
Has Makerere University got security coordinators?

Refer to the story, "Security agencies on the spot over brutality," in the *Daily Monitor* of October 31, and the rest of the reporting on the recent students demonstration at Makerere University.

All that has happened point to the question as to whether Makerere University and other universities in the country have designated staff security coordinators. Ideally, it is the role of the security coordinator to monitor, appraise and where necessary, call for appropriate measures. It is the role of the security coordinator to make security assessment at the university for the students, staff and

any other person at the university.

In the recent circumstances, the security coordinator would have been the person to advise the university management whether to invite the military at campus or not. It is the mandate of the security coordinator to discuss the deployment procedures and the modus operandi with the military and decide where to place them and how far they should go.

It would, therefore, be hard for the military deployed at the university to storm student's halls of residence or hostels without permission of the security coordinator. The coordinator would have been the 'supreme'

official to determine whether deployment was necessary or not. And in case of any infringements, the security coordinator would take full responsibility for actions and mis-actions of the deployed military. Having a police post within the university does not replace the security coordinators, who should preferably be a security personnel civilian or retired police officer.

It is not right for the military to determine their course of action and deployment in a civilian environment. Once that door is left open, crazy things can easily happen.

Concerned citizen