



Museveni (centre) with medical personnel and ministry officials at State House Entebbe yesterday

HOUSING

If hostels for interns were built near hospitals, this would enable the trainees to be available for work on time, the President said

By Vision Reporter

President Yoweri Museveni has said poor planning and indiscipline are the causes of industrial action.

While meeting doctors and several medical practitioners, the President yesterday advised the medics not to go on strike as they have planned, advising them to wait for the report by the Salary Review Committee, which would be ready by the end of the month.

"It is not necessary to go on industrial action. I am on your side. I want scientists, pilots, doctors and other professionals to get what they would earn in the market if they were working outside the country," Museveni said.

Salaries

A release from State House further quoted the President saying that the Uganda Medical Association should visit the Salary Review Committee and share their views.

The President also noted that directors and administrators at the health ministry need to focus on problems that keep recurring in the sector.

Museveni observed that if the ministry officials and health workers were good at planning, they would separate crucial recurring and non-recurring problems and address them appropriately.

On the issue of interns not having accommodation, the President explained that if hostels for interns were built near hospitals, this would enable the trainees to

President meets medics over salaries

ON SALARIES

A release from State House quoted the President saying that the Uganda Medical Association should visit the Salary Review Committee and share their views

be available for work on time.

It would also put an end to endless demands and complaints about little allowances.

Museveni explained that if the ministry officials and health workers came up with a comprehensive document on health; used the media to educate the public about disease prevention, a lot of money would be saved and used to address some of their grievances.

"You say most of the sicknesses in the country can be prevented. If you could

work with the local government and address the public about sicknesses in society, the expenditure would go down," he said.

Museveni said the Government has money but it cannot address all problems in the country at the same time.

"To you, everything is equal whether it is a recurring problem or not," he said.

The President also warned hospital administrators about cost sharing treatment in government hospitals. He said he was open to creation of grade As in the hospitals so that people who can afford it can go there.

During the meeting, the President of the Uganda Medical Association, Dr. Ekwaro Obuku, presented proposals to President Museveni that he said would improve health care service provision and reduce the gap in the health service delivery.

Obuku said the health of the people of Uganda is a precursor to achieving Vision 2020, 2030 and 2040.

Demands

Early last month, over 300 medical practitioners at their annual general meeting held in Kampala, demanded that the

PLANNING

Health workers are good at planning they would separate crucial recurring and non-recurring problems and address them appropriately

Government addresses their demands or they will lay down tools beginning November 6.

These included salary increment, modern staff quarters and vehicles.

The practitioners want the monthly salary of a senior consultant to be increased from sh3.4m to sh35m and given a five-bedroom house, a 4,000cc vehicle and three domestic workers. They also proposed a sh17m for senior house officers (doctors pursuing master's degrees) and lecturers.

The medics also demanded a review of duty facilitation, lifting of the ban on recruitment of doctors and streamlining of the internship programme. Led by Obuku, the medics also demanded that government sets up a loan scheme for medics of 3%-5% interest rate for personal development.

MEDICS' NEEDS

They want salary increment, modern staff quarters and vehicles. They also want a monthly salary of a senior consultant, to be increased from sh34m to sh35m