

Students Organisation of Nairobi University (Sonu) chairman Babu Owino at a past Press conference. Public university stu-dents are planning to stage demonstrations along certain roads

Avoid city, Sonu says on strike plans

Student leaders want vehicle owners to keep off University Way, Thika Road and Kikuyu Road

By ISAAC MESO and ELEANOR NANDWA

University of Nairobi student leaders have warned mo-torists to keep off major roads leading to the city centre due to today's nationwide students' demonstrations.

Students Organisation of Nairobi University (Sonu) chairman Babu Owino urged motorists to keep off Universi-ty way, Nairobi CBD, Moi Ave-nue, Parklands, Kikuyu Road

and Thika Superhighway.
"If you are working within
Nairobi and you own a vehicle,
please leave it at home. We are
further warning motorists to stay away from major roads leading to town since they will be flocked by demonstrators"

he said.
"Education Cabinet Secretary Jacob Kaimenyi has re-mained silent over this matter and we strongly feel that the only way we can get his atten-tion is through paralysing learning in our institutions."

"We have also received information that one of our stu-

snub the demonstration. This will not work as all the students in public universities are behind us," he added.

The Sonu chairman said the nationwide demonstra-tions by students from the sev-en public universities will continue until the Government

addresses their grievances.
Sonu secretary general Jim
Akach said it was unfair for the
Government to increase university fee and lower the maximum loan awarded to students by the Higher Education Loans Board.
The student leaders ques-

tioned the Government's mo-tive to raise university fee at a time when it was being haunted by the Anglo Leasing scan-

TASK FORCE

"We won't allow the Gov-ernment to raise our fee so as to use part of the money to fund Anglo Leasing," said

Among the grievances they want addressed are reduction of current fee by half, increase of HELB loans and provision of grants to students.

The student leaders had earlier given Prof Kaimenyi 14 days to establish a task force to review university fees, insisting they had not been consulted.

According to the student leaders, the Government is planning to double the fee for regular students, which cur-rently stands at Sh28,000 per

I didn't order fees increment, Kaimenyi tells students

Education Cabinet Secre-tary Jacob Kaimenyi has dis-missed claims that he ordered fees increment in all public universities.

In a meeting with student leaders from across the country in his Jogoo House office, Prof Kaimenyi said he never issued such a directive.
"Government directives are

communicated through memos and circulars. No statement or directive, or any documentation has been written to that effect. We are all surprised by the strike notice,"

While referring to a speech he delivered at Bomas on April 23, Prof Kaimenyi said the Government was only considering a differentiated unit cost, where different courses would

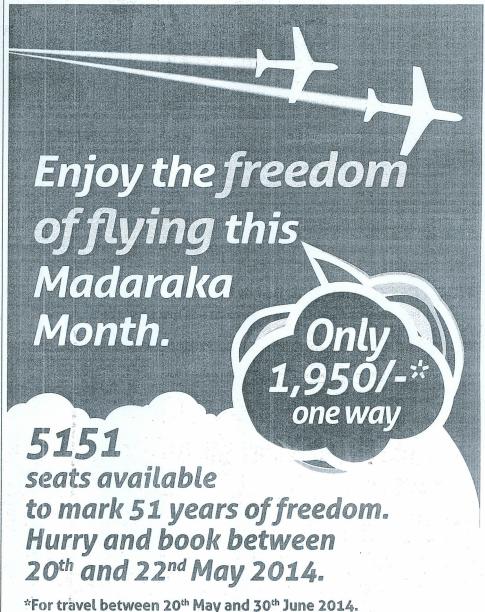
cost differently.
"We cannot increase Uniwe cannot increase offi-versity fees without consulting stakeholders, of which stu-dents are the major players. That responsibility is with the universities councils,"

Leaders from the National University Students Organisa-tion led by George Bush of Moi University distanced them-selves from the strike notice

had called for calm.

Notably missing was the Babu Owino-led Kenya University Students Organisation which the Principal Secretary which the Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang said he had met. Kaimenyi said the matter may have been politicised. He urged the student leaders to give dialogue a chance. Babu's group had called for a strike today.

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