimately, out of six candidates, the search committee shortlisted two candidates, yet the law stipulates that three candidates should be

360 members, wrote to the university council, expressing concern about requirements for the position as indicated in the advert.

According to the advert, an applicant should have at least eight years of working experience in a senior management position, four of which must have been served at minimum level of dean of faculty or its equivalent in a reputable university or institution.

"Members think that the above specifications were discriminatory and with no good intention for the university. We think that our senior management position should begin at the level of head of department or its equivalent in a reputable university or institution," said the letter signed by Dr Grace Lubaala, the head the association.

The association includes professors, associate professors, senior lecturers, lecturers, assistant lecturers and teaching assistants.

To become a head of department, one has to be a senior lecturer and this is the same requirement for the position of dean.

The association members argue that the qualification for VC should have been a head of department or its equivalent.

"In fact, the most important thing to note is that

identified to vie for the post. The process was consequently halted and a new search committee was set up, leading to the current process.

The university staff association is also querying the age limit for the job. The age was put at between 45 and 70 years, but other jobs at the university have an age limit of 55 years.

**Role of a vice-chancellor**

The VC is responsible for the academic, administrative and financial affairs of the university.

He supervises the university, attends government meetings and carries out other duties.

In the absence of the chancellor, the VC has the power to preside over ceremonial assemblies of the university and confer degrees and other academic titles and distinctions of the university.

KYU was established in 2003 by merging Uganda Polytechnic Kyambogo, the Institute of Teacher Education, Kyambogo and the Uganda National Institute of Special Education.