

IGG was entitled to make findings

had not undergone the disciplinary process before the Health Service

that Prof Mbonye did not qualify to be shortlisted for the position a

House rejects EA court order to stop taxing BATU

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KAMPALA. The Speaker of Parliament, Ms Rebecca Kadaga, has rejected the East African Court of Justice (EACJ's) interim injunction that restrains Uganda from taxing British American Tobacco Uganda (BATU).

Ms Kadaga said the injunction is an attack on Uganda's sovereignty.

"I thought it was interesting [that] a 'junior court' can [restrict] an act of a sovereign Parliament," she said during plenary on Wednesday.

"...They [court] should have come here, to the Constitutional Court but not people sitting in Arusha to [order] on an Act of the National Assembly of Uganda."

Ms Kadaga urged the Attorney General, Mr William Byaruhanga, to file a certificate of urgency in the [EACJ's) Appellate Court to set aside the injunction.

“ I want the government to restate our sovereignty. People might sit in Arusha and say 'close Parliament,' ”

SPEAKER REBECCA KADAGA

"I think now you know why in December I rejected an attempt to bring Article 38 of the [East African Community] Treaty to tie the hands of Parliament. Now it has happened. So I want to ask the Attorney General to file a certificate of urgency - because this is to do with our revenue in the Appellate Court and appeal

against this decision," Ms Kadaga said.

Earlier, Kabula MP James Kakooza rising on a matter of national importance, referred the Speaker to EACJ's decision.

The decision followed BATU's petition, arguing that the excise duty Uganda Revenue Authority imposed on items Uganda imports from Kenya is very high and discriminatory.

The company said the move contravened the treaty for the establishment of the EAC as well as the Customs Union and Common Market protocols.

Most of the cigarettes BATU markets in Uganda are made in Kenya.

Mr Kakooza said excise duty is a domestic issue, adding that should Uganda adhere to the EACJ's injunction, Parliament "will never pass any tax law".

The State Minister for Planning, Mr David Bahati, said the government was "disturbed by the court's action.

"There is no way we can sit back and see the sovereignty of [Uganda] being tampered with," Mr Bahati said.