

My record, integrity are beyond question

Guest Writers

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I am extremely grateful to the Government of the Republic of Uganda for appointing its representatives ? including me ? to the Islamic University In Uganda Council.

Whoever clearly understands me has no doubt that I will contribute a great deal to IUIU – just like I have done for other institutions where I have been instrumental in capacity building, education administration and academic and other infrastructural developments. These include the University of Dar es Salaam (1980-1990), Makerere University (1993-2000), the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), which covered the entire sub-Saharan Africa, (2001-2010) and Kampala International University (KIU, 2010- to date), to mention but a few.

However, I and many persons, including alumni of IUIU, are tremendously surprised by the baseless allegations that have lately appeared in sections of the media directed at me and Mr Mahiri Balunywa, another new appointee to the IUIU Council. These allegations have been made in mosques in Kampala, Bukedde TV, Red Pepper, and a few radio stations. The source of the allegations appears to be a few individuals apparently threatened, for whatever reasons, by our appointments.

I believe there is a hidden agenda aimed at tarnishing my otherwise excellent image and integrity, attributes earned out of my hard work and dedicated, selfless service to all institutions where I have worked. I honestly believe that I am one of the best known international figures within the Muslim community in Uganda and the positions enumerated above enabled me visit and interact with virtually all universities in sub-Saharan Africa.

I have also been an external examiner in Economics in many universities in Eastern and Southern Africa. Hence, if one states that Prof Hyuha has no international exposure, either there is a hidden agenda or one does not know what they are talking about. My personal integrity is beyond question.

This is why I have worked with international organisations like AERC. In a series of articles published by Sunday Monitor between March 22 and April 15, 2008, I discussed some of the problems afflicting Makerere University at that time. In his reaction to these, the then university spokesman commented, among other things, that I had no moral authority to give my views on the university “given the way he had departed from Makerere.” In a rejoinder to my earlier articles, I took liberty to comment on this Makerere saga; I deflated most of the concocted allegations levelled against me and proved that I had the moral authority, right and integrity to discuss any issues at the university and elsewhere.

A Muslim since birth, I have been a member of the General Assembly and Executive Committee of the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council. I was a member of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee of the IUIU from 1991 to 2002. I continued being a member of the committee even after I had left Makerere University. Why was my integrity not questioned then, rather than now, ten years later?! This character-assassination must stop before my lawyers catch up with its perpetrators.

I managed the construction of the famous Senate Building at Makerere University without a single cent from the university’s development budget or the donor community ? but from funds internally generated by the department of the Academic Registrar, where I was the then chief executive officer.

I chaired a UNEB four-person committee (1996-1998) that set up robust systems to guard against exam leakages (following massive exam leakages in PLE and UCE papers in 1995). This system still operates smoothly today. I contributed in no small way to the development of various academic programmes, staff development, private sponsorship schemes and the administration of Makerere University while I was there. Some of my expected work at the IUIU Council will include:

- To ensure rapid progress of the academic staff. A university which started in 1988 should have many professors by now; it appears to date there is no professor on the academic staff.
- Academic standards have to be improved. From available information from external examiners and some part-time lecturers at the university, academic standards are not the best; there is a lot of room for improvement. The new IUIU Council has to address this issue.
- Research must be immensely improved, for it appears right now very little research is going on at the university. Hence, one hardly gets any

- academic publications or journal articles emanating from the university. As I stated in 1992 while attending the fourth anniversary of the university, “A university without research is just a glorified secondary school.” IUIU must start appearing among the best 100 universities in Africa.
- To work with everybody as a team without fear or favour. In this respect, nobody should expect to be victimised by Prof Hyuha, or for that matter, by any other member of the new Council.
 - Those who work hard will be appropriately rewarded; those who need mentoring will be mentored; and those who need learning and/or sensitization will be taught and/or sensitized.

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