

Chairperson's Message Following Presidential Directive to Close Schools and Institutions

The students, staff, faculty and stakeholders of the Uganda Institute of ICT (UICT).

Last evening, Wednesday 18th March, 2020, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. Dr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni ordered the closure of all Schools, Universities and Tertiary Institutions for a period of one month. This was necessary because of the widespread COVID-19 pandemic. The move is to help mitigate the spread of the virus and to save lives.

Firstly, I want to inform you that the Institute shall fully implement the directive.

Secondly, I want to assure you that the leaders of the Institute are monitoring the changing landscape due to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and that we are doing everything we can to protect our students, faculty, staff and campus visitors. The health, safety and well-being of the Institute community is our top priority.

In line with the directive of H.E the President, I am announcing the closure of the Institute taking effect on Friday, 20th March 2020 at 12 pm until Wednesday, 22nd April, 2020. The following shall be effected:

- All students, residential and non-residential shall vacate the Institute premises by Friday, 20th March 2020 at 12 pm without fail;
- All face-to-face classroom instruction shall cease;
- Only essential staff whose duties require a physical presence at the Institute will continue to report to work for their regular shifts until further notice. Supervisors will work with those essential employees who will continue to report to the Institute

to implement social distancing measures in order to protect their health and safety;

- Essential and non-essential employees, who have been identified as able to complete their work remotely will continue the critical work of the Institute from their homes beginning Friday, 20th March 2020 at 12 pm through to Tuesday, 21st April, 2020 unless guided further;
- Essential Governing Council and Management Meetings with membership not exceeding ten (10) persons shall be convened at the Institute;
- More details about specific measures will be shared with supervisors, employees and other stakeholders. Employees are encouraged to speak to their supervisors about any questions or concerns.

The Institute is cognisant of the adverse effects in terms of learning and teaching continuity that the closure shall have. In order to mitigate the effects, the following measures have been put in place:

- Instruction, course material sharing, coursework, continuous revision, FAQs and access to and receipt of exams shall be online;
- Access to the Institute's facilities and services shall be online;
- The previously arranged classes shall remain as per schedule but shall be online;
- The IT Service Desk will remain open for students and faculty who need assistance with questions about campus technology. People can also email to info@uict.ac.ug .

I realize that the changes announced in this Instrument will generate questions from members of our community. Management has been instructed to send additional information as quickly as possible to offer further guidance for students, faculty and staff. Our aim is to



work together to ensure that students have the support they need to complete their studies this semester and beyond.

The latest information for our campus community will be posted at <https://www.uict.ac.ug> . We will update this site with the latest information from government and other official sources and we will also update the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) based on feedback from our community.

Kindly allow me to reiterate my conviction to you. We are in uncharted territory that none of us could have anticipated. The situation continues to evolve by the hour. I know that these changes are drastic, and that they affect all of us deeply. Let's all be guided by facts and reason, and not panic and rumor. I encourage you to take steps necessary to safeguard your personal health and to minimize risk exposure.

We are one UICT family, and we will get through this crisis.

Warm regards,

Eng. Edward Kasule Musisi



Chairperson

UICT Governing Council