

... collapsed as he prepared to open an anti-corruption workshop his ministry had organised.

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KALANGALA/KAMPALA. The State minister for Ethics, Fr Simon Lokodo, who collapsed yesterday in Kalangala while on official duty and was airlifted to Kampala in a “stable” condition, a senior cardiologist has said.

Dr John Omangino, the executive director of Uganda Heart Institute (UHI), said the minister was transferred to the facility for specialised management.

“We received him; he’s admitted, but in stable condition,” Dr Omangino said by telephone, before referring additional inquiries to the Ethics ministry.

A highly-placed government source told this newspaper on condition of anonymity that the minister had been admitted in the intensive care unit of the UHI at Mulago National Referral Hospital.

Fr Lokodo was evacuated in a Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) helicopter which landed at Kololo Independence Grounds in the afternoon from where a waiting ambulance rushed him to UHI.

The minister collapsed a few minutes to 9am in the island district of Kalangala just as he prepared to open an anti-corruption workshop his ministry organised at Ssese Islands Beach Hotel. There was panic among workshop organisers and government officials who first took him for emergency treatment at Kalangala Health Centre IV.

They, however, found all beds in the wards occupied and the minister was instead taken for temporary admission in the theatre as officials scrambled with distress calls to their supervisors in Kampala, seeking for emergency evacuation.

Fr Lokodo first suffered a mild stroke before a major attack, eyewitness, Richard Mutebi said.

A medical officer at Kalangala

Minister Lokodo collapses, rushed to Heart Institute



Admitted. Minister of state for Ethics and Integrity Simon Lukodo lies on a stretcher at Uganda Heart Institute in Mulago after he was evacuated by a military chopper from Kalangala District to Kololo Airstrip yesterday. PHOTO BY ABUBAKER LUBOWA

PAST INCIDENTS

December 2017: The State minister for Primary Healthcare, Dr Joyce Moriku Kaducu, was airlifted from Kampala International Hospital to Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi for specialised treatment.

March 2017: Kitgum Municipality MP Beatrice Atim Anywar was airlifted from Lamwo District to Case Hospital in Kampala for specialised treatment after she was involved in an accident.

Health Center IV, who asked not to be named because health workers are not allowed by professional ethics to discuss confidential patient information, said the minister’s “problem is that he is hypertensive”.

“His blood pressure has risen,” the health workers said.

In Kampala, State Health minister for General Duties Sarah Opendi said Fr Lokodo is “out of danger and the cause of his illness is being investigated”.

Mr Caleb Tukaikiriza, the Kalangala resident district commissioner, in a separate account said the minister was in a “sorry state” shortly after collapsing.

“Let’s instead pray for him to stabilise,” Mr Tukaikiriza said.

Residents who witnessed the incident asked the government to equip Kalangala’s main health facility better in order to handle such emergencies.

Mr Herbert Mugambe, a health rights advocate, said the minister’s collapse, sad as it was, should be a wake-up call to the government to upgrade Kalangala Health Center IV into a modern hospital.

However, President Museveni has been quoted before saying government cannot respond to all public demands at ago because of budget constraints.

Workers give govt 2 months to raise pay

BY FRANKLIN DRAK
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KAMPALA. Workers under the umbrella National Organisation Trade Unions (Notu) have given government up to end of April to meet out their salary demands else the on strike.

The demand comes after the government said there was no money pay increments for civil servants the Financial Year 2018/19.

In a closed-door meeting with the Public Service ministry yesterday, the workers said anything other than increasing their salaries trigger all their available options.

Mr Christopher Werikhe, Notu secretary general, said by the government to meet their demands by the given would lead to an automatic action.

Internal discussion

“We told the PS that at the end of the cycle for us to tails before the next budget and if it has not appeared you know what will follow shall get into a strike,” he

Asked whether the vice ministry would heers’ demands, permar Catherine Musingwiru internal discussion no dia consumption.

“We don’t have any report on. We’re willing to cooperate with we have information we shall communicate

Both the head of Finance secretary to the Cabinet Mitala, and Finance