

BY PATIENCE AHIMBISIBWE
pahimbisibwe@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. At least three candidates have submitted their applications to head Kyambogo University after the university council ordered for fresh vice chancellor search in July.

The trio was among the six candidates who showed interest when the job was first advertised in February. They include Prof Eli Katunguka, the acting vice chancellor, Prof Geoffrey Bakunda, the dean Marketing and Hospitality Services at Makerere University Business School and former Kyambogo University Faculty of Science dean, Prof George Byarugaba-Bazirake.

Prof Katunguka and Prof Bazirake yesterday confirmed to have resubmitted their applications. This newspaper could not get a comment from Prof Bakunda as his known contacts were not available by press time.

But the staff, under their umbrella association, Kyambogo University Academic Staff Association (KYUASA) in a petition to the council, said they were disappointed with the council's

Three vie for Kyambogo University VC job

"discriminatory" qualifications for the VC job.

Dr Grace Lubaale, the KYUASA chairperson, explained that the minimum qualifications of a dean's position eliminates other senior managers like heads of departments and this will not attract many applicants from which to pick the best candidate.

However, Prof Okedi defended his position, saying: "That's a matter for council. Council stands by its qualifications for a vice chancellor. Otherwise, we could have put a certificate. And where would we be. The law empowers us to set standards."

The university re-advertised the VC job early this month after council nullified results of the first search committee mid this year. The applications were closed on December 21.

The Council wants an individual with eight years of experience in senior management position, four of which must have been as a dean of

making any action.

While the Attorney General has

Kamya in a December 19 letter.

Candidates say...



"I know everything about the institution. I have been acting for three years. How can I fail to apply?"

PROF ELI KATUNGUKA,
CANDIDATE



"I am among those who petitioned in the first search because the process was not genuine. This time, the job is mine," PROF

GEORGE BYARUGABA-
BAZIRAKE, CANDIDATE

a faculty.

Prof Okedi cancelled the first

process after two of the contenders, Prof Bazirake and Prof Aaron Wanyama, petitioned citing misinterpretation of the terms and conditions that edged them out of the competition.

According to Prof Okedi, senate also failed to furnish council with basic information such as number of candidates who had applied and failed to follow provisions of Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act such as submitting only two names contrary to the required three.

Dr Mary Muhenda, a member of the university council, will chair the VC search committee, replacing Prof Patrick Mangheni, whose team was dissolved after the council rejected their recommendations.

Prof Mangheni search committee report had recommended Prof Katunguka as the best choice for the university's top job coming ahead of Prof Bakunda.