

# Govt closes 2 universities

**Reason.** The authorities say the universities had failed to make progress in terms of enrolment, staffing and their financial status had not improved.

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**T**he government has closed two universities because they do not meet the set minimum standards.

The board chairperson of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), Prof Mary Okwakol, yesterday said currently, there are 48 accredited universities across the country from the 50 that were recorded last month.

She was speaking at the launch of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) in NCHE in Kampala.

However, Prof Okwakol did not disclose the names of the affected universities, arguing that the Solicitor General had to sanction the move.

"We cannot reveal the names of the institutions because we are waiting for clearance from the Solicitor General before we reveal the names to media," Prof Okwakol said.

In January, NCHE issued an intention to revoke licences of Nsaka and Kayiwa universities over poor standards.

NCHE also gave them six months to put in order what was missing with-



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THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, PROF MARY OKWAKOL

**In-charge.**

The executive director for National Council for Higher Education, Prof Mary Okwakol, at the release of exams last year.

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out which their respective provisional licences would be revoked.

In the notice, Mr Sebagala Kigozi, the NCHE vice chairperson, said Nsaka University leadership had failed to make progress in terms of enrolment, staffing levels and their financial status had not improved since getting the licence in 2014.

The NCHE also explained that the institution was teaching six unaccredited courses, including Bachelor of Arts in Education, Bachelor of Procurement and Logistics Management, Diploma in Information Technology, Diploma in Secondary Education, Diploma in Procurement and Diploma in Mass Communication.

For Kayiwa University, Mr Sebagala said the institution's management had failed to recruit qualified full-time staff since it got the provisional licence in 2016. It was financially indebted, had failed to pay its staff, had low enrolment and dilapidated buildings.

NCHE in 2017 revoked the licence of Busoga University over irregularities.

**Digital use**

Meanwhile, at yesterday's function, NCHE directed all institutions of higher learning across the country to upload all their courses on the online system that was launched yesterday to ascertain whether their courses are accredited by the council or not.

The NCHE director of research and development, Ms Norah Mulira, said many parents and students have been duped into offering unaccredited courses at some universities.

Ms Mulira said with the new system in place, they will be able to verify all courses offered at different institutions.

"With the new system, the unaccredited courses will be tinted in red to enable students and parents know the right courses to take. This will be possible by just mere clicking on a particular institution one want to go and all the details of whether the institute and the courses are accredited or not will appear," she added.

**Verification**

The institutions are also slated to upload all the transcripts of students who have graduated in their institutions.

This will help employers' verify whether the papers of their employees have presented correlate with the uploaded ones.

The State Minister for Higher Education, Mr John Chrysostom Muyingo, who was officiating at the function, advised institutions to shift from manual way of doing things to digital.

"Manual way of doing things is outdated and all institutions must drop it and adopt ICT going forward. This will help institutions to keep up-to-date with the NCHE and when theirs get problem, they can assess it on the system."

He said NCHE will be able to monitor, accredit and collect data on the all institutions running in the country.