

Makerere's Nawangwe to appear before MPs over attack by Zaake

By Moses Walubiri

Makerere University vice-chancellor Barnabas Nawangwe might appear before Parliament's committee on rules, privileges and discipline over the impending hearing concerning MP Francis Zaake.

Last week, the Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, referred the Mityana Municipality MP to the rules, privileges and discipline committee over the manner in which he treated Nawangwe when he appeared before lawmakers sitting on the education committee.

Zaake, according to Kadaga, had the previous day also barracked and heckled John Chrysestom Muyingo, the state minister for higher education, when he interfaced with lawmakers sitting on the same committee.

Muyingo and Nawangwe had been summoned to appear before the education committee over the strike at Makerere University that had been sparked off by a

tuition fees hike.

Clement Ongalo-Obote (Kalaki County), the chairperson of the committee on rules, privileges and discipline, said Nawangwe will interface with lawmakers if it becomes apparent that he lodged a formal complaint with the Speaker's office.

Ongalo-Obote said his committee will hold its preliminary meeting over Zaake's conduct on Wednesday next week.

"We intend to inquire from the Speaker's office whether the vice-chancellor lodged a formal complaint. If he did, then he will be one of our witnesses," he told *New Vision* yesterday.

Ongalo-Obote also revealed that the witnesses the committee is lining up included lawmakers that attended the two meetings.

This, he said, will be done through checking the attendance register for the two meetings. Before the committee concludes its hearings, Zaake will be given audience.

In a preliminary report to the

House on Thursday last week, Kadaga revealed that she had received information about Zaake's discourteous conduct towards Nawangwe and Muyingo.

According to Kadaga, Zaake defied the committee chairperson Richard Opolot, demanding that his questions be answered first; barracked Nawangwe and later followed him in the corridors of Parliament uttering expletives.

At some point, Asuman Basalirwa, according to the Speaker, tried to restrain Zaake, reminding him of the need to observe parliamentary decorum.

Some of the other lawmakers that have been referred to the committee are security minister Elly Tumwine, over allegations that he intimidated Cecilia Ogwal and used unparliamentarily language in reference to the Speaker.

Earlier, junior lands minister Persis Namuganza had also been referred to the rules committee over her then constant attacks on the person of the Speaker.