

His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
The Visitor, Makerere University

31st March 2024

**RE: AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA ON THE
ERRONEOUS SHORTLISTING OF MR WILLIAM BAZEYO**

I humbly write this letter to you as a Visitor of Makerere University in accordance with Section 26 of the Universities and Tertiary Institutions Act (2001) as amended.

Firstly, my name is Sam Ninsiima, a muzukulu from Kirasi LCI Maddu Gomba, under the umbrella of Greater Kisozi students Association. I started my academic journey from Bulera Primary School former Katwekanyena, then attained Bachelors degree from Makerere University and Master's degree from Uganda Management Institute.

Your Excellence, kindly allow me inform you of the undeservedly selection of Mr William Bazeyo for Chancellorship and the syndicate associated with the appointment of leaders at Makerere University. What used to be a merit-based system has been replaced with manipulation and interests of individuals in the Council motivated by power and money. *The key question to ponder is what is the future of Education under the National Resistance Movement?* for example;

During the search for Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration that was held in 2020, Mr. Amos Werike and I petitioned to the Search Committee (a select committee of Senate tasked to identify and forward to Makerere University Senate suitable candidates) for Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration (DVC F&A) when one candidate Mr. William Bazeyo had a fake PhD from Atlantic International University. Mr. Bazeyo realized this and quickly resigned from the position of Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration, and withdrew from the race of DVC F&A citing personal reasons when he deeply knew that the major reason was lack of qualifications.

The lack of merit in appointments of university leaders has not spared other key administrative positions such as Principals of Colleges and Directors of Institutes. It is now a common practice for individuals that have never headed Departments or even being course co-coordinators to be appointed College Principals or Deputy Principals because they have '**god fathers**' in the university management. These so called **god fathers** quite often invoke the name of government officials and the Presidency in particular, claiming that their regrettable actions and impunity have support from government. Indeed this has led to some members of Makerere University community (students and staff) to look at the NRM government (which I cherish and support) in bad light.

In a recent turn of events, I read many online news articles that Mr. William Bazeyo and another candidate Eng. Dr. Charles Wana-Etyem had been recommended by the University Council to the President to select one as a Chancellor of Makerere University. Another online news article added that Dr. Victoria Sekitoleko a former Minister of Agriculture was dropped by the University Council, while Prof. Jack H. Pen-Mogi Nyeko the former Vice Chancellor of Gulu University did not make it to the shortlist.



Your Excellency, the key questions that were not answered by the University Council are:

1. How can someone with a questionable/fake academic documents be shortlisted while two candidates with credible academic records and have served the nation with distinction be dropped?
2. How can a former Minister, and person that has served in high profile international positions, and person that has served as a Vice Chancellor of a Public University be dropped but one that has served as an Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor with a lot of irregularities be shortlisted?
3. If a person with a Questionable PhD is appointed to be Chancellor, while the current Vice Chancellor's Professorship is also reported to be fraudulent and questionable, who will then trust Makerere University's degrees anymore?
4. In light of 3 above, will the two appointees have the moral authority to question the appointment of other Professors in the University?
5. Why has Makerere University degenerated to this level to even allow a person with a counterfeit degree to be a Chancellor and to be the one to award all of Makerere University degrees?
6. Lastly, having recommended a candidate with questionable academic credentials (Mr. William Bazeyo), can the Makerere University Council still claim to promote, protect and uphold the academic integrity of the University?

Your Excellence, Makerere University is not only a public University but also the oldest University and hence a national heritage and an umbilical code linking Uganda to the international community that should be setting the standards. For instance H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, an International Statesman and President of Turkiye was very pleased to be awarded an honorary doctorate of Makerere University in 2016. It is my humble request and prayer that:

1. During the appointment of the Chancellor, pursuant to Section 30 of the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act (2001), you kindly reflect on the above context and protect the image of the premier university in the country and Africa.
2. An inquiry into the qualifications of Academic qualifications of Professors and Associate Professors and the general University Management at Makerere University be conducted based on the National Council for High Education Statutory Instrument 2010 No.50. This will save a lot of tax payers money the government is spending on those holding questionable/fake professorship academic positions.

I thank God for giving you the wisdom to lead this country well. Uganda is safe in your hands.

Sincerely



Sam Ninsilima
Omuzukulu from Kirasi Gomba