

## Makerere probes three over sexual harassment cases

By Chris Kiwawulo

Three Makerere University lecturers face dismissal over alleged sexual harassment of their female students.

Vincent Ssajjabi, Jackson Sekiryango and Medard Twinobuhungiro, have since been suspended to pave way for investigations.

The university vice-chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, yesterday confirmed the suspension of the lecturers, saying it took place over a month ago.

"We have since concluded investigations and found that Sekiryango and Twinobuhungiro have cases to answer. The cases have since been referred to the University Appointments Board for action. For Ssajjabi, investigations are still going on," Nawangwe told *New Vision* in a telephone interview.

Sources said Sekiryango is attached to the school of languages, literature and communication, while Twinobuhungiro is assistant lecturer at the College of Business and Management Sciences. Ssajjabi is attached to the school of economics.

Sexual harassment complaints have for years been rife at the 97-year-old institution, but many students have been suffering silently due to lack of evidence. But when Nawangwe became vice-chancellor in September 2017, he promised to fight the vice, which many said had affected the image of the oldest university in the country.

Today, sexual harassment cases are handled with utmost confidentiality until investigations are completed. Before a decision is reached, all sides are given a hearing in the interest of fairness. This confidentiality has given many female students the courage to come out and report.

However, there have also been cases where students approach lecturers and promise them sex in return for good grades. The high rate of sex-for-marks cases was blamed on silence, where neither the affected lecturers, nor students, report such matters to the authorities.