

Provide sanitary care for girls – Kadaga

By Vision Reporter

The Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, has called on the community and district leadership in Lamwo to ensure good sanitary hygiene and provide changing rooms for schoolgirls as one way to promote girl child education.

She said parliamentarians heeded the public outcry over the lack of affordable sanitary pads, which were affecting girls' education and pushed for the scrapping of taxes on pads.

"The Government scrapped taxes on the pads starting with the current financial year 2017/2018 and this was aimed at enabling girls and women afford the product for the good of their health," Kadaga said.

"This was a tax to be paid by only women. It was therefore also a discriminatory tax," she added.

Kadaga was speaking at a corporate social responsibility event on at Pangira Primary School in Lamwo district. The event was organised by the



Speaker Kadaga with girls who got sanitary pads at Pangira Primary School

Parliament in order to distribute reusable pads to schoolgirls.

Last year, over 10,000 pads were raised through cash contributions from MPs and staff to the cause. The pads, which cost sh6,500 on the open market, can be used for up to 12 months.

Kadaga noted that despite

efforts to ensure affordability of such necessities for women, they were still out of reach for them, especially pupils in rural schools.

The Speaker also noted the poor completion rates and performance of girls in the district, where out of 19 candidates in the 2017 Primary

Leaving Examinations, only one was a girl.

Lamwo district Woman MP Molly Lanyero encouraged the girls not feel stigmatised by menstruation, saying that it was a normal biological process.

Rose Ayaka (Maracha MP) and Evelyn Chemutai (Bukwo MP), while speaking at the

event, called on men and boys to support girls to remain in school and shun early marriages.

The district chairperson, John Komakech, called on Government to take over some of the 30 community schools in the area to improve the level of education.

"We request the Government to allocate about sh100m annually to improve the education sector in the Acholi sub-region," said Komakech. He said they have eight parishes without a primary school and six sub-counties without secondary schools.

The district education officer, Barnabas Langoyo, lauded Parliament for its goodwill, noting that the programme will go a long way in promoting the education of girls.

The CSR campaign is one of Parliament's programmes to promote girls' education through sensitisation of communities to support girls through the provision of sanitary pads.