# MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

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## OFFICE OF THE FIRST DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR
## (Academic Affairs)

12th September 2021

College Principals
School Deans

**RE: HALTING OF ADMINISTERING REAL-TIME (LIVE) QUIZ-BASED EXAMINATIONS ON MUELE FOR ONE WEEK**

Semester One examinations for 1st Year and continuing students are to commence 13th September 2021 till 30th September 2021. As you are already aware, the examinations are to be conducted following the Alternative Assessment Modalities as approved by the University Senate and Council.

Among the approved modalities are take-home, case studies, group/individual assignments, reflective journals, projects, analytical presentations, claims, real-time online quizzes, etc.

In a bid to prepare the University community for these assessment modalities:

1. IODeL organized various training sessions for both staff and students.
2. DICTS upgraded the MUELE installation from a single old server to two new high end servers with a robust load balancer.
3. IODeL and DICTS supported students and staff to create both Makerere University e-mail and MUELE accounts.
4. The University sought clearance from NCHE for conducting examinations using Alternative Assessment Modalities
5. IODeL and DICTS conducted two *Stress Tests* on the new upgraded installation of MUELE using real-time (live) online quizzes where users were asked to concurrently access and do the test. The purpose of the *Stress Tests* was to establish whether the new upgraded MUELE could handle more than 10,000 concurrent users undertaking a real-time (live) activity.

Activities (1) through to (4) above were successfully completed. The *Stress Test* activity in (5) above returned the following results:

1. Stress Test done on Saturday 11th September 2021 at 2:00PM: Overall 4,813 users enrolled to attempt the test quiz. Of these 2,474 successfully completed the quiz and submitted representing percentage success of 51.4%
2. Stress Test done on Sunday 12th September 2021 at 10:00AM: Overall 6,912 users enrolled to attempt the test quiz. Of these 1,575 successfully completed the quiz and submitted representing percentage success of 22.8%



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From the *Stress Test* results above, it is evident that the present installation of MUELE, does not yet permit inclusive participation in real-time online (live) examinations.

College submission to my Office on preferred examination modalities, only 8% of examinations are to be assessed using real-time online (live) examinations. The rest (92%) are to be conducted in extended periods (non-real-time) using take-home, case studies, group work, reflective journals, project & analytical presentations, claims, etc. In these extended period modalities, students will only log onto MUELE to access examination papers and load their solutions at different times of the day and night.

The purpose of this communication is to **halt the administering of real-time online (live) quiz-based examination for one week (13th to 19th September 2021)** so as to give DICTS time to sort out all pending failure points that are making MUELE unable to support large students' numbers for real-time (live) examinations. The halted examinations will be administered in the week of 20th to 30th September 2021.

Meanwhile, the guidelines issued by the Academic Registrar on setting, moderating and conducting examinations should be at your service. My Office will keenly monitor the running of examinations to ensure no glitches. I wish you and our students a successful examination season.

Thank you

**Umar Kakumba, PhD**
**DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)**

cc. Vice Chancellor
Academic Registrar
Director, DICTS
Ag. Head, IoDEL
All staff
Guild President and All students



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