

parts of the country, decisively prevent the kind of criminalities that

be U.S. \$3.3 billion.

FDC plots fresh protests over rising fuel prices

BY DAMALI MUKHAYE

dmukhaye@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. The Opposition Forum for Democratic Change party has said it will rally Ugandans to stage a demonstration against the increasing cost of fuel in the country.

Addressing journalists at the party headquarters in Najjanankumbi, a Kampala outskirt, yesterday, the party's spokesperson, Mr Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda, said fuel prices in some fuel stations, especially upcountry have shot up to Shs4,000.

Cost of living

"The moment fuel prices go up, automatically you have prices of commodities rising and this is going to affect the cost of living. Since we have spoken about this many times, as a party, ...the next time, we shall mobilise the population

to speak about it themselves," Mr Ssemujju said.

He said the prices of fuel in the neighbouring countries are lower than in Uganda, asserting that prices in the country have never changed to reflect the changes in international prices.

Govt responds

However, the Minister of Energy, Ms Irene Muloni, told *Daily Monitor* in a telephone interview that the current fuel prices in the country are dictated by the changes in international crude oil prices.

"The oil prices have now shot up at \$70 per barrel. So what did you expect? We also import it from the international market. So when you add on the logistical cost since we are landlocked, the prices have to shoot up to where we are. It is a liberalised market and they [FDC] know that," Ms Muloni said.