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Uganda: Hundreds Fail MUK Pre-Entry Law Exams

BY CHRIS KIWAWULO, 24 MAY 2012

Hundreds of candidates who had applied for a Bachelors of Law degree for the academic year 2012/13 have been disqualified after they failed the pre-entry exams.

The candidates, majority of whom are A' Level students failed to pass at the required mark for anyone to be considered for the Law degree programme.

The candidates who scored 50% and above passed the examination and have been recommended to the Joint Admissions Board for consideration in this year's admission.

Those who will not be admitted on Government sponsorship can apply for private (day or evening) when Makerere University advertises.

It is a few of those who passed the examinations that will be admitted for Law. It is not automatic, that whoever passed the entry examination, will be admitted for Law at Makerere University.

A total of 1,367 candidates applied for the Law course and sat for the pre-entry exams upon payment of sh80,000 each. But of these, only 721 scored 50% or above, meaning that the remaining 646 students failed.

According to a list pinned at the University's senate building, majority of the applicants (1,201) were A' Level students who had got points qualifying them to join the university and pursue the Law degree on government sponsorship.

But the University academic registrar Alfred Masikye Namoah in an accompanying statement to the list said the A' level candidates who failed the exams were free to apply for the same course but on private sponsorship on either day or evening programmes.

"Those who got 50% or above passed and their names have been recommended to the Joint Admissions Board for consideration," Namoah's statement read in part.

The pre-entry examinations for admission to the Bachelor of Laws for 2012/2013 were held on Saturday April 28, 2012.

New Vision online has also observed that of the total number of applicants (74) already had a first degree and had all applied for the evening programme on private sponsorship. But of these, 15 applicants failed as they are not eligible for the course.

The university decided to organize pre-entry exams following the high failure rate both at the university and the Law Development Center (LDC) where students enroll for a nine-month bar course before being allowed to practice.

Ironically, of the 62 diploma holders who had applied for the Law degree were from LDC and some of them failed. Of the 62 diploma holders, 34 failed.

Of the 17 mature age candidates who applied for the evening programme, six failed. On the other hand, out of the 12 mature age candidates who had applied for government sponsorship, four of them failed.

The only mature age entry private student who applied for the day programme also failed.

Unlike the failed A' Level students who can apply on private sponsorship, those who failed the exams under the degree, diploma and mature age categories do not qualify for the course this academic year.