

**What do you think about university councils in public universities? What value do they lend to the traditional mission of the university and why are they political creations? What can be done to make them more valuable to universities?**

Contrary to popular belief, university councils are not a political but a statutory creation with a clear mandate as defined in the founding statutes. They are an important organ of governing the university. What the university councils have endured is political interference.

To make the councils more effective, in my view, the line ministry should restrict itself to matters policy, competitively appoint members of councils and thereafter entrust them with the space and latitude to oversee the affairs of the university, including appointment of all university staff as provided by law. Their rights (council members), as citizens and members holding such high positions in trust for the benefit of the country, should always be protected and respected.