



KUSU management team, led by Secretary General Charles Mukhwaya (left) and University of Nairobi (UON) Chapter Chairperson Rose Mutungi during a press conference in Nairobi earlier today. Photo /JAMES KAESA

University of Nairobi workers threaten to down tools

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Workers at the University of Nairobi(UON) have threatened to down tools beginning Monday next week if the Salaries and Remuneration Commission(SRC) does not honour a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the institution. While addressing the media this morning, Kenya Universities Staff Union (KUSU) said they were disgusted with the interference by the

SRC in the smooth implementation of the Union's constitutionally and mutually concluded CBA with the employer(UON).

Secretary General KUSU Dr Charles G Mukhwaya said the agreed payments must be made latest by Sunday this week failure in which the SRC will take full responsibility of the consequences of the planned industrial action. "We demand that the commission concludes its work immediately and allows the University to pay her workers their mutual agreed allowances and other benefits forthwith" said Mukhwaya.

The Union and Employer in respect of Article 41(5) in the Bill of Rights of the constitutional of Kenya ,2010 mutually engaged and signed a CBA more than 3 months ago. Mukhwaya said the commission has failed its constitutional mandate to allow the employer to pay workers their dues. "Whereas the Commission that has an inherent role of ensuring industrial harmony in the public service sector,its failure to allow the employer who is more than willing to pay her/his workers,and yet it has allowed the same employer to implement a similar CBA for a section of workers in the university but also denying them their constitutional right to fair remuneration' noted Kukhwaya. Mukhwaya said the concerned workers have restrained themselves thereby giving the Commission adequate and reasonable time to conclude its analysis of the signed CBA and advice the employer. He observed that the patience and tremendous restraint exercised by the said workers,dialogue between parties has also failed to fast track the process of CBA implementation. "Their patience has now run out and they will not pander to the whim of the Commission"said Mukhwaya. "Subsequently workers have been pushed to the wall,they have no alternative but must now exercise their constitutional right" he added. - **By FRED MWANGI**