

THE FIRST LADY INVITED THE AMBASSADOR TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE OF FINLAND'S EDUCATION

By Vision Reporter

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs. Janet Museveni, has said as the National Curriculum Development Centre reviews the educational curriculums that have existed for about 50 years, it needs to benchmark other countries to study how best they can make it easier for Uganda's children to access quality education.

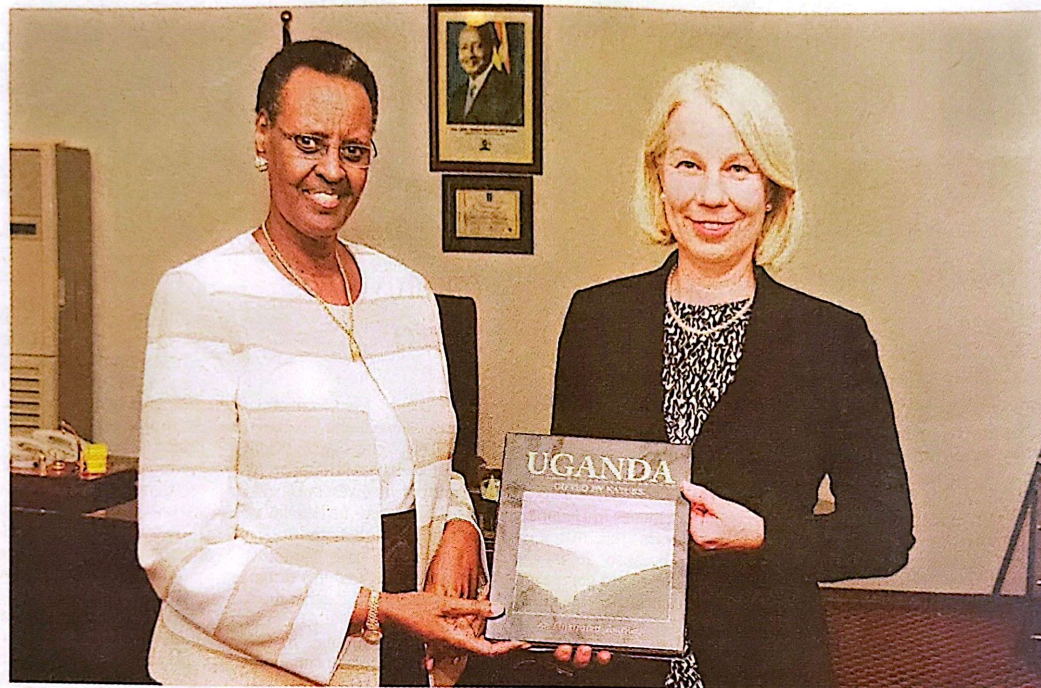
She said: "Currently, the children spend a long time at school and the workload is too heavy for them. We want to make it easy for the children to enjoy studying and look forward to the next day of schooling."

Mrs. Museveni added that Uganda's current educational curriculum did not allow children to relax and learn without thinking of being judged by examiners. "They do not concentrate on learning and knowing but just reproduce what they are taught to get marks," she said. She was meeting Finland's Ambassador to Uganda, Ms Tarja Fernández, at State House Nakasero on Monday.

The First Lady had invited the ambassador to discuss and share the experience of Finland's educational curricula. In attendance was the director of the National Curriculum Development Centre, Grace Baguma.

According to a release from her office, Mrs. Museveni was particularly interested in the hours the children spend at school, the number of subjects taught, language of instruction in lower primary and the type

Uganda ready to learn from other curricula – First Lady



The First Lady, Janet Museveni (left), handing the *Uganda, Gifted By Nature* book to Ambassador Tarja Fernandez at State House Nakasero on Monday

of assessment.

"It would be good to know that there are other systems that work well and we can

learn from them and adjust where possible," she said.

Ambassador Tarja Fernández explained that the core issue

in Finland's school system are the teachers who should all be university trained. She said to be allowed into the teaching

profession, one must have obtained very high marks. She added that the teachers are highly respected and valued in

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society.

She also shared that Finland's population was only about 5.5 million people and, therefore, the classes usually have about 24 children.

The children start primary school at seven years and the language of instruction is Finnish. The school programme for lower grades is short from 9:00am to 2:00pm and there is continuous assessment with only one national examination after 12 years in school.

She said the emphasis in Finland's school system was put on learning rather than testing.



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