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OFFICE OF THE GRC LUMUMBA HALL

Thursday 21st April, 2022

The Guild Speaker
Makerere University
Rt. Hon Gatuya Mucyo Jaque

RE: REQUEST TO GUIDE THE DEAN OF STUDENTS TO PUSH HER REQUEST TO THE 88TH GUILD HOUSE FOR CONSIDERATION.

Reference is made to the Dean of Students' letter dated Tuesday 19th April, 2022 to you on *the review of the Guild Constitution and other related regulations*. Precisely, the Dean requests you to start the process of amending the Student Guild Constitution. She expresses University Management's expectation of a draft by 30th April, 2022.

First and foremost, Dean's letter has ill-motives as highlighted below:

- 1) Art. 5(1) of Makerere University Students Guild Constitution (Elections) Regulations No.1 of 2018 emphasizes upholding the dignity of the Guild in a way that participation in Guild leadership does not become a hindrance to academic progress of the students:

Dean's letter is dated six (6) days to examinations, yet the regulations she wants amended have been around since the inception of our term of office on 26th November 2021. If she had good intentions for the Students Guild, she should have written to you early enough to avoid disrupting our examination preparation over her amendment proposals.

Closely related to the above ill intentions, the 86th Guild Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Ruhayana Winston Churchill carried out extensive school based consultations over the same regulations for over four (4) months and did not receive the necessary support from the very Dean of Students and University management to table his amendment proposals before the Students Affairs Committee of Council: what has suddenly changed Dean's position to think that amendments can be done within two weeks of examination period?

It should be noted that the current Guild Constitution (2016) took the 81st Guild Council a period of six (6) months of drafting and debating amended provisions.

- 2) Dean's letter has no intention and willingness to hold the next Guild Elections within the Guild Constitutional time frame:



Art. 68 (1) provides for election of the Electoral Commission within the first fourteen (14) days of the second semester. Even when the GRC is to consider Dean's request after Examinations, because of limited time, we are bound to violate the Guild Constitution we swore to uphold.

Considering Dean's request will create a leadership vacuum within the Guild by prolonging the Interim Government which locks out all student representatives in a critical period when Makerere is celebrating 100 years. This selfish move only serves the interest of the Guild Speaker who is not directly held accountable to the students during the Interim period.

I therefore suggest the following;

- a) That you write back to the Dean of Students reminding her that students are in examinations and in Makerere University academics are the primary reason we are here.
- b) Guild leadership is continuous, it doesn't stop with the 87th. Please let the amendment request be forwarded to the 88th Guild house for debate and consideration, and it is tabled at the inception of the 88th House since amendments require time to consult extensively.
- c) Having achieved a physical reopening of the University at the expense of student suspensions and permanent injuries, the discussion of blended elections in a fully reopened economy is null and void. Blended elections have been overtaken by events. For clarity, blended elections were devised to ensure that there is no leadership vacuum in a plight of the pandemic.

Right Honorable Speaker, if all these fail, please call us and we speak the language University Management understands.



HUSSEIN IBRA

87TH GRC LUMUMBA HALL



CC: Vice Chancellor

:Deputy Vice Chancellor

(F & A)

:University Secretary

:Dean of Students

:Director Legal Affairs

:Guild President

:Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

:All Students' Notice Boards