

however, we have made an unresolved key issue is the doctors' demand for make any written undertaking that could be basis for future fail to return to work.

lives of soldiers and

Nurses, midwives reject link to doctors' court case

By Barbra Kabahumuza
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Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union (UNMU) quoted in the petition as the applicants with Uganda Medical Workers Union and the National Organisation of Trade Union vs. Attorney General (AG), Uganda Medical Association (UMA), Dr Ebuku Ekwaro and Workers MP Dr Sam Lyomoki, has told court that it should not be considered among the petitioners.

UNMU says it was only consulted after the application was submitted, the union is already in discussions with the ministries of health and public service and believe that the

court injunction will only dissociate the current effort to resolve the industrial action.

It further states that while there are irregularities cited in the manner the industrial action was called by UMA and key activists, the cause is justifiable.

UNMU furthermore suggests that a social dialogue is the appropriate intervention that should be opted to seek solutions to combat challenges in the health sector. They add that it is important to empower trade unions to collectively bargain through the framework provided for by the Government.

Yesterday, the hearing of the UNMU application seeking to withdraw from

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The unions want all on-going negotiations between the Government, UMA and Ebuku to be declared as illegal and the Government ordered to hold such negotiations with the mandated bodies.

the doctors' strike failed to take off because the Government had not filed a response in court.

The AG, who is the principal legal adviser to the Government, informed

court that he was served with the application late.

The presiding deputy registrar, Sarah Langa, adjourned the hearing of the application to Friday.

On Tuesday, the union dragged all striking doctors and medical practitioners to the civil division of the High Court for engaging in an illegal industrial action.

UMWU said the strike by medical workers is illegal as well as the negotiations over the same with the Government.

The union also sued Ekwaro, the UMA president and Workers MP Lyomoki demanding damages resulting from announcing a strike without following the prescribed legal

procedures.

The National Organisation of Trade Unions, Uganda Medical Workers Union and UNMU claim they are the only organisations mandated to hold negotiations on behalf of health workers and the Government.

The unions, therefore, asked court to issue permanent orders barring any other persons from purporting to represent health workers.

The unions say Ebuku has no mandate to call for the health workers strike since he is not working in any public facility to purport to represent the socio-economic interests of public health workers.

They further state that Lyomoki had no legal authority to call for the strike.