



Date: March 11th 2017

Ref. N^o RIU/113/17

**The Office of the Prime
Kigali – Rwanda**

Rt.Hon. Prime Minister,

**Subject: Suspension of institutional operations Vs Articles 27&29
Law N^o 01/2017 of 31/01/2017**

Reference is made to Letter N^o 0438/12.00/2017 by the Minister of Education dated 10/03/2017 suspending the operations of Rusizi International University (RIU).

We, members of RIU Top Management Committee and Board of Governors have the honor to address your high esteem, Rt.Hon.Prime Minister, to express our deepest concern and disappointments of the whole scenario that Hon.Minister of Education has personally caused to Rusizi International University since its inception as indicated in his three letters (Letter No 0047/12.00/2016; Letter No 0405/12.00/2016 and Letter No 1246/12.00/2016). Our response to these letters of threat was clear and we thought it would help to sort out the problems and give a clear picture to Hon.Minister of Education, but this seemed futile (cf.Letter No RIU/405/16 dated June 29th 2016).

Esteemed Rt.Hon.Prime Minister, trying to put things alight, we would like to point out Hon.Minister's deep and one sided involvement into RIU's state of affairs in relation to the disputes that existed between its shareholders where he seemed to confuse them and failed to distinguish between **RIU Ltd** owned by five people and **Rusizi International University** owned by just one person (Dr Pascal Gahutu) as indicated in the two reports by District Security Council, the report by Chief Prosecutor and the ruling by two Courts. The Hon.Minister also refused to honor Dr Pascal's persistent demand of appointment with him while he accorded the other party full time agenda of meetings.

Despite all this, Rt.Hon.Prime Minister, the Hon.Minister of education also went ahead and filed a criminal case against Dr Pascal to the CID-Rwanda, *(he was mentioned in his interrogation with CID as to why he despised Hon.Minister, which Dr Pascal never thought of in his life)* and as result, two officers of this Organ ended up being manipulated and handed over to the prosecution-Rwanda, which also, without due diligence and proper process of professionalism in issuing warrant arrest *(he was apprehended as a criminal without any prior refusal of convocations as prescribed by law)*, handed him over to Police Cell of Kamembe where he spent more than two weeks in humiliation. The end result for all this, Rt.Hon.Prime Minister, is that when an individual Dr Pascal come out innocently with the rulings of the two case Courts, now the target is **Rusizi International University**.



Since its inception and accreditation, Rusizi International University has done all it could to comply with the laws governing Higher Education and as guided by the *Qualification Framework and Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education*. Competent institutions have attested to this. After a thorough investigation conducted by Higher Education Council during its 6th visits to the University, the audit review team recommended all the programs and reserved Nursing Program for NCNM.

From June 22nd to 26th 2015, a program review was conducted by NCNM experts, and on July 30th 2015, in their Ordinary BoD meeting, NCNM recommended that Rusizi International University has enough physical, substantial and quantifiable resources to start the program of Nursing as stated in their recommendation of August 24th 2015 which was submitted to Higher Education Council, with a copy to the Minister of Health.

In his Letter of suspension Rt.Hon.Prime Minister, the Hon.Minister of Education mentions the results of the audit carried out in October 25th 2016 to be negative. We would like to highlight that this audit was personally sent with a hidden agenda, Rt.Hon.Prime Minister, as most of its findings are contrary to the reality on the ground. The indication of this is the reality found by a team of Senetors who discussed at length the programs and resources of RIU and in appreciation, gave their recommendations.

The October 25th 2016 audit did not take the form of Institutional Audit in Rwanda which is an evidence-based process carried out through peer review to form part of the Rwandan Quality Assurance Framework as prescribed by National Qualification Framework.

Normally, National Qualification Framework is concerned with the way in which higher education institutions exercise their powers as degree-/diploma-awarding bodies, and each review results in a report that sets out the degree of confidence that may be reasonably be placed in the provider's ability to assure and enhance the quality of its provision and safeguard the standards of its awards in line with the requirements of the Qualifications Framework. But this audit team came as a camouflage under the Minister's guidance Rt. Prime Minister, just to give him a report to base on to accomplish what he has come to. If one digs deep Rt.Prime Minister, it is obvious that there are criteria to be followed during an institutional audit, and these criteria were never followed.

Some of the criteria prescribed by *Qualification Framework and Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education* to this effect are :

1. There should be a briefing paper which must be established by the institution being audited as the principal reference document to be considered by the team undertaking the audit, but your team came with a different agenda;
2. During the visit the team will test and verify the judgements in the briefing papers, review with the provider any specific concerns that have arisen during subject reviews and gather any further evidence necessary to enable it to form a view on the effectiveness of the institution's arrangements for the overall management of quality and standards and of its awarding function. This was never materialized but the team was only concerned with "who is the owner of the University, and about shares".



3. At the end of it all the team must sit with relevant authority of the institution to discuss the findings and the way forward; but this was in vain;
4. Finally, the institution is given feedback of a report and asked to submit an action plan to the National Council for Higher Education within three months of receipt of the report, indicating how it intends to address the recommendations, and to provide a subsequent report when the action plan has been implanted. This has to be within 12 months of the audit. Failure to do so, or a report that is deemed not to demonstrate that adequate action has been taken, will mean that the outcome of the report is amended to 'no confidence. This has never been done, we are just seeing the report with the letter of temporary closure without RIU's reaction to the recommendations.

Rt.Hon.Prime Minister, we think such an act is unfair and must be checked out for the sake of our students who, for lack of education facilities in the area, are likely go back to the neighboring countries, and for the sake of RIU staff who may lose their jobs.

Please accept Rt.Hon.Prime Minister, the assurance of our highest esteem.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Pascal Gahutu
Presiding Officer
Rusizi International University



Cc:

- Minister of Education
- Minister of State, Primary & Secondary Education
- Permanent Secretary, MINEDUC
- Chairperson of the Board of Directors, HEC
- Executive Director of HEC
- Governor of Western Province
- Mayor of Rusizi District
- Brigadier Commandant, Rusizi-Nyamasheke
- Chairman, RIU Board of Governors
- Chairman, RIU Executive Council