



## DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCES EMPLOYMENT DIVISION

26<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### PRESS STATEMENT

#### MANAGEMENT OF THE PhD PROGRAMME IN MAKERERE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (MISR)

The Appointments Board at its meeting held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016, finalized discussion of the Report of the In-Depth Investigation into the Issues at Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) carried out from 21<sup>st</sup> April – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

One of the Terms of Reference was to: **Review the management of the PhD programme at MISR.** This arose out of some of the following allegations.

- (i) The management of the PhD programme was not institutionalized, it did not have implementation guidelines and where they existed they did not conform to Makerere University policies and guidelines.
- (ii) The MPhil/PhD programme lacked consistent policies, relating to how a student gains or loses a scholarship, accommodation and travel. And where they seemingly existed, the Director kept changing them according to his whims, often to punish students who were perceived to be against his administration.

#### Observations of the Committee

- (i) The PhD in Social Studies at MISR was approved by the University Senate on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 by the University Council on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011, and by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012 (Ref.NCHE/GR/AC/91 of July 12, 2012. Thereafter, it was institutionalized.
- (iii) The academic staff at MISR were required to devote 50% of their time to teaching and 50% of their time to research.

- (vi) The PhD programme in MISR is the only fully sponsored programme in Makerere University and as such the requirements to maintain the sponsorship and obligations of the students while on the MISR course appeared as if a lot more was being demanded of the students in MISR. This had resulted into students requesting for harmonization of MISR policies with those governing other post graduate students in the University which were not fully sponsored.
- (vii) The perception of the course as intense and demanding seemed to arise from the fact that some students joined the programme right from the undergraduate courses where the rigor did not require them to read as much.

**The Committee made specific recommendations to strengthen the PhD programme following those recommendations, Management and the Appointments Board agreed as follows:**

- (i) The MISR establishment structure will be reviewed to take into account the current mandate of MISR. The review will take into consideration among others, the creation of a post of Deputy Director to ease delegation, transfer of knowledge and management of transition.
- (ii) The University will explore alternative financing for the PhD programme in the event of decreased Donor funding.
- (iii) MISR will continue to follow the Directorate of Research & Graduate Training guidelines in identifying Supervisors.
- (iv) The MPhil/PhD programme will be protected as a University Programme which needs to be nurtured to maturity.
- (v) All Research Fellows at MISR will be required to participate in the PhD programme.

