



- HOME
- NATIONAL
- WORLD
- SPORT
- BUSINESS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- HEALTH
- ARCHI

- BIG STORY
- LIFE STYLE
- CORPORATE NEWS
- E-PAPER
- EDUCATION
- MUSLIM COMMUNITY
- PRESS RELEASES
- REGIONALS
- TODAY'S

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No living out allowance for Makerere students Publish Date: Nov 03, 2012



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By Chris Kiwawulo

Scores of **Makerere University** government-sponsored students are crying foul after they failed to access their living-out allowances that were blocked under unclear circumstances.

The students, who receive sh500, 000 as a living out stipend every semester, are now in a financial crisis, after spending months without accessing the money on which they expected to survive.

New Vision has established that the Government sent the students' money in early September, but up to now, many have not been able to access it, after more than a month. Several students New Vision talked to say the bank told them that the accounts had been closed because "they had been dormant for more than 60 consecutive days".

Sources at the University said this is not the only payment that finance officials at the university have delayed after the finance ministry and other donor agencies send money. And, the source added, this also includes lecturers' payments and project money.

"There could be a group of people who first use the money to make a quick buck before returning it to the university account. This issue needs to be thoroughly investigated," a victim of the delay noted.

We have also learnt that only the first 40 students to re-open their accounts received their allowances under old account numbers and the rest have had to wait until they are issued with new account numbers. "The old account numbers were beginning with 01...while the new ones

begin with 90...,” revealed a male student. But all students have been issued with new Automated Teller Machine (ATM) cards.

But even after getting new account numbers, the students said officials in the bursar’s office have told them to wait for about a month before they can access their allowances.

A second-year male student said he has been fed on ‘hope’ by the official in the responsible office. Another student said his ATM card was ‘captured’ at Stanbic Bank, Makerere branch in September and the bank told him his account had been closed. “They gave that as reason why my money had bounced back to the University’s suspense account. They asked me for sh20,000 to renew it and issued me with a new ATM card.”

A female student said she had to storm the bank after a month of waiting. And when she renewed the account, she was still asked to go to the university for an endorsement that she was a true beneficiary, which she did. But still, she had to wait for about a month to access her allowances. When it came, her balance of sh20,000 she had left on the account in May, was taken by the bank. Saturday Vision has learnt that all students lost the money that was on their accounts when they got closed and they wrote to the Dean of Students, complaining about it.

The University Dean of Students, Cyriako Kabagambe, said he was not aware of the one month delay, but wondered why it would take a whole month for students to access their money after re-opening accounts.

“When the students’ money bounces, the university sends it to the suspense account. The students have to re-open their accounts and they should be able to access their money immediately after the account has been re-opened. I do not see any reason why it should take a month to access the money,” said Kabagambe.

Stanbic Bank spokesperson Daniel Nsibambi said a bank account becomes operational the day it is opened, adding: “A dormant account is closed after two years when there is money on it. The money is transferred to the central bank’s suspense account after three years.”

In March, [Makerere University](#) government-sponsored students went on strike over the delayed disbursement of faculty and internship allowances. In April and October this year, Gulu University students also went on strike over the delayed disbursement of their allowances.



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Joe

Mr Nsibambi and wen is the account closed wen it doesn't have money, those details are important during an interview

prince

but who is responsible for this? under which ministry can we get help? its worse in mb.....popssssssssssss