

ugandans. But no amount of resistance from the MPs would defeat the backers of the Bills.

The Leader of Opposition in Parliament, Ms Winnie Kiiza (FDC, Kasese), together with Kasanda North MP Patrick Nsamba (NRM), Ms Monica

Ms Kayinza argued that rather than taxing citizens on mobile money, the government should direct its efforts on strengthening the country's border points, to enable the Uganda Revenue Authority collect enough revenues.

The Leader of Opposition said the

Dokolo) said the tax on cooking oil will not only split families, but also kick women out of businesses.

She warned that whereas women will feel the immediate pinch, the ultimate pain will be suffered by the men who will face divorce as the women

Other MPs who endorsed the move by government on more taxation included Aruu County MP Odonga Otto (FDC), Kyankwanzi Woman MP Ann Maria Nankabirwa (NRM) and Katikamu North MP Abraham Byandala (NRM).

Museveni makes U-turn on science teachers' pay

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PARLIAMENT. After facing stiff resistance from NRM parliamentary caucus regarding his proposal to increase the salaries of science teachers only, President Museveni yesterday made a U-turn and agreed to defer their salary enhancement to financial year 2019/2020.

Mr Museveni had insisted on increasing the salaries of only science teachers on grounds that they are difficult to replace, unlike their Arts counterparts, if they relocate to neighbouring countries in search of better remuneration.

The President's proposal, however, ran into trouble when Parliament's Education Committee rejected it on grounds that it discriminates against Arts teachers.

The proposed salary increment was subsequently rejected by Parliament, prompting Mr Museveni to summon NRM MPs to a Caucus meeting yesterday in a last-ditch attempt

to save a promise he made to teachers last year.

Mr Museveni told teachers during the closure of a retreat for secondary school head teachers at State House Entebbe in December last year that the government would "immediately" increase the salaries of science teachers. "The arts teachers will also have their pay raised later," Mr Museveni pronounced last year.

Under Mr Museveni's proposal, salary of graduate science teachers was set to increase from Shs600,000 to Shs1.9m while diploma holders with a bias in science would have had their salaries increased from Shs625, 067 to Shs1.7m.

Head teachers with science qualifications would have had their salaries increased from Shs1.7m to Shs2.5m and their deputies from Shs 1.5m to Shs1.7m.

But his proposal was rejected by MPs on the basis that an increment for only science teachers would offend the law on discrimination as spelt out under Article 40(b) that

says Parliament shall enact laws—(b) to ensure equal payment for equal work.

During the caucus meeting yesterday, Mr Museveni cited examples of European and Asian countries such as German and Japan, which he said have developed because of prioritising science against arts disciplines.

He also said Soroti Flying School was on the verge of collapse because of persistent strikes by pilot trainers but the situation was only turned around when their pay was improved.

But Mr Museveni's spirited defence

SUGAR BILL

On the deadlock over the Sugar Bill 2016, Mr Museveni directed that Parliaments' Committees on Trade, National Economy and Finance look at the controversial clauses in the Bill and brief the caucus in two weeks' time.

of the salary increment for science teachers fell on deaf ears as NRM MPs maintained that such an increment would be discriminatory and he ultimately agreed to maintain the status quo and only consider allowances for science teachers on a case-by-case basis.

NRM Caucus vice chairperson Solomon Silwany confirmed that Mr Museveni finally agreed that the salary increment for teachers be deferred to the 2019/2020 financial year.

Bukooli North MP Gaster Mugooya, one of the MPs who spoke against the increment, told Mr Museveni that science cannot be developed by solely enhancing the salaries of science teachers.

"We agreed to put up a scheme of comprehensively setting up infrastructure to promote science and technology. Putting up laboratories, training institutions, because looking at singularly increasing the salaries of science teachers will not help in the development of science and technology," Mr Mugooya said.