

# Makerere calls crisis meeting as students strike looms

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**KAMPALA** Authorities at Makerere University have asked leaders of striking staff for more time to resolve their grievances.

Dr Mohammed Kiggundu, the university acting manager for communications and international relations, told this newspaper last evening that the management met the striking staff and promised that by close of business today, a solution will have been found.

“Engagements between the university management and the executives of the striking staff associations are still ongoing and I am sure that by 2pm today (Friday), we shall be having a conclusive decisions about their demands,” Dr Kiggundu said.

The management has today called a crisis meeting to forge a way forward before students join the strike. On Wednesday, student leaders gave management up today to “sort the mess” or else they join the striking staff at midday. The management is, however, worried that the students’ strike will worsen the situation.

“We have presented our grievances to the university management and the university council. It is up to them to tell us which ones they are willing to adhere too, we weigh and then see if we should call off the strike or not,” **BERNARD MWAVU, MUASA VICE CHAIRPERSON**

The teaching and non-teaching staff laid down their tools last week following the suspension of the chairperson of the academic staff association, Dr Deus Kamunyu, Mr Bennet Magara, the chairperson of Makerere Administrative Staff Association, and his general secretary, Mr Joseph Kalema, for alleged indiscipline and inciting fellow staff.

## Stalemate

In the meeting yesterday, the staff vowed to continue with the strike until the university management lifts the suspension of their leaders.

The staff are also demanding that the university removes Mr Thomas Tayebwa and Mr Bruce Kabaasa from the university council, gazette unconstitutional amendment of human resources, end attacks on the autonomy of staff associations and their leaders and also facilitate the staff tribunal to hear staff appeals expeditiously.

The Muasa vice chairperson, Mr Bernard Mwavu, after the closed-door meeting with management, said they will wait for the decision of the management.