

# Mak blocks more than 4,000 Mubs students from graduating

**Determined.** The acting deputy vice chancellor for Finance and Administration, Prof William Bazeyo, said the university council has decided that until Mubs remits that money, their students will not appear in the graduation booklet which is yet to be printed.

BY DAMALI MUKHAYE  
dmukhaye@ug.nationmedia.com

With only weeks left to the graduation date, Makerere University has vowed not to graduate more than 4,000 students from Makerere University Business School (Mubs) over failure to remit over Shs2.64 billion in functional fees.

Mubs, which is affiliated to Makerere University and specialises in business and management-related courses, is supposed to present its graduands at the 68th graduation ceremony set for January 16-19, 2018 at Makerere main campus.

Speaking on Friday, during the vice chancellor's monthly news conference, the acting deputy vice chancellor for Finance and Administration, Prof William Bazeyo, said the university council has decided that until Mubs remits that money, their students will not appear in the graduation booklet which is yet to be printed out.

"During the last council, we agreed that unless students at Mubs remit their money to the Makerere account, they will not graduate. Mubs claims that they paid all their money but



Graduation. The Mubs Principal, Prof Waswa Balunywa (right), hands over certificates to inmates who graduated from Luzira Prison recently. Every Ugandan or East African student at Mubs is supposed to pay Shs420,000 per year as functional fees which Makerere University says has not been cleared. PHOTO BY STEPHEN OTAGE

they have paid only a small portion of their debt and are remaining with the largest portion. If their students do not graduate, do not ask why," Prof Bazeyo said.

He explained that they have already notified the Ministry of Education and other responsible offices about the development.

Makerere University Vice Chancellor, Prof Barnabus Nawangwe, said they have been having several meetings with the management of Mubs and they agreed to clear that money but all in vain

#### Games

"Mubs has been playing hide and seek games for the past three years. We reconciled with them the figures that they should remit to Makerere and they agreed to pay it. Surprisingly, when they went back, they did nothing. But I assure them that this time, their students will not graduate until that money is remitted," Prof Nawangwe said.

The university bursar, Mr Tamale Augustine, said the money accumulated since 2012/2013 to 2016/2017 academic years and that they had a

debt of Shs6.2 billion but has so far settled part of that money.

This is not the first time Makerere University has complained about Mub's failure to clear their functional fees.

“Mubs has been playing hide and seek games for the past three years. We reconciled with them the figures that they should remit to Makerere and they agreed to pay it. Surprisingly, when they went back, they did nothing,” PROF BARNABUS NAWANGWE, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR

At last year's 67th graduation ceremony, Mubs students almost missed the graduation after their management failed to remit more than Shs4.6 billion in functional fees but the two management teams negotiated and their students were able to graduate.

Every Ugandan or East African student at Mubs is supposed to pay

Shs420,000 per year while an international student pays Shs1,027,500 as functional fees.

When contacted, the Principal of Mubs, Prof Wasswa Balunywa, said it was so unfortunate that the issues went to the media before they knew about it.

"Money accrues all the time and we pay. It is not a one off. You need to find out whether these students' money was not paid or it is money for current students," Prof Balunywa said, adding: "If you raise issues during such periods and relate them to graduation, it sounds like intimidation or blackmail. I know we pay money regularly to Makerere. Right now, I cannot tell if there is outstanding and if it is, whether it is agreed mutually. It is however, not a good thing, to relate this to innocent students graduation."

"For years, Makerere owed us money for external students. To date, the money is unpaid. We are vulnerable. We can be bullied and still be blamed. I am sure this will be sorted. But it points to the need for the independence of Mubs sooner than later," he concluded.