

Increments. A graduate science teacher will in the 2019/2020 financial year earn Shs1.9m from Shs600,000 while diploma holders will earn Shs1.7m up from Shs625, 067.

BY MONITOR REPORTER
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Govt introducing allowances for science teachers in July

KAMPALA. At least 3,500 The government will starting next month pay science subject teachers a monthly top-up allowance to raise their take-home higher than their counterparts, according to State House.

In a response to our yesterday's story titled, Museveni makes U-turn on science teachers' pay, the officials clarified that the President did not walk back on his word to remunerate science teachers better.

Our reporting was based on accounts offered by a number of lawmakers subscribing to the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) which they said was what transpired in their Caucus meeting chaired by Mr Museveni, the party chairman.

The Members of Parliament we spoke to on Wednesday said they informed the President that the proposal of higher salaries for science teachers was "discriminatory" because the law does not allow unequal payment for equal public service job.

Article 40(b) of the Constitution provides that Parliament shall enact laws to ensure equal payment for equal work without discrimination.

State House clarified that after deliberations, the pay raise decision was deferred to the 2019/20 Financial Year but allowances will be introduced for science teachers effective July, this year.

Details of the amount and manner of disbursement are yet to be worked out, but the source said the allowance could be equal to the original planned monthly salary raise.

The government had announced it planned to increase monthly salary for a graduate science teacher



Practical. Students of Kakungulu Memorial Secondary School in Kibuli, Kampala, conduct a Physics practical examination last year. Starting July, science teachers will receive allowances. PHOTO BY ABUBAKER LUBOWA

from Shs600,000 to Shs1.9m while diploma holders would earn Shs1.7m, up from Shs625, 067.

Removing restrictions

The monthly salary of a head teachers with science qualifications would be increased by Shs800,000 to Shs2.5m and their deputies would bag Shs1.7m instead of the current Shs1.5m.

According to State House sources, the Wednesday decision to defer the salary enhancement for science teachers was to buy time for MPs to amend the Constitution and subsidiary laws and remove restrictions on the government not to pay dif-

ferent rates to its employees doing same job. NRM Caucus Vice Chairperson Solomon Silwany separately confirmed that they agreed on allowances for science teachers, but the implementation specifics will be worked out later.

"We just agreed that for the beginning, they will get allowances. The Ministry of Public Service is going to sit and see how to manage the allowances. We did not agree on the amounts," he said.

President Museveni told teachers during the closure of a two-day retreat for secondary school head teachers at State House Entebbe in December 2017 that the govern-

ment would "immediately" increase the salaries for science teachers.

Prioritising sciences

During the Caucus meeting on Wednesday, this week, the President reportedly gave a presentation that spanned over two hours, citing examples of European and Asian countries -like German and Japan -which he said have developed because of prioritising sciences over humanities.

He argued that science teachers, unlike their Arts counterparts, are difficult to replace if they relocate to neighbouring countries in search of better remuneration.

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Kabaka case: Judge slaps fresh tax on concrete

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