Govt pledges salary review for secretaries

By Vision Reporter

The Government says it is set to revise salaries of secretaries in the public service, according to Ministry permanent secretary Catherine Bitarakwate Musingwiire.

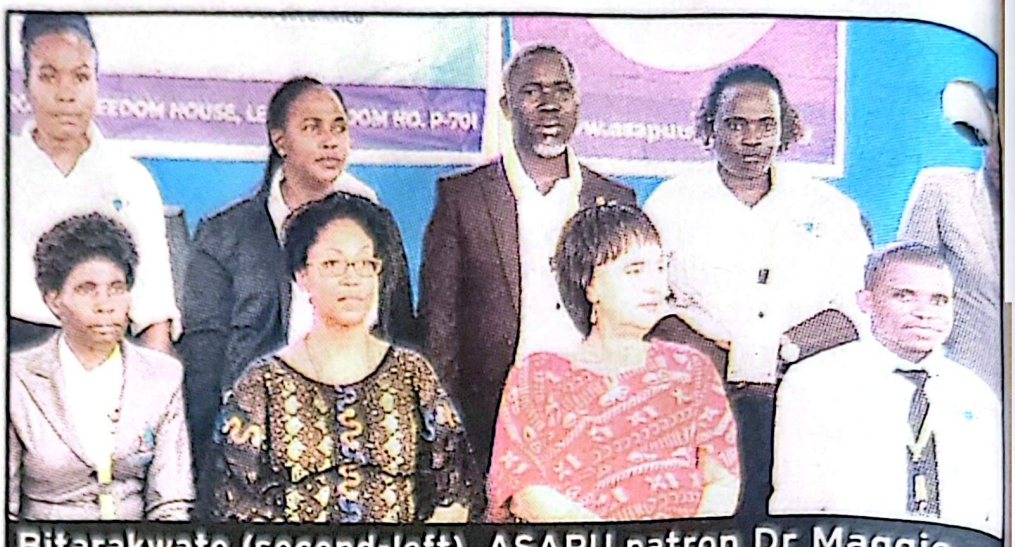
The revelation was made during a two-day workshop organised by the Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals in Uganda (ASAPU) in Jinja city on Saturday.

Bitarakwate, who represented President Yoweri Museveni as the chief guest at the workshop, revealed that the salary enhancement will be rolled out in a phased manner beginning with those earning a salary for the U2 scale, with effect from July.

"This money has already been budgeted for and communicated by the finance ministry," Bitarakwate said.

ASAPU president Julius Ssemaganda had earlier asked the President to raise the salaries of secretaries, beginning with the lower cadres who are earning as low as sh350,000 against the ever-increasing cost of living.

Ssemaganda said fair pay is essential for a workforce now tasked with leading Uganda's digital shift.



Bitarakwate (second-left), ASAPU patron Dr Maggie Kigozi (second-right) with other officials during a two-day workshop organised in Jinja city on Saturday

He outlined the current pay reality of the lower cadres, saying a diploma-holding secretary earns about sh350,000 per month, while a graduate earns about sh560,000.

Regarding allowances, Bitarakwate said the disparity is due to individual institutional budgets, but promised to come up with solutions, adding that promotions come only when there is a vacant position since it has financial implications.

In his speech, Museveni appealed to the secretaries to make use of government programmes, including Emyooga, the Youth Livelihood Fund and the Parish Development Model, which have helped save some Ugandans from poverty.

AI TRAINING

This year's ASAP workshop saw over 500 secretaries and administrative professionals gather to learn how AI tools can simplify work, reduce turnaround time, and improve competitiveness.

Peter Byamugisha of Kathay Technologies, who led part of the training, described AI as a double-edged sword.

"It is a threat to jobs and yet also an opportunity. In Africa, AI is rolling out slowly. That is good because it gives time to adapt. But administrative assistants who are equipped with AI tools will become more valuable than those who are not," Byamugisha said.

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