promised to visit them this morning.

development in a telephone interview last evening.

Teachers' power wrangle deepens

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KAMPALA. The Uganda National Teachers' Union (Unatu) executive council has overturned an earlier decision by its sub-committee to sack the union's general secretary, Mr James Tweheyo.

Ms Josephine Nabuyungo, the council's vice chairperson, yesterday said the committee chaired by Unatu's chairperson Zadock Tumuhimbise failed to appraise Mr Tweheyo in time even when the latter had asked to be audited three months before his five-year contract expired.

"We looked at his performance in the time he has been at Unatu and the union has been growing. He wrote in June requesting his contract to be renewed but this was not done. Our rules are clear. The committee should have appraised him and sent recommendations to the council which they did not do," Ms Nabuyungo said.

On October 7, the standing committee sat and decided not to renew Mr Tweheyo's contract which was to expire on October 16. But their decision was reversed a week later.

In an earlier interview with *Daily Monitor,* Mr Tumuhimbise said he was not satisfied that Mr Tweheyo had added value to the union and didn't deserve another opportunity to serve the teachers.

He accused Mr Tweheyo of mismanaging resources and failing to complete projects he had been assigned to execute, an allegation Mr Tweheyo dismissed.

"We have queries related to finances. We are going to engage a team to conduct a forensic audit which will establish exactly how much money was mismanaged," Mr Tumuhimbise said in a telephone interview last Friday.

But Ms Nabuyungo yesterday defended Mr Tweheyo saying at the time he joined the union in 2012, their numbers stood at only 78,000, but have since grown to 142,000 members.

She said their offices in eight of the 10 regions now have permanent homes, and that the union's budget has increased from Shs3 billion to Shs8 billion today.

"It was unfair. I remember we begged him (Mr Tweheyo) to join the union. We can't treat him like that. If there is anything not clear, it is a matter of sitting together and we iron out the differences. We should be focused and give credit where it is due. Tweheyo has risked his life in fighting for the teachers' welfare... As council, we agreed to renew his contract," Ms Nabuyungo said.

Sources close to the union but who declined to be named in order to speak freely on the matter pointed to a latent rivalry between Mr Tweheyo and Ms Margaret Rwabushaija, the former Unatu chairperson and now workers Member of Parliament.

> "If anybody thinks he will come here [Unatu] and use money the way they want when I am still an accounting officer here, I will not allow. Tweheyo always stands on his words. You can't direct me to spend wrongly when I know the guidelines."
> JAMES TWEHEYO, UNATU GENERAL SECRETARY

But Ms Rwabushaija yesterday declined to respond to our queries, but referred *Daily Monitor* to the union's chairperson before she hung up.

Mr Tumuhimbise took over from Ms Rwabushaija as Unatu chairperson in December.

Ms Rwabushaija is among the nine members of the standing committee that terminated Mr Tweheyo's service.

Mr Tweheyo has welcomed the idea of being audited but added that annually, they engage auditors to look into their accounts and ensure they meet the standards.

He said he will not be diverted from fighting for the teachers welfare and improving the learning environment of the country's children.

"I am a happy and a proud winne because I have done as much as can for the teachers and for t children of this country in t available circumstances. I will very happy for anyone to bring in auditor to look at my accounts."

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