

Strike splits Makerere guild

Contention. One of the student leaders is accused of issuing out a letter calling off the strike, contrary to the Guild Council position.

BY ANDREW BAGALA
dbagala@ug.nationmedia.com

The ongoing strike at Makerere University over the 15 per cent increase on tuition has polarised the student community with some guild leaders accusing each other of betrayal.

Ms Judith Nalukwago, the vice Guild President, yesterday suspended the Guild Prime Minister, Mr Emmanuel Obbo, for one month, accusing him of misrepresenting the Council's position when he sent a letter calling off the strike.

"We concluded in the meeting that the demonstration should not stop until our demands are met. He went and issued a statement contrary to what we agreed on," Ms Nalukwago said yesterday.

She called for an extraordinary assembly today at Freedom Square to determine "whether the peaceful demonstration con-



On standby. Security personnel patrol Makerere University yesterday. PHOTO BY MICHAEL KAKUMIRIZI

tinues or be suspended".

However, Kampala Metropolitan Police commanders say they have not been notified of the meeting.

Mr Obbo yesterday said his letter reflected the decision of majority members of the guild cabinet.

He accused Ms Nalukwago's group of plotting for the closure of the university.

"When we are at university our role is to read and make sure we perform our academic

obligations as expected by our parents. The strike was only to bring to light the tuition that an average student would not afford to pay," Mr Obbo said.

He said they failed to stop the increment on the tuition and that the university would proceed to charge 15 per cent in August next year.

"We have fought enough. We should give management three weeks to work on the recommendation of Parliament," he said.

BACKGROUND

Students have been in running battles with security personnel for nearly two weeks protesting the tuition increment. Last week, Parliament asked the Parliamentary Committee on Education to investigate the university's financial problems.