

EDUCATION | Only main campus hit by protests

Students disrupt varsity exams in revision dispute

Group led by newly elected Sonu chairman flush out colleagues sitting the tests

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Exams at the University of Nairobi's main campus were disrupted yesterday after a group of students demonstrated to demand a postponement.

Led by newly elected student leader Paul Ongili alias Babu Owino, they forced their way into lecture rooms and destroyed exam materials.

Third Years at the School of Engineering were about to complete their Mathematics paper when the group stormed the exam room and tore their question papers and answer booklets.

"I have nothing to tell the Press," said Dr Jeremiah Musuva, who was supervising the exam as some students claimed they lost their belongings, including exam cards.

According to Mr Ongili, the students want to be given more time to revise for the exams to compensate for the two weeks wasted during the lecturers' strike.

Last month, lecturers in public universities went on strike demanding payment of Sh3.9 billion that was part of Sh7.8 billion agreed upon between them and the government in a 2012 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

"We want the exam postponed to next week to give students enough time for revision. Students wasted a lot of time during the lecturers' strike," said Mr Ongili, who was elected last week to head the students' body.

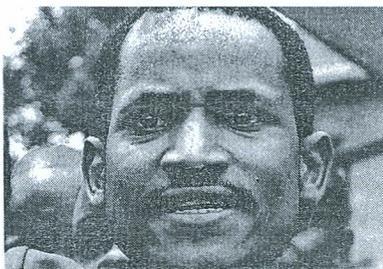
Mr Ongili had earlier told a local TV station that they wanted one week for revision to recover time lost during the student campaigns and elections.

"We requested the administration to postpone the exams by a week, but our request was declined," he said.

However, the university administration dismissed the claim. "We have not received any formal request from students over the postponement of exams," said a source, who requested anonymity due to security reasons.

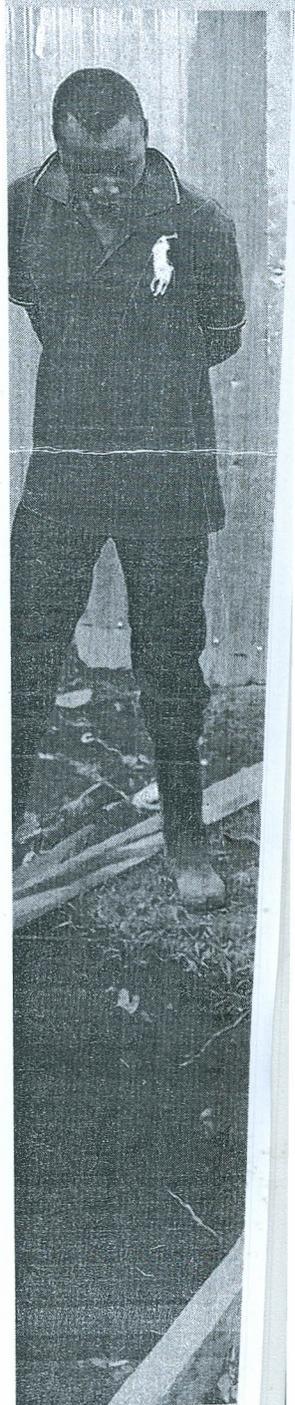
The administration also accused Mr Ongili of disrupting the examination, yet he was out of session. "The student leader has no moral ground to incite others yet Second Year Law students are out of session," said the source without disclosing specific steps the university will take against students who took part in the protest.

The exams went on smoothly in the university's other campuses.



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Mr Paul Ongili alias Babu Owino

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Senator Obure said claims that a candidate was being imposed were baseless.

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