

# Does govt learn from industrial actions?

EDITOR: It is almost a fortnight since medical officers laid down their tools in demand for what is fair and entitled to them. This is not the first sit down strike we have witnessed this year.

The judicial officers, state prosecutors went on strike over the same issue - poor remuneration and some others threatened to strike such as the NRM enrollment officers and the local government association, among others, again, over poor remuneration. What is common in all these is that the Government has been so present when the strikes bite and so absent when there is no strike!

There is a trend in this country that one has to demonstrate or strike for their issue to be heard; even traders on Nasser Road will have to strike first for

their electricity supply to be rectified, road users will have to demonstrate first for their roads to be worked upon and even recently, residents of Bushenyi threatened to demonstrate just to get a district service commission in place. Why do we have to wait for strikes and industrial actions before we take action?

The Government has messed up with the doctors' strike first, they "tried" to negotiate with the doctors, the doctors asked them to go re-think strategies, the next day, the minister was calling the strike illegal, then there was the threat to have all doctors fired.

One wonders why in the first place the Government attempted to negotiate with the doctors and then threaten them the next day. Public management is not run on emotions!

The Government was emotional on this issue.

As a way forward, we need to concretely and speedily resolve these issues especially by the Government fulfilling its promises every time it meets striking parties. Who knows whether tomorrow it will be the prosecutors or teachers or the Judiciary at it again!

I am aware that the Government is currently reviewing salaries of some officers. However, this revision should be across all civil servants and a clear roadmap should be given stipulating clearly the timelines and ways of implementation.

Let us not sacrifice our good country on emotions!

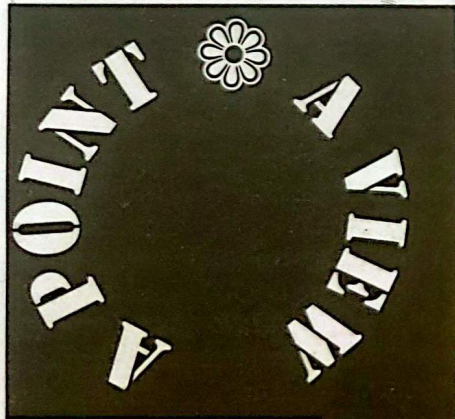
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PICTURE BY RONNIE KIJJAMBU

LETTER OF THE DAY

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