



## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ON RE-ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

The National Council for Higher Education was established by the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 (as amended). The key functions of the Council include accreditation of academic and professional programmes offered by higher education institutions.

There is a document, purportedly originating from Cambridge University, stating that the University collaborates with the National Council for Higher Education to facilitate the admission of students into recognised programmes. The document also contains an alleged comprehensive list of expired programmes in Uganda. This document is **FAKE**. Whereas we consider Cambridge University to be of very high repute and one of the top institutions of higher learning in the world, we do not have any collaboration with it.

In December 2008, the then Governing Council of the National Council for Higher Education approved Guidelines that require institutions to submit programmes for re-assessment every five years (for Masters, Bachelors, Diplomas and Higher Education Certificates)

and every 10 years for PhDs. The term expiry in the guidelines was intended to indicate that the prescribed term of five or ten years before re-assessment had lapsed. Re-assessment of programmes is best practice to ensure quality and relevance of graduates. This necessitates establishing whether the key aspects upon which accreditation was granted are still in place or have been improved. The periods between accreditation and re-assessments of programmes are being reviewed to allow ample time for evaluation of the graduates and determining which emerging issues should be incorporated in the programmes.

National Council for Higher Education wishes to re-assure the students, parents, sponsors, prospective employers, the international community and the general public that qualifications of graduates on programmes that have received prior accreditation by the National Council for Higher Education, in accordance with the minimum standards and regulations, are valid and are accordingly recognised by the Council.

In conclusion, I would like to state that the doors of the National Council for Higher Education are open to the public who seek to allay any anxiety on the validity of the programmes in institutions of higher learning.



Professor Mary J.N. Okwakol  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**