

UPC wants medics' salaries increased

By Faith Amongin

The Uganda People's Congress (UPC) has appealed to the Government to promote 'the spirit of equal pay for work of equal value' among civil servants for them to have a normal standard of living.

The call comes at a time when medical workers under their umbrella body, Uganda Medical Association (UMA) have been on strike for two weeks, over failure by the Government to respond to their grievances, an action that has since taken a toll on patients across the country. The party argues that with such, a risk of discontent over pay could be expressed concurrently, thus bringing the country to a 'grinding halt'.

"Workers across the country and at different levels cannot meet their daily needs and to make matters worse, the social contrast between those being taxed and those levying the taxes is non-existent. Services provided by the Government are scanty. When available they are of poor quality," said Michael Osinde, the party spokesperson.

This, according to Osinde, forces citizens to rely on the private sector which in most cases is also beyond the means of the majority.

He made the remarks yesterday during the weekly press briefing at the party headquarters in Kampala. "The Government instituted a salary review commission some time back. We are waiting for their recommendations. However, while time is spent talking, the challenges faced remain. It is apparent that the budgetary allocations to citizens' concerns are taking second place," Osinde said.

Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, the health minister, last week during a presser ordered the doctors back to work. She also ordered the resident district commissioners (RDCs) in a circular from the President's office to carry out roll call countrywide. This was something the doctors saw as a threat and vowed to carry on with the strike, which has since entered the second week.



Jane Ruth Aceng