MUK PROCUREMENT MANAGER RUNS TO COURT TO BLOCK SUSPENSION

BY BARBRA KABAHUMUZA

Makerere University procurement manager Levi Tushabe has run to the High Court in Kampala to block his suspension.

Tushabe is seeking a declaration that suspending him from his position is irrational, unfair, unjust, illegal, null and void.

He filed the application at the civil division of the High Court against MUK yesterday.

On April 21, former Makerere vice-chancellor John Ddumba Sentamu suspended Tushabe for allegedly flouting the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) Act and regulations.

Since then, Tushabe has been on suspension, pending hearing and determination of his case, which is before the institute's appointments board.

He is also challenging the proceedings of the university's appointments board meeting of the same date.

Tushabe wants a declaration that he is entitled to resume his position unconditionally immediately.

He also seeks damages for unlawful suspension.

Tushabe says he was employed by MUK as an administrative assistant in the then purchasing section of the institution's finance department and that in July 1991, he was promoted to the position of senior administrative assistant in the same department.

Tushabe explained that on February 17, he was requested by the academic registrar to procure additional 2,000 chairs for the university's 67th graduation ceremony, which was to take place between February 17 to 24, 2017.

He further states that he received the aforesaid academic registrar's letter and hired 2,000 chairs for the graduation since 10,000 were not enough.

Tushabe stated that the chairs were hired at sh4m, with each going for sh500 per day. Tushabe said he was mandated to do this without the approval of the contracts committee because it was a micro procurement.

He said the chairs were hired from Deen Establishments, which is a reputable firm, duly registered and had been approved by the university's contracts committee.

Tushabe contends that after the graduation, he was invited by the chairperson of the contracts committee, Prof. Noble Banadda, to appear before an investigation committee, where he (Banadda) was an accuser, as well as an investigator, which is a clear case of conflict of interest.

"I appeared before the investigation committee on March 16, 2017 and I was asked several questions to explain several issues, including the procurement of the 2000 extra chairs," read the affidavit.

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