

We hold our doctors in high esteem

EDITOR: The stories in the *Saturday Vision* of November 11 about, the doctors and medical workers strike are disturbing. Unless they are politically motivated, my humble submission to the doctors and health workers is that the public holds you in high esteem and, therefore, do not abuse this trust.

Maybe one example will illustrate this. During the days of roadblocks, doctors and nurses were treated like angels and everybody wished they were like them. They were rarely checked.

They only needed to be in their medical overcoats with that instrument around their neck or for the nurses that white/pink/blue dress and that white thing on the head. Even when they were not in uniform, the public would plead for them and they would be

allowed to proceed hopefully to their places of work.

The rest of us would remain behind in the line to be cleared and some would not even make it. What did this mean? The untold reason was that "do not disturb or delay him/her because a person's life may be at risk". Even at fuel stations or any other place where there was lining up, doctors jumped the queue!

I would imagine the same would happen today, not because of their pay, but because they are in a noble profession. I take high exception of the Uganda Medical Association president's assertion that they are the highest qualified yet least paid.

Yes, a medicine course takes five years at university, but there other courses such as architecture that take

the same time. There could indeed be other courses. Therefore, taking more time of study does not mean you are the highest qualified!

Medicine is a noble calling, the same as the priesthood, but once a calling is compromised by money or self-exaltation, then we experience what we are seeing today!

True government doctors and health workers should be paid well and facilitated, but should you neglect a patient to die because certain demands are not yet sorted out?

I personally commend private hospitals and clinics, whose health workers are presumably not members of UMA, for working normally.

Doctors, we hold you in high esteem.

Joseph Muhumuza,
Former civil servant

PICTURE BY DRAKE SSENTONGO

Skill you unemployed

EDITOR: The Uganda, esp is worrying. Uganda Bui youth unerr This means supposed t work are ic vices such theft and r

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