

FDC implodes govt on workers' salaries

By Faith Amongin

The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party has appealed to the Government to expeditiously look into enhancing workers' salaries and improving their conditions.

The call comes after nurses and midwives under their umbrella body, Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union (UNMU) last week threatened to lay down their tools citing low pay and poor working conditions.

Paul Henry Byenkya, in a letter dated November 30, addressed to all nurses and midwives, said the scheduled date for laying down the tools is today (Tuesday).

"Following UNMU's submission to the Government demanding the implementation of the schemes of service for the nursing and midwifery cadre, salary increment and allowances, government has not yet responded," Byenkya wrote.

The health minister, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, over the weekend, said UNMU's concerns were being handled by the Government.

"For salaries, we are all waiting for Parliament's committee report. We appeal to the nurses

"Strike of the nurses and midwives affects the common man." FDC

and midwives to continue working as they have been doing," Aceng told *New Vision* on Sunday.

The planned industrial action comes a week after doctors suspended theirs, which paralysed work for three weeks in public health facilities.

The doctors, who had similar concerns as the nurses and midwives, finally resumed work after sitting on a round table with the Government, as negotiations are still ongoing.

"We call upon the Government not to underrate the strike of the nurses and midwives because it affects the common man," Paul Mwiru, the party's deputy spokesperson, said.

However, UNMU called off the strike last evening.