

Nigerian govt calls on striking doctors to suspend action

LAGOS

NIGERIA'S ministers of health and employment, labor and productivity on Monday called on the Nigeria Medical Association, a body of medical doctors, to suspend its nationwide strike.

The ministers made the appeal at a meeting with officials of the association at the instance of the House of Representatives Committee on Health.

Onyebuchi Chukwu, the Minister of Health, said the ministry was ever ready to work with the association to end the strike.

The minister said he was at the delegates meeting of the association to appeal to the striking doctors to call off the strike.

On his part, Emeka Wogu, the minister of employment, labor and productivity, appealed to the doctors to suspend the two weeks old strike for at least three months to allow the government and the association dialogue on the matter.

Earlier, the Chairman of the committee, Ndudi Elumelu said the strike was impacting on the health of Nigerians negatively.

He urged the doctors to suspend the strike for at least three months to allow the committee dialogue with relevant stakeholders to resolve the matter.

In a remark, Kayode Obembe, the President of the association, said the strike would continue unless the government addressed the issue of

relativity and skipping.

He said the association was not interested in embarking on strike unless the situation warranted it.

The latest strike embarked upon by members of the National Association of Resident Doctors has affected healthcare services in affected government-owned hospitals across Nigeria.

The association called on its members to embark on the nationwide strike to compel the federal government of Nigeria to pay outstanding salary arrears.

The association is also demanding proper implementation of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System by the government and the adequate funding of the residency training.