

...the challenges they were facing in the peace talks that

The SPLM-IO group is led by the Movement's deputy chairman Henry

...leader of the negotiating team

Kyambogo students stranded as lecturers strike over salary

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KAMPALA. Kyambogo University academic staff have laid down their tools a week to concluding administering end of year semester examinations.

The staff are protesting over failure by the administration to pay them salaries for the last four months, an action that has left hundreds of students who had not completed their examinations stranded.

The Wednesday announcement saw most of the examinations, scheduled for yesterday, delayed as heads of department improvised using some support staff to stand in for lecturers who did not appear.

The teaching staff demand Shs4 billion which accumulated from unpaid teaching allowances, invigilation, research supervision, marking and salaries to part-time lecturers.

The resolution was reached on Wednesday evening in a general assembly that had been called to review the university's position to pay the lecturers' arrears.

"The meeting has resolved to go on strike until those payments are effected. The examinations can continue but if a lecturer who had a paper does not show up, the university is to blame because that lecturer did not have transport," Dr Grace Lubaale, the Kyambogo University Academic staff Association chairperson said.

Students have up to Sunday to complete the examinations they started three weeks ago.

“ The examinations can continue but if a lecturer who had a paper does not show up, the university is to blame because that lecturer did not have transport,” GRACE LUBAALLE, KYAMBOGO UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC STAFF ASSOCIATION CHAIRPERSON

Dr Lubaale said they have not been paid since January with some staff demanding payment for last year.

They warned that they will not be involved in any university activity, including marking students' scripts, supervising school practice

and industrial training unless their money has been cleared.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Eli Katunguka's, phone was off yesterday while his deputy, Associate Prof Fabian Nabugoomu, hang up on this reporter when he was asked how the institution is working to resolve the impasse between management and the lecturers.

Lecturers, especially those recruited on part-time basis and who attended the Wednesday meeting were bitter that although they have been persistent and worked without pay in the last four months, their employers have continued to give them empty promises.

During the staff meeting, Ms Scovia Magara, a lecturer, warned that there was growing distrust between the workers and their supervisors which she said affects service delivery.

Dr Lubaale told the association members that management had informed him that they had asked government for a supplementary budget following a budget shortfall which resulted into non-payment of the allowances.