No salary increment for Kampala leaders – finance ministry

By Chris Kiwawulo and Juliet Waiswa

There will be no salary increment for city political leaders as had been directed by the Minister of Kampala, Beti Kamya, the finance ministry has stated.

The finance ministry's permanent secretary and secretary to the treasury, Keith Muhakanizi, directed the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) executive director, Jennifer Musisi, to halt any salary increments pending a Cabinet communication.

"I wish to refer to my earlier letter dated July 28, 2017, in which I indicated that a 30% increment shall require a supplementary budget of sh3.6b. This is contrary to a directive by the President (Yoweri Museveni) that no salary increment should be considered for any entity until a comprehensive assessment has been done across the entire public service.

The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to inform you as above and request you to halt any attempts to increase salary until Cabinet communicates the new position," Muhakanizi wrote on November 6.

His letter came after a directive that Kamya had given to Musisi asking her to implement the 30% salary increment for city political leaders across the board.

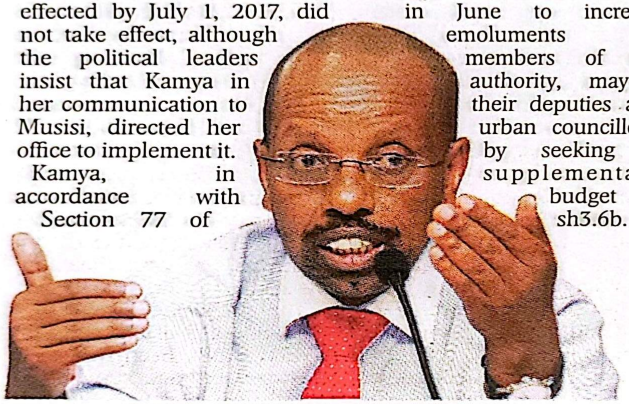
This prompted Musisi to write to the Prime Minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, and Muhakanizi on November 2, seeking to know whether funds were available to effect the increment.

Earlier, city political leaders demanded that their reversed salary increment be implemented before they can proceed to review their budget process of the institute for the financial year 2018/19.

The 30% salary increment, which was meant to be effected by July 1, 2017, did not take effect, although the political leaders insist that Kamya in her communication to Musisi, directed her office to implement it.

Kamya, in accordance with Section 77 of the KCCA Act 2010, issued an instrument for emolument of political leaders of Kampala. She had in her earlier communication said a 30% increment towards their emolument be effected.

Kamya first directed Musisi in June to increase emoluments for members of the authority, mayors, their deputies and urban councillors, by seeking a supplementary budget of sh3.6b.



Finance ministry PS Keith Muhakanizi

The division mayors earn sh7m per month, while their deputies earn sh5m and councillors sh3m, which they said is not enough given the nature of their work.

Kamya, in her October 27th communication to Musisi, again stated: "My letter to you in which I issued an instrument for emoluments of political leaders of Kampala dated June 12, 2017, predates the Minister of Public Service's communication."

She added: "My letter was supposed to take effect from July 1, long before Cabinet directed the minister for public service to develop a salary policy that would rationalise salaries of public servants."

The Minister of Kampala explained that if her directive had been implemented in July as had been envisaged, it was highly probable that KCCA would be in a much better financial situation.

Kamya noted that political leaders would identify all opportunities in their respective constituencies and through cajoling, civic education and sensitisation of taxpayers, convince them to pay taxes so as to raise more revenue.

The Lord Mayor, Erias Lukwago, said failure to increase the leaders' pay would affect the operations of the councillors since they did not have money to consult their electorates.

The city leaders' request for a salary increment comes at a time when doctors and prosecutors are on strike demanding that their salaries be increased, while Makerere University lecturers have also warned to follow suit.

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