

# Pharmacists petition govt over delayed registration

**Demand.** The petitioners are demanding their certificates of registration within seven days or else they seek the President's help.

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**KAMPALA.** Pharmacist graduates have petitioned the Ministry of Health over the delayed issuance of their practising licences after finishing internship last year.

In a February 27 petition signed by 56 of the affected 100 pharmacists, the graduates demand that they be registered and issued with certificates of registration within seven days.

"It is approximately five months since we completed our internship, sat for and passed pharmacists' pre-registration exams and were admitted as members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda and fulfilled all the requirements for registration in order to practice pharmacy in

Uganda," the petition reads in part.

"If these demands are not met within 7 days, we will proceed to Parliament and further seek the intervention of the President of this country who we believe has a heart for the youth and he spearheaded the local training of pharmacists in Uganda," the petition adds.

#### Copied in

The petition was copied to the Prime Minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, Ministry of Public Service, chairperson of the Pharmacy Board and the secretary of the National Drug Authority (NDA).

The petitioners argue that they have continued to live 'shambolic' lives owing to the long period of unemployment unlike their counterparts who were registered and given certificates of practice.

Dr Henry Mwebesa, the acting director general at the Health ministry, said he could not comment by press time as he was still engaged in

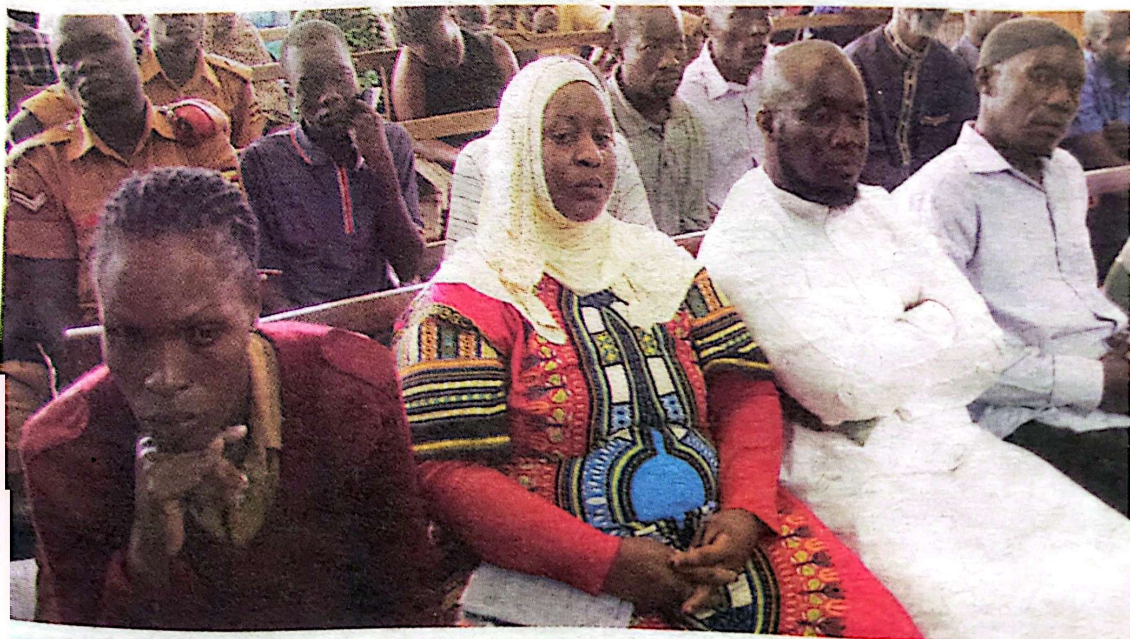
a meeting at Parliament.

The petition comes at a time when the National Drug Authority had rejected a request last month by some of the pharmaceutical companies for a grace period to acquire pharmacist following its earlier warning to close anyone who did not comply.

"Please note that any pharmacist that has not been licensed by January 1, 2018 will be closed," Mr Dav Nahmya, the director of inspection and enforcement, said in a response letter to one of the pharmaceutical companies dated January 5.

#### COMPENSATION

The pharmacists also recommend that they be compensated by government for the income lost during the said period amounting to Shs4.2b as well as find a lasting solution to the perpetual problem.



**Charged.** Aisha Nakasibante (2nd left) and other suspects charged with plotting to overthrow the government at the High Court in Kampala last week. PHOTO BY ABUBAKER LUBOWA

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