

Strike: Police open health units to public

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KAMPALA. Inspector General of Police Gen Kale Kayihura has ordered the Police Directorate of Health Services to join other security agencies to provide health care to the public as the doctors' strike enters the third week.

Police spokesperson Emilian Kayima said since the doctors' strike, their centres have been getting more civilians than usual.

"In our health centres, more than 94 per cent of the patients are civilians. We have police doctors in many of our facilities. The doctors are ready to provide services to patients," Mr Kayima said yesterday.

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The numbers. The total number of police doctors in Uganda, who serve in 94 police health facilities, 11 HIV treatment centres, and 40 laboratories

Last week, the UPDF sent doctors to referral hospitals to deal with emergencies. The decision to deploy doctors from security agencies followed a deadlock between the Uganda Medical Association and the Cabinet committee over ending the strike.

Last Thursday, President Museveni said he would fire all striking doctors and replace them with new ones. "The doctors have betrayed me, we had selected a committee to review the salaries of civil servants in the country. It had just completed its work and doctors have decided to strike as many people have lost their lives," Mr Museveni said at a rally in Fort Portal, Kabarole District.