

Education, health service commissions demand pay rise

By Paul Kiwuuwa

The education, health, judicial and public service commissions are demanding a salary enhancement in the next financial year of 2018/2019.

Appearing before Parliament's budget committee on Tuesday, the commissioners led by their chairperson Prof. Pius Okong, under the umbrella of members of the appointing commissions told MPs that their salaries were too low compared to those earned by the categories of the public servants they appoint and recruit. The team presented their salary enhancement proposals.

Okong said the remunerations of the appointments commissions were last revised in 2010 and had been affected by the inflation. He said in their salary proposal that they want the Government to increase the monthly salaries of the chairpersons of the four commissions to sh21m from the current earnings of sh8.4m monthly.

Okong said the monthly salaries for each of the four deputy chairpersons of the commissions should also be increased to sh20m from the current salaries of 8.1m.

He said the salaries for members of the commissions should also be increased to sh19m from their current salary of sh8m.

"We are paid peanuts compared to the salaries of the permanent secretaries, yet we, the commissions are the ones who recommend their appointments to the authority (the President)," said Okong.

Amos Lugolobi, the Ntenjeru North MP, said: "The salary increments will depend on the availability of funds in the treasury. The committee cannot promise you a pay raise, but we shall recommend it to the authorities concerned," Lugolobi said.

The Rubanda County West MP, Eng. Denis Sabiiti said Parliament could adopt their proposal for salary increments, however government may reject it.

Justice Ralph Ocan, the chairman of Public Service commission, said when President Yoweri Museveni increased the salaries of members of the Judiciary in 2017, the commissions salaries were not increased and this had affected their work.

"A commissioner who earns sh8m cannot perform their supervisory role over the permanent secretaries who bag sh15m, where is equity?" he asked.

President Yoweri Museveni in January 2017 increased the monthly salaries of the Chief Justice to sh20m from sh sh11.5m, Deputy Chief Justice to sh18m, from of sh10.5m, the head of public service had his increased to sh17.6m from sh4.9m and permanent secretaries had thiers increased to sh15.4m from sh3.7m

Kasajja baale MP