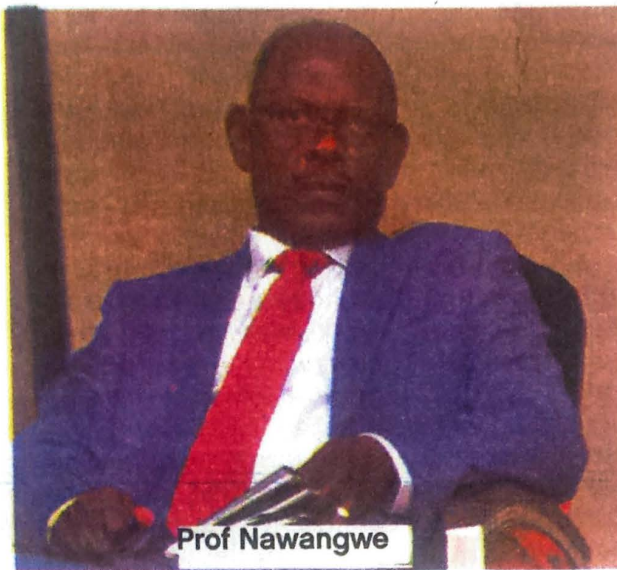


# Will Prof Nawangwe Suspend All Staff?

There are concerns on whether Makerere University Vice Chancellor Prof Barnabas Nawangwe is acting in good faith for the institution or sheer impunity and vengeance. These questions follow the suspension the leader of Makerere University Academic Staff Association - MUASA Dr Deus Kamunyu Muhwezi on Friday. The notice of suspension is contained in a letter dated January 17, 2019. In the letter, Dr Kamunyu is accused of inciting staff and indiscipline. The suspension comes at the backdrop of disagreements between staff associations at the University and the university administration headed by Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe. The animosity between the two entities peaked with the recent dismissal of senior members of academic staff, some of who were accused of insubordination, among others. In the suspension letter, Nawangwe contends that despite the various warnings, Dr Kamunyu has continued to engage in acts that amount to misconduct. The acts according to Nawangwe, include offenses under the Computer Misuse Act, incitement with intent to cause disobedience and undermine administration, acts that bring the University and officials of the University into disrepute, intimidation of university officials using abusive and or insulting language,



Prof Nawangwe



SUSPENDED-Kamunyu

slander, insubordination and making false statements among others. "Your aforesaid unlawful activities contravene the terms and conditions of your employment with the University and also violate the provisions of the Employment Act, 2006, the Uganda Public Service Standing Orders 2010, and the Makerere University Human Resources Manual, 2009, and other policies governing employment with the University," the suspension letter reads. He also makes reference to security reports that have shown that Dr Kamunyu has continued to incite staff to disrupt university activities and engage in unlawful conduct. In support of the suspension, Prof. Nawangwe says this is aimed at protecting the reputation of the University, its activities, personnel, and property from Dr Kamunyu's disruptive activities. Speaking after his suspension, Dr Kamunyu said this was not shocking news to him citing that Prof. Nawangwe is pan-

icking to protect a section of people. He requested staff to remain united and to serve people even in such circumstances. Dr Kamunyu added that his suspension implies that Prof. Nawangwe disregards staff associations, which are established under the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act. The suspension brings to three, the number of staff association leaders currently serving suspensions. In December, Bennet Magara and Joseph Kalema both leaders of the Makerere Administrative Staff Association - MASA were suspended on grounds of insubordination. They join a long list of students who also faced his wrath last year.

## SUSPEND ALL STAFF

A staff who preferred not to be named told us that the only way Nawangwe can silence dissent is to fire the whole staff and starts ruling the marabou storks (Karolis) which are common in the University.

"If Makerere University must continue advancing her stated objective of "building for the future," the institution's current Vice Chancellor must shed off the character traits of insecurity, low self-esteem and blind arrogance that define village chiefs who never expected to hold such offices and now that they find themselves in such a position, suddenly think that a university for instance, is their personal fiefdom over which they must rule and reign with unfettered power," activist Andrew Karamagi also recently wrote.

## STAFF PONDERES DEADLY STRIKE TO FORCE VC OUT

Another staff we talked to, also said if the situation remains like this, they will be forced to lay down their tools in protest of Nawangwe's actions. They are said to be studying carefully the process of removing a sitting VC. WATCH THIS SPACE!