

Power struggle splits Uganda Pentecostal varsity

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KABAROLE. A disagreement between United Pentecostal Church International of Uganda (UPCIU) and the management of Uganda Pentecostal University over the ownership of the Fort Portal-based institution has left the institution divided.

This comes after Prof John Ntambirweki, the Vice Chancellor, ordered the shifting of three schools to a new study centre at Muchwa, the administrative premises of Tooro Kingdom.

The School of Law, School of Social Sciences, and School of Information Technology and Journalism were set to begin the new academic year at the rented premises, leaving six others at the main campus at Kahungabunyonyi sub-county.

Take over

The UPCIU, who are the university founders, said they have taken over the management of the university with only one campus at Kahungabunyonyi in Fort Portal Town.

The new management has closed Kamwenge Study Centre and is in the process of closing Kampala campus because they are not recognised by the National Council for Higher Education

(NCHE) which regulates operation of universities in the country.

The University patron, Bishop Jimmy Katuramu, has written on behalf of the UPCIU to the NCHE, explaining how the church has taken over the management of the institution and disassociated it from the said study centre at Muchwa.

ENROLMENT

3,000. Mr Kireju says the enrolment of students at the UPU is close to 3,000 for the learning programmes. He added that even in their confusion, all students' marks for tests, course work and examinations including for the batch that is graduating in January next year are already secured on back-up storages.

"On the 29th of August 2017, there was an attempt to shift the University from its licensed premises and the then Vice Chancellor (Prof Ntambirweki) managed to take some of the property majorly furniture," the letter seen by *Daily Monitor* and dated September 4 read in part.

"The attempt to shift shocked the members of the Church the foundation body of the University upon which it was resolved that the Church should immediately take over the management of institution in order to avert its eminent collapse," he further states in writing.

They now want NCHE to immediately close the Muchwa Study Centre to enable students return to the main campus.

New team

Mr Nathan Batungi has since been appointed by Board of Directors as the acting Vice Chancellor, Ms Agnes Auro as acting University Secretary and Mr Bedah Balikudembe Kireju to act as the chairperson of the University Council.

Efforts by our reporter to reach Prof Ntambirweki were futile as the call was picked by a lady who said he could not talk because he was ill.

The NCHE executive director, Prof John Opuda, told *Daily Monitor* that they have Kahungabunyonyi campus as the only licensed study centre for UPU.

Prof Opuda added that they are aware of the conflicts concerning the management of the university.

He urged the worrying parties to sort their issues as soon as possible so as not to affect the students.