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Cabinet approves sh200m for more schools

By John Agaba
and Petra Amito

The Government has secured sh710b, of which significant amounts will be focused on the construction of new schools and renovation of dilapidated ones.

The plan is to construct 229 secondary schools and 762 primary ones, according to finance minister Matia Kasaija.

The minister made the revelation at Kiswa Primary School in Kampala during a tree planting drive yesterday.

The Government dreams of an ambitious project to have at least a secondary school in each sub-county and a primary school in every parish.

Aggrey Kibenge, the undersecretary at the education ministry, said sh450b was earmarked for education and sh260b for health.

This will support the delivery of decentralised services in the health and education sectors.

Kibenge added that were discussing the possibility of acquiring additional resources with the World Bank for the support of secondary education.

The First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, traversed the country last month, commissioning a total of 54 schools which have been erected, through a Uganda School and Teacher

BETWEEN THE LINES

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Effectiveness Project (UTSEP).

The \$100m project targeted construction and refurbishment works at 138 public primary schools countrywide. The remaining 84 schools, the ministry says, will be commissioned in December.

Kasaija said education is the spine of any economy.

The Government has so far allocated an additional sh332b to the education sector the coming financial year.

The allocations amount to sh2.4 trillion, from up sh2.1 trillion last year.

Of the total allocations, monies to primary education inclusive of salaries have increased from sh1,006b to sh1,132b.

With the increment, the unit cost allocation per child in primary school will stand at sh10,000.

The Government made a commitment to continuously enhance teachers' salaries. Primary teachers' salaries have been increased from about sh380,000 in 2012/2013 to

sh540,000 today.

Kasaija reiterated achievements of the National Resistance Movement, among them the Universal Primary Education programme.

The minister challenged pupils at the school to study hard so as to become responsible.

During the function, staff from the finance ministry

planted trees across the school's compound. Kasaija used the opportunity to call on every Ugandan to plant at least two trees a year, as the country continues efforts to conserve environment.

The school headteacher, Aisha Namaganda Ntege, said the school, which has a population of about 2,000 pupils, lacks classrooms.

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