

# Museveni orders education ministry to oversee scouts

By Nicholas Wassajja

President Yoweri Museveni has instructed the Ministry of Education and Sports to take charge of the Uganda Scouts Movement in the country.

Museveni said a written follow-up to the Cabinet for further discussion and approval will be made soon to ensure effective implementation.

"The scouts' home should be under the Ministry of Education because it has infrastructure all over the country unlike Nakiwala's place (Florence Nakiwala is the state minister for youth) does not have branches. Education has schools up to the parish level. That is our policy and all these are government schools," the President said on Friday while officiating at the end of the annual Scouts jamboree (camp) at Kaazi in Makindye, Ssabagabo municipality, Wakiso district.

Earlier the state minister of works and the scouts chief commissioner, Gen. Katumba Wamala, informed the President that the scouts did not have a mother ministry.

"We are looking at either education because our training programmes are in that line or gender where youth and children who are our biggest membership are. We feel isolated and suffer budget line constraints because no one is in charge of us, so we ask you (the President) to offer guidance," Wamala said.

Museveni explained that the policy arrangement has in the past been hampered by local political differences between a former chief scout and Minister of Education that he declined



**President Museveni with scouts from St Anthony Primary School after the National Scouts Camp 2017 at Kaazi. He said the Scouts movement instills discipline among the members. Photos by Tony Rujuta**

to mention. He, however, argued that such a personal issue should not affect the Scouts movement.

Museveni applauded parents, students and individuals who are part of the scouts movement, saying its programmes instill discipline of the body, behavioural discipline and simple lifestyles.

Museveni, who doubles as the scouts patron, pledged to continue

improving the Kaazi camping site by fencing off the land to secure it from grabbers who he warned that will be cursed if they do not abandon the habit.

"Some people think they are clever, but they are attracting curses for themselves. In 1953, I was hearing about the Kaazi land when I was young. So how can one claim a land title from here. I advise them to

confess their sins and they shall be forgiven," Museveni said.

He promised the construction of the Najjannakumbi-Busabala road to ease access to Kaazi and to make the area rain-proof, before handing over sh50m as an annual contribution to development.

Katumba said this year, participants have acquired information communication and technology skills



**Gen. Katumba Wamala**

physical drills, road safety, leadership management patriotism and environmental conservation skills.

Organised under the theme, "Every Scout must plant two trees annually," Katumba estimated that if implemented, Uganda will have five million trees in ten years from now.

He revealed that Uganda will host the 2020 International Jamboree Scouts Camp and the East African Community zonal conference in December this year, activities that require at least sh720m for the preparations.

On behalf of the scouts community, 10-year-old Abel Juhimbazwe from J.O.Y Primary School, Masajja, praised the President for his contribution to the country's peace and development, especially in the areas of universal education and women emancipation.

Over 4,500 scouts participated in the event. The closing ceremony was attended by scouts board chairperson Lucy Nakyobe and Minister Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi.