



# Commission for University Education

Office of the Chief Executive

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All Vice-Chancellors  
All Principals

## **APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES IN UNIVERSITIES FOLLOWING COURT DECISION NRB HC PETITION NO. 37, 49 AND 106 OF 2017**

The above matter refers.

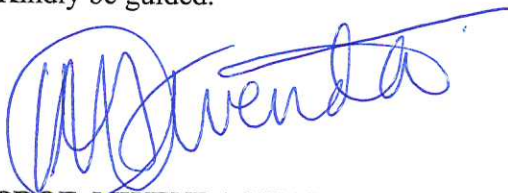
It has come to the knowledge of the Commission for University Education (Commission) that Professional bodies continue to purport to accredit/approve academic programmes in universities. This process continue despite the High Court pronouncing itself on this matter vide the judgment issued in Nrb HC Petition No. 37, 49 and 106 of 2017 issued on 11th June, 2020. Several universities have called and others written to the Commission seeking for direction in this matter. Commission forwarded the judgement to all universities vide a letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020, which is attached herein for your ease of reference. It was the Commission's expectation that universities would have no problem in the interpretation of the Court judgement as far as the accreditation, licensing and recognition of university education (including accreditation/approval of academic programmes) was concerned. Despite this communication, the Commission continues to receive enquiries on this issue.

The purpose of this letter is to first inform universities that despite the Court ruling which upheld the provisions of section 5A that grants the Commission the sole mandate of regulating and accrediting universities and if there is any conflict with the professional bodies, the provisions of the Universities Act prevails, the Commission invited professional bodies for discussions on this issue. This was informed by the realization by the Commission and the respective professional bodies that there is need to work together towards achieving their respective statutory requirements on training and accreditation of academic programmes in universities leading to registration by the respective professional bodies without necessarily causing unnecessary economic burden to our key stakeholders. Towards this end the Commission is pleased to inform universities that following this call, the Commission has been working with some professional bodies, with a view of forging a common approach to accreditation and licensing of university education (including accreditation/approval of academic programmes) in universities.

On a sad note, however, and despite the Court judgment, some professional bodies continue to engage universities with little regard, if any, to the Commission. This is not only contemptuous, but disregard to the sub-sector regulator. As much as the Commission is open to working with the few professional bodies that have taken this route, universities are hereby notified of the consequences of disregarding the Court directive and guidance of the regulator. In this regard, any

university engaging anybody as far as the accreditation, licensing and recognition of university education (including accreditation/approval of academic programmes) not within an agreed framework with the Commission, the Commission will decline to accredit/approve such programme if the same is yet to be accredited/approved. For those programmes accredited/approved by the Commission and universities continue to engage anybody without due consideration of the Commission, the Commission will hence forth treat the accreditation/approval withdrawn.

Kindly be guided.



**PROF. MWENDA NTARANGWI, PhD**  
**COMMISSION SECRETARY/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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