

# MUBS guild opposes 15% tuition policy

By Peninah Nyangoma

Makerere University Business School (MUBS) guild council wants the 15% tuition increment in public universities reviewed.

Addressing the media yesterday at MUBS campus in Nakawa, Kampala, guild president Romulas Tusingwire said the increment ought to be revised because it could lead to a higher number of school dropouts.

Makerere University has faced student protests for the past weeks, after the administration sanctioned a 15% cumulative increment on tuition over the next five years.

The Government responded with an iron fist. Security personnel raided halls of residence, where they are said to have beaten some students.

Most public universities have expressed their dissatisfaction with the new policy, claiming that it is unfair to them and their parents.

"The policy should be revised because the economic system is highly inflating day by day, which increases the number of school dropouts due to high tuition fees. If this policy is implemented, students will be sent back to the villages," Tusingwire said yesterday.

Tusingwire further explained that they were not consulted before approving the tuition increment and thus, they are highly opposed to it.

"The 15% tuition increment is not only a one-time increment policy, but a cumulative policy that is to amount to 75% over a period of five years. So, as MUBS guild, it is a no," Tusingwire said.

He said there was no improved service delivery from the side



Tusingwire said they will seek to meet the President

of the Government, despite the university increasing the fees.

"There is no development taking place in the university since the increment occurred. We do not have an accommodation centre for students. Still, our WiFi signal strength is low. These are basic necessities that have not been implemented at all," Tusingwire said.

Asked about the way forward, he said as student leaders, they were waiting for the university council's resolution regarding the matter. "We are waiting for the final resolution from the University Council. If we fail, we shall seek to meet President Yoweri Museveni. The University Council chairman had promised that there will be no tuition increment in 2020," he said.

Doreen Asimwe, the university

guild vice-president, called for accountability from the higher authorities

## Accountability

"The issue of accountability is serious and it matters a lot. However, we have never been given an accountability for the current money, yet they keep increasing tuition," Asimwe said.

One of the student leaders from the speaker's chambers, Hashim Kabela, complained that majority of first-year students had not paid full tuition and yet no student can sit for exams without clearing.

"Most of the students who have not cleared to zero balance are in first year and the reason is because of the increment yet exams are approaching.

Some of them could miss exams, Kabela said.