

Q&A

Teachers email your questions to mwalimu@newvision.co.ug Or by SMS, type MWALIMU (space) your question and send 8338. **Francis Kagolo** will present them to the relevant officials

Can the Government recruit me without a transcript?

I am a secondary school teacher. I graduated last year from Muni National Teachers College, but our transcripts are not ready. Can the Government recruit us using any other means?

Nolious Omodhokuma

Margaret Nsereko, a commissioner for teacher education in the Ministry of Education, says you cannot be recruited without a registration certificate from the Teacher Education Department. One of the requirements for the certificate is a certified transcript, O' and A' level certificates. Nsereko says nowadays transcripts are issued on time unlike three years ago. She advises you to go to Kyambogo University, which issues transcripts, to find out whether yours is ready. When you get it, you will need to have a certified photocopy before taking one to the ministry to acquire a registration certificate. Nsereko says it takes one day to get the certificate at the ministry if you go with all the required documents.

Can I qualify for an MBA with an ACCA level II certificate?

If I have done ACCA up to level two, but do not hold a bachelor's degree from any university, do I qualify for an MBA?

David Nsumba

Peter Odoki, the public relations officer of Makerere University Business School, says having a level two ACCA without a bachelor's degree is not enough to be admitted for the MBA degree course. He says you need to complete all the levels to be fully certified.

Kyambogo University better off as institution

The *New Vision* of Monday, March 30, on page 9, reported Professor Mondo Kagonyera, the Chancellor of Makerere University, as saying that Kyambogo University "should revert to its former status as a polytechnic and a teacher training institute." If he said so, I agree with him. My position has been the same for a while (see my article in *New Vision*, October 30, 2013, page 27). In support of Kagonyera, Kyambogo should be disaggregated for the following reasons.

First of all, the merger was rushed and misconceived. Created in 2003 by merging the former Institute of Teacher Education, Kyambogo (ITEK), Uganda Polytechnic, Kyambogo (UPK) and the Uganda National Institute of Special Education (UNISE), the university has failed to integrate into a consolidated institution.

The reasons for the failure are first, each of the former units had its separate vision and social niche that could not easily be accommodated by another. As a result, the new university failed to adopt a shared vision and mission to bind the three former units into a single institution with a common purpose.

Secondly, having been administratively brought into one basket, each could not follow its former mission since the merger meant the death of the old constituent institutions. Third, and a result of the first and second factors, each lost its former niche in the market because the new institution did not have the internal strength and capacity to focus on any of the services each of the merged institutions was known for (i.e. the production of high level technicians from UPK, specialists in special education from UNISE and good lower secondary teachers from ITEK).

The Visitation to Public Universities Committee of 2006-7 (the McGregor Committee), advised the Government to either disaggregate the university back to its former institutions or to allow for a much slower merger by loosening the current centralised union bonds and making the institution a federal one.

Secondly, those who rushed the merger failed to realise that whenever degree programmes are brought into a diploma awarding institution, the latter programmes are presumed to be of lower status and cannot compete with degree studies.



Prof. Abdu Kasozi

Thirdly, the merger devalued and is killing the only high level polytechnic that trained the high level technicians who used to build and repair the industrial and community infrastructure of the nation and teachers of junior technical colleges.

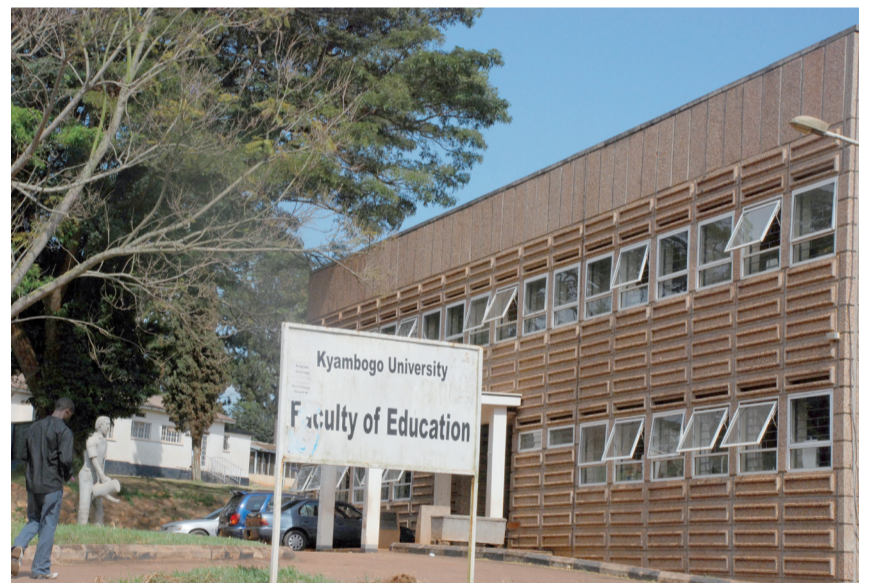
Fourthly, the merging contributed to a structural distortion of Uganda's higher education system, where we have more students in universities (the majority of whom are studying arts and humanities; 100,637 of 220,201 tertiary students or 66% in 2012/3) than in other tertiary institutions. Students who registered in

technical institutions were only 4,393 or 2% in 2012/3. In the same year, technical colleges constituted only 4% of tertiary institutions, whereas business institutions were 33% and universities some 18%, making the sub-sector look like an inverted pyramid.

For a country to economically take off, its tertiary science and technology enrolment ratio must be 40% of eligible students (of all people aged 18-20). Although Uganda's total enrolment ratio is about 6%, the science and technology ratio is probably less than 2%. Increase in technical and other science based non-university institutions in context of a flexible higher education system, lubricated by a credit system to ease mobility of students among programmes and institutions is the only way to go.

Lastly, to reduce on capital flight through the importation of technicians to work on hotels, roads, industrial plants and mines, the former Kyambogo Polytechnic should be separated from Kyambogo University in order to produce skilled technicians.

The writer is a Research Associate at Makerere Institute of Social Research. He is also the former Executive Director of the National Council for Higher Education



Kyambogo University's faculty of education. Some educationists say the university has failed to integrate into a consolidated institution

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