

Non payment. The Special Police Constables pitched camps at police station demanding for payment for service provided during the recent elections.

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KAMPALA. At least 37,000 special police constables (SPCs) recruited to police for the 2016 general elections have pitched camp at police stations after being ordered to return the police uniforms before being paid.

The 37,000 SPCs were hired to provide security for the presidential, parliamentary and local council elections. But tensions rose after the police ordered them to hand over government stores (uniforms and batons) yet they had not been paid.

Violent incidents between police officers and SPCs were witnessed in Iganga District at the weekend. Similar incidents were diffused in Masaka District and in Kampala City after commanders intervened to assure the SPCs of their payments.

Police spokesman Fred Enanga said the money to pay the SPCs has been sent to regional police commanders (RPCs) across the country.

"The money was wired to RPCs' accounts from Bank of Uganda on Friday. The delay could have been caused by the automated systems. But some districts, like Masaka, have started paying the SPCs," Mr Enanga said yesterday.

Some SPCs told *Daily Monitor* that they expected to be paid for all the days, including those when they were undergoing training, which is about a month.

But Mr Enanga said each SPC will be paid Shs11,000 per day for only the 14 days they worked as poll constables.

Some SPCs have refused to hand over uniforms until payments have been made.

Mr Enanga accused people who he didn't name of trying to incite

Polls: 37,000 SPCs storm stations over non-payment



Special Police Constables keep order at a polling station in Makindye Division during the recently concluded presidential elections. They have pitched camp at different police stations across the country after being ordered to return the police uniforms before

the SPCs for selfish gains. He cited Masaka District as one of the areas where SPCs are being incited to cause violence.

In Kampala City, hundreds of SPCs stormed Jinja Road Police Station demanding payments.

Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesman, Mr Patrick Onyango, said KMP East commander Siraje Bakaleke was able to calm them down. "The tension was as a result of misinformation. Many were misinformed that recovering uniform

and equipment from them meant sending them away without pay. We explained to them the police procedures and they understood our position and their response to our order is now good," Mr Onyango said.

There are fears among security agencies is that if the SPCs are not paid, they may not turn up to provide security during the forthcoming local council elections this week.

With this tension, it isn't clear whether they will be able provide security. In 2011 general elections,

similar complaints were raised by SPCs after they went for months without being paid. Police hired 18,000 SPCs. At the time of payment, some SPCs found their names missing on the list.

Other SPCs chose to continue wearing police uniforms and used them to extort money from unsuspecting victims, especially at night. Police Professional Standards Unit had to swing in action and carry out searches to recover government stores from them.

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