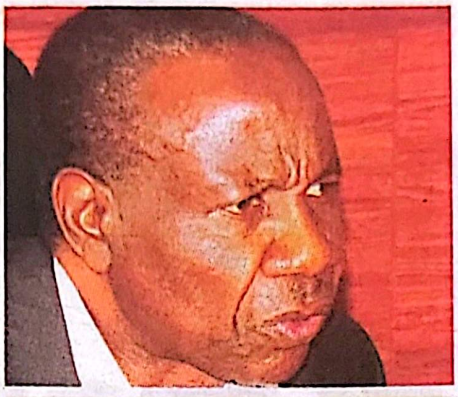
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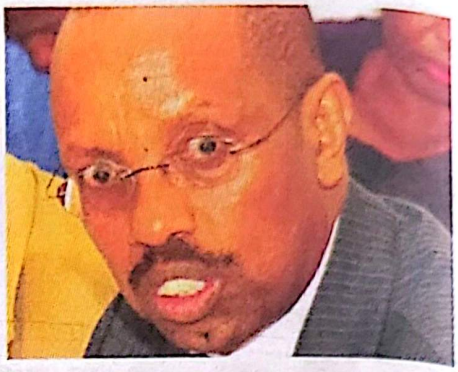
Cabinet yet to decide on salary raise – minister

Concern. Last week, we reported that the proposed Shs1.8 trillion for the pay raise had not been included in the Budget Framework Paper.

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"That's a matter for Cabinet to decide. I will not tell you the figures until Cabinet has voted on it,"
MATIA KASAIJA, FINANCE MINISTER



We are making some adjustments on the salary reform pay raise that has been proposed to ensure we provide what we can afford based on the money that is available," KEITH MUHAKANIZI, SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

Cabinet is yet to decide on the pay raise for civil servants ahead of the 2017/18 financial year, Finance minister Matia Kasaija has said.

The decision follows a proposal by a salary review committee to offer substantial pay raise to all civil servants across the board.

A number of civil servant strikes rocked the country this year, pushing government to institute a committee to review salaries of all government employees to harmonise the disparities.

Doctors, judicial officers and state prosecutors all went on strike, while nurses and midwives also threatened, though their issues were swiftly handled. The strikes paralysed court processes and health service delivery, forcing the government to yield to pressure.

Mr Kasaija said when the proposal came in, the government did not have enough money to roll out the implementation.

Omission

On Thursday, *Daily Monitor* revealed that the Shs1.8 trillion that the salary review committee proposed for the pay raise for government workers is not included in the Budget Framework Paper, the mother document from which the budget is drawn. Further quoting sources from the Finance ministry, this newspaper reported that the dominant view within government is that there is no money for the salary increment.

Shs1.8t

The cost. The amount of money that the salary review committee proposed for the pay raise for government workers.

When we put to this to Mr Kasaija, he reinforced the view that the government does not have enough money to effect the raise. He said the cuts all the ministries are experiencing in the proposed 2017/18 budget are because of the need to increase the salaries for the civil servants.

When the Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Keith Muhakanizi, was tasked to explain why the figures for the proposed increments were not included in the Budget Framework Paper, he said: "That is a policy issue; Minister Kasaija is the one better placed to explain. However, we are making some adjustments on the salary reform pay raise that has been proposed to ensure we provide what we can afford based on the money that is available."

Asked how much has been saved from the cuts, Mr Kasaija said it is too early to disclose the figures. "That's a matter for Cabinet to decide. I will not tell you the figures until Cabinet has voted on it," he said.

The minister, however, remained noncommittal on when Cabinet would sit to debate and vote on the decision on the pay raise. The budget process in Parliament is already behind schedule and it is likely to be on the priority order of business when the House

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