

31 universities fail to acquire charter - NCHE

ber deadline do not meet the required standards.

Prof Okwakol declined to reveal the number of those who had submitted before the deadline.

The source said some of the universities operating with a provisional licences and have applied for the charter include Victoria University, YMCA Kumi University, among others.

According to the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act (UOTIA) a charter is "granted by the President as evidence that the university meets the requirements and standards of academic excellence set by the NCHE."

Section 97(3) of UOTIA indicates that a provisional licence issued to a private university shall be valid for at least three years from the date of publication of the gazette by the national council.

The law does not stipulate the penalties of universities that will not be able to obtain a charter after three years.

While meeting the managers of more than 40 private universities in

January to agree on a roadmap for attaining the charter, NCHE indicated that majority were operating with provisional licences.

VARSITIES WITH CHARTERS

1. Makerere university.
2. Kyambogo university.
3. Kabale University.
4. Gulu University.
5. Muni University.
6. ISBAT
7. KIU
8. Kampala University (KU)
9. Bishop Stuart University
10. Nkozi University
11. Uganda Christian University
12. Ndejje University.
13. Bugema University.
14. Mountains of the Moon University.
15. African Bible University
16. MUST
17. Lira University
18. Soroti University
19. Islamic University in Uganda.

Dr Pamela Tibihikirra-Kalyegira, the director of quality assurance and accreditation at NCHE, said for a university to attain a charter, it

With provisional licences

1. Africa Renewal University 2013
2. African Rural University 2011
3. Ankole Western University 2008
4. Avance International University 2016
5. Cavendish University 2018
6. Clarke International University 2008
7. Ibanda University 2014
8. International University of EA 2010
9. Islamic Call University College 2011
10. Kayiwa International University 2015
11. Kumi University 2004
12. Livingstone International University 2011
13. Metropolitan International University 2011
14. Muteesa I Royal University 2007
16. Nile University 2018
17. Nsaka University 2013
18. St. Lawrence University 2007
19. Uganda Pentecostal University 2005
20. University of Kisubi 2009

Source NCHE

should admit qualified students for specific programmes, have all their programmes accredited, have good facilities, PhD staff and should also conduct research and community services.

Dr Tibihikirra said the universities that will miss the deadline will either be merged, closed or be turned into vocational institutions.

A number of universities have been closed down because their provisional licence had expired, while others could not meet the standards.

For instance, Busoga University was closed in 2017 because it was operating not only with a provisional licence, but also had unqualified lecturers and was running unaccredited courses.

Others include Lugazi, Fair Land and Strafford universities.

However, the chairperson of NCHE, who is also the Vice chancellor of Kyambogo University, Prof Eli Katunguka yesterday said even a charter can be revoked if they flout the set guidelines, adding that a charter expires after five years.