

Well-fed children study better

BY VISION REPORTER

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Janet Museveni, who is currently on a countrywide sensitisation campaign to ensure that all children get a meal while at school. She called upon leaders at all levels to join hands in the struggle to promote a healthy lifestyle among children and enable their success in schooling.

"This is not just a government struggle. The education and health of our children is everyone's struggle. We want to cooperate with everyone; parents and teachers associations (PTAs), religious and cultural leaders, the community and all stakeholders," the First Lady said during a talk show programme at the Bunyoro Broadcasting Services radio station studios in Masindi Municipality on Wednesday evening.

"The children are our hope as a country and as families. It is only when our children are healthy that we shall also have a healthy and strong nation," she added.

She explained that children who are well fed are healthy and not stunted because their bodies are contented. They have a constant attention span in class, are happy and disciplined, as opposed to those children who are not fed. Children who are not well fed fall sick more often, miss classes and end up performing poorly at school.

She noted that her ministry has for quite long talked about parents feeding their children while at school but up to now, some children still stay hungry the whole day without any meal. "So, I have decided to come and use the radio to remind you, parents, about your responsibility of feeding your children both at school and at home," she told the people of Bunyoro region.

"I do not think there is need to make laws to force you, parents, to feed your children," she said and



First Lady Janet Museveni with local leaders and staff of Bunyoro Broadcasting Services

asked the people how they would feel if they were to go without a meal all day.

She said parents need not to be reminded about the basic needs including food, shelter and clothing that they have to provide for their children at all times until the children are old enough to fend for themselves.

She spoke about options of ensuring that children get a meal while at school, including the children carrying packed meals for lunch from home, those who can to pay money for the meals at school and those who stay near the school to return home for lunch.

"A parent who does not want to pack food for the child and cannot even contribute money for food at school, does not want the child to study", she argued.

She emphasised that President Yoweri Museveni is against teachers chasing those children who cannot afford to pay the food charges

decided by PTAs and he advises that those children should instead be allowed to bring their packed food from home.

She encouraged parents to work together to provide for their families and urged local governments to formulate by-laws that will compel men to look after their children.

When responding to a question about why the government had decided to increase salaries for science teachers only, the First Lady said they are starting with science-related professions because they take a longer time while undergoing training, they are fewer and they need to be motivated to stop them from running away in search of greener pastures. She urged other cadres to understand and accept that this is a process and they will also eventually benefit.

"We should not think that all things will be equal at the same time. The Government's desire is for everyone to get a good salary, but it

cannot be done at ago," she said.

She explained that the Government has withdrawn funding private secondary schools under the public-private partnership and will instead utilise the funds to establish comprehensive seed schools that will have classrooms, laboratories, administration blocks and teachers' houses in those sub-counties without a secondary school to ensure that those children who cannot afford private schools also access education.

She encouraged the communities to report school heads who go against directives from the education ministry, such as increasing the school fees before they are granted permission by the permanent secretary.

She also reiterated that it is not fair to subject a child to pre-registration exams, saying all children in candidate classes should be given a chance to sit for the final examinations without discrimination.

Lions Club
tree planting

BY ASHRAF KASIRYE

The 15th multiple district convention of Lions Club kicked off on Friday at Africana in Kampala, with a series of activities which included a health care Constitutional Square competition for children's environmental protection the launch of Lions Kampala Capital City (KCCA) Naguru K School.

The conference delegates from Seychelles, South Tanzania.

Lions Club president Sar appealed to such as Kan urban centre for planting their effort the count limited to and high learning

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Trade Organisation' with Trump + Seven killed in Guatemala prison riot ++

++ China hails 'courage' of North, South Korean leaders after historic meet