

Council orders MUST staff to resume work

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MBARARA. The Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) council has asked the staff, who resumed a sit-down strike on June 24, to return to work.

The council, which sat on Friday at Kihumuro campus, was chaired by Dr Warren Namara, who took over from Dr Ben Mbonye after the end of his second four-year term last month.

The July 12 letter, signed by Dr Namaara and Mr Melchoir Byaruhanga, the university secretary, reads: "The university staff are directed to go back to work immediately and unconditionally, and allow the university council address their grievances."

The council resolved: "All members of staff should refrain from making inflammatory statements, intimidation, threats and harassment of any nature."

The meeting also resolved: "Members of staff respect the rule of law, procedures and policies and are called upon to desist from interference with marking examinations, student admissions and the graduation ceremony."

The council asked the staff associations that do not have representatives to choose them immediately to be able to participate in the next council meeting scheduled for July 26.

The staff staged a sit-down strike on May 2 accusing the Vice Chancellor, Prof Celestino Obua, of mismanagement and misconduct.

Mr Julius Taremwa, the Mbarara University of Science and Technology Academic Staff Association general secretary, on Saturday said they would sit to discuss the council resolutions on Monday (today).

REASONS FOR STRIKE

Accusations against the vice chancellor: Financial mismanagement, staff harassment and intimidation, suffocating operations of the grants office and disregarding policy on staff training.

Flouting university transport policy, not heeding council directives, absence from duty among others.