

**Step.** The decision was made during a management meeting as a measure to defuse riots.

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**M**akerere University management has resolved to deploy 2,000 police officers to secure its 1,000 lecture rooms for students and lecturers eager to resume studies despite the strike.

The decision was made during a management meeting on Wednesday that students who are not participating in the strike and want to attend lectures should be guarded as one of the measures to defuse the riots.

Prof Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor, yesterday confirmed the deployment.

He said the university has 10 colleges with more than 1,000 lecture rooms and all of them will have police officers to guard the students and the lecturers.

"Those disciplined students who want to attend lectures will be guarded by police officers. Some few students have been beating their colleagues who were found in class. Those who will be caught doing this again will be dealt with," Prof Nawangwe said in a telephone interview.

Students went on strike last week demanding abolition of the policy that provides for a 15 per cent increment on tuition fees.

Since last week, the university has been a scene of violence as striking students were engaged in running battles with police and the military, causing destruction of property and business.

However, the environment at campus was relatively calm yesterday amid police deployment.

Asked whether the university would bear the cost of the deployment, Prof Nawangwe said police is a government institution and must perform its statutory duties free of charge.

The management also resolved that the examinations, which are scheduled to start on November 18, will not be extended despite the strike.

"Examinations will commence as

# 2,000 police officers to guard Mak lecture rooms



**Deployment.** Police officers guard Lumumba Hall of residence yesterday. PHOTO BY ALEX ESAGALA

planned on November 18 and there will be no extension of semester. Management wishes to thank the students and lecturers who continued with normal activities despite the isolated disruption," Prof Nawangwe said.

Kampala Metropolitan Police (KMP) spokesperson Patrick Onyango said they had already deployed two officers at every lecture room.

"We have already implemented the management resolutions. Our officers are already on the ground. We are seeing what our students are being taught and our officers are also learning through the windows," Mr Onyango said, adding that they have enough manpower to do the job.

The deployment brings the total operational force at the university to at least 2,000 officers.

The university management also agreed to support the University Council resolution to maintain the 15 per cent increment on tuition but

## STUDENTS CONDEMN DEPLOYMENT

Speaker of the Guild Representative Council (student parliament) Jackson Mayambala said there was no justification for police deployment. "We condemn the acts of management deploying at our lecture rooms.

It was not in our circular that the university could deploy in our lectures rooms," Mr Mayambala said. He said students would not be intimidated by the deployment or the management's resolve not to extend the examination dates.

remove it from functional fees.

The University Council sat in an emergency meeting on Tuesday and agreed to halt 15 per cent increase on functional fees, but maintain it on tuition.

The students' leadership has since rejected the Council resolution, insisting the increment should be scrapped on all fees.

Prof Nawangwe said the nine students, who were suspended over the strike, will soon be summoned by the

university students disciplinary committee.

The vice chairperson of Makerere University Academic Staff Association, Mr Edward Mwavu, said the deployment will cause intimidation.

"Management thinks that deploying police officers is the best way, but that is their choice. However, learning at the university must be conducted in a comfortable environment because by the presence of police, students see tear gas," Mr Mwavu said.