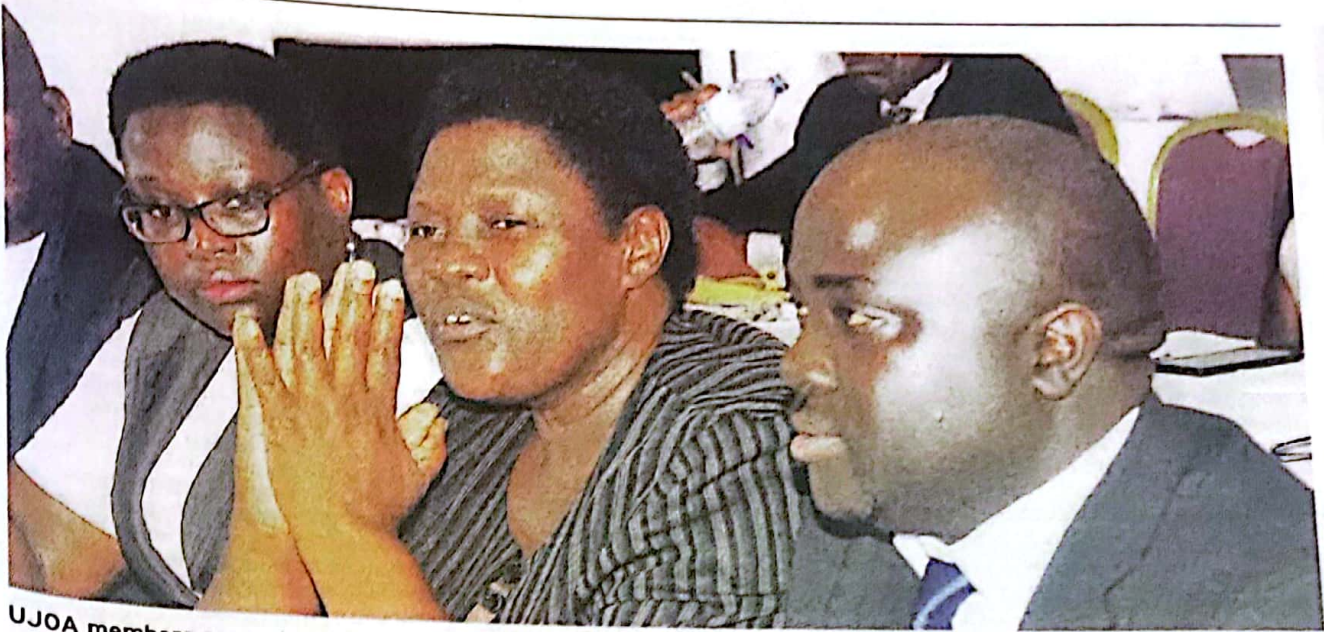


...ed with being an accessory (accomplice). However, they did additionally arrested by the Police with the help of vigilantes from a hideout in the city suburb of Kiwatule. He was in the company of Kyambadde, who is know the finer details of how he obtained the injuries. Kayima said clinic attendants checked the abandoned car and Showgrounds, the day before death. Shortly after she posted, neighbour who had witness



UJOA members appearing before the Public Service Commission yesterday. Photo by Wilfred Sanya

Govt urges judicial officers to be patient

By Hillary Nsambu

The Government has asked judicial officers to be patient as it negotiates with the Judiciary's top management over their demands, including salary enhancement.

The Government says the negotiations are still going on.

The Public Service Commission permanent secretary, John Geoffrey Mbabazi, told a meeting of the members of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) and the Uganda Judicial Officers Association (UJOA) yesterday that talks between the chairpersons of the appointing commissions with the finance minister had not been concluded.

UJOA is an umbrella body that brings together all judicial officers, including magistrates, High Court judges, justices of the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court justices and all the registrars of the courts of judicature.

JSC chairman Benjamin

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The officers want their conditions of service harmonised with those of other public officers in the other arms of government. Their demands include salary increment and transport.

Kabiito chaired the meeting that was also attended by Supreme Court justices Jotham Tumwesigye and Faith Mwendha.

The meeting at Kabira Country Club in Bukoto, Kampala, was also attended by High Court Judge Jane Kiggundu and the courts of judicature chief registrar, Paul Wolimbwa Gadenya, among other dignitaries.

Mbabazi said they had recommended that there should be a salary review commission in order to deal with the ad hoc fixing of salaries of particular agencies and individuals.

He said his ministry would soon be presenting to Cabinet a paper on the issue.

However, Mbabazi told the meeting that the President recently directed the ministry to comprehensively review the emoluments of the officials in all the ministries, departments and agencies.

Mbabazi also told the meeting that it was recommended that enhancing salaries for Government officials would only be done after 2020, unless the Government cut the funding for prioritised undertakings.

UJOA executive, led by its president Godfrey Kaweesa, who is also Iganga Chief Magistrate, reiterated the association's resolution to go on strike if the Government does not meet their demands by August 26 as per the resolution adopted during an extraordinary general meeting held on July 22.

"If the Government does not meet our demands, industrial action shall set in with effect from August 26," he warned.

"This means that we shall close all the courts in the whole country indefinitely because we feel the Judiciary is not independent and it is marginalised," he vowed.

Masaka Chief Magistrate Samuel Munobe, who is also UJOA's secretary, said putting the cost of living into proper context, a judicial officer's salary of sh1.2m a month (for a Grade One magistrate), leaves the magistrate in a very difficult situation. He noted that judicial officers are not allowed to have any side income like other government officers.

In July, the judicial officers voted to lay down their tools if the Government failed to address their welfare concerns within 30 days.

The judicial officers want their conditions of service harmonised with those of other public officers in the other two arms of government. Their demands include salary increment, transport to enhance land justice, medical insurance, housing and security.

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By Vivian

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