

Nambooze condition worsens

Injured. Doctors say the MP got a crack on one of her bones inside her back which has since caused her severe pain that they have up to now failed to control permanently.

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KAMPALA. Doctors at Bugolobi Medical Centre in Kampala last evening said they can no longer manage the condition of Mukono Municipality legislator Betty Nambooze Bakireke following a lumbar spine fracture she suffered during the age limit fracas in Parliament recently.

Ms Nambooze was among the MPs who were harassed and injured when security operatives raided Parliament last month to evict legislators opposed to lifting presidential age limit caps from the 1995 Constitution.

Mr Ben Mukama, the hospital administrator, confirmed yesterday that Ms Nambooze got a crack on one of her bones inside her back which has since caused her severe pain that they have up to now failed to control permanently.

"Although we have been treating the pain and at one time she had improved, it [the pain] recently re-surfaced ... we await a final examination from the doctor handling her case this evening [on Tuesday] or tomorrow and then we shall give her a letter of referral," Mr Mukama told *Daily Monitor* on Tuesday.

Mr Mukama added: "Of course India would be the preferred choice but there is also the choice of South Africa."

The development came shortly after Speaker Rebecca Kadaaga had just visited the legislator who has been bedridden for almost two weeks.

Ms Nambooze however, expressed fear that the government is planning to bar her referral abroad, saying that she has received information



Compassion. Speaker Rebecca Kadaga (left) with Mukono Municipality MP Betty Nambooze at Bugolobi Medical Centre in Kampala last evening.
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that doctors at Mulago Hospital have been put under strict orders to inform the medical board that her condition can be handled with in the country.

The medical board is mandated to approve medical referral of any Ugandans before seeking treatment abroad.

Speaking to *Daily Monitor* at the weekend, Ms Nambooze recounted how she was in very severe pain which came as a result of the beatings she suffered on the day security operatives raided Parliament.

"I think these people have mastered the art of torturing people. They know the body parts to press that you cannot shout. You lose your voice, I could not cry, they manipulated my body using the hard factory-like gloves," Ms Bakireke said.

As a result of the injuries inflicted

on her body, she has been using a walking crutch since her admission. She says she was picked from the lobby and dragged alongside her Opposition colleagues who were removed from the House.

DP ISSUES ULTIMATUM

Meanwhile, Opposition Democratic Party (DP), which Ms Nambooze subscribes to, yesterday gave government three days within which to take Mukono Municipality MP to India for treatment. Addressing a weekly

press conference in Kampala yesterday, Mr Gerald Siranda, the DP secretary general, said: "Ms Nambooze is in bad shape... We want the Speaker of Parliament and the medical board to intervene before her condition worsens."

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