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Uganda: Makerere Searches for VC

BY FLAVIA NASSAKA, 23 JULY 2012

Kampala — Makerere University's search committee for the Vice Chancellor (VC) closed receiving more applications after nine professors showed intention to take up the seat.

The need for a new chancellor follows complaints from members of staff that Prof. Venansius Baryamureba has delayed being confirmed as vice chancellor since 2009.

The contestants include the incumbent Professors Venansius Baryamureba, Edmund Bizimyenya, Elisam Magara, Dumba Ssentamu, Barnabas Nawangwe, Tonny Oyana, Edward Kirumira, Dr. Augustus Nuwagaba and Elly Katunguka Rwaskishaya.

Different from the past, the new guidelines set for anybody contesting for the seat indicate that the person must at the very least be an associate professor, have considerable administrative and management experience and must be aged between 40 and 60 years.

Stakeholders at Makerere University hold differed opinions about who would fit the post of the institutions' vice chancellor.

"He must have taught in a reputable university, supervised at least a good number of graduate students and should have the capacity to get university grants. In addition, the vice-chancellor must have international recognition," said Ms. Ritah Namisango, Public Relations Officer Makerere University.

Mr. Ronald Bisaso of Makerere University's School of Education says the best candidate for the post is one who can create stimulation of initiatives between the different stake holders to make the university prosper and has global knowledge since there are students who study on-line.

"Acting Vice Chancellor, Baryamureeba has so far done the university proud," said Ritah Karungi a student at Makerere University's school of law. She says although Baryamureeba had some challenges, "He has the favour of most of the students at the university". "He has done his best to ensure that the university adopts Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) like on- line registration where a student can register any time without being constrained by lack of staff to handle the exercise."

When Baryamureeba became acting VC in 2009, he found the institution in a sorry state especially at the then Faculty of Computing and Information Technology which wasn't responding efficiently to the current global changes.

Since then the faculty has been recovering to the extent of becoming one of the best centers of ICT learning in Africa.

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