

AS OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM STATES, PUT GOD FIRST IN WHATEVER YOU DO — MRS JANET MUSEVENI

By Donald Kiirya

The First Lady and education minister, Mrs Janet Museveni, has underscored the major role played by nurses and midwives in health service delivery and urged them to always be kind and tender to the people they care for since their profession is a calling from God.

Mrs Museveni made the remarks during her monitoring tour of Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery in Jinja district recently.

"As our national anthem states, put God first in whatever you do because you, as nurses and midwives, do a big part in the health sector by saving lives of people," the First Lady said.

Mrs Museveni said it was unfortunate and sad that some nurses do not treat people well yet their profession is a calling from God to serve fellow men and women. She urged student nurses to obey the Lord by serving women and men who are vulnerable.

"If nurses have that heart and know that God is watching, that would be enough. When He blesses you, it might not be the money you are looking for right now, but God will find a way," the First Lady said.

"I appreciate the level of nurses you pass out and the level you exhibit as an institution while training these student nurses. I pray that the student nurses you are training in this institute carry what they have learnt and implement it wherever they will be posted for duty," she said.

Before addressing stakeholders in a meeting at the institute, the First Lady commissioned a water project that was funded by MMIROR, a non-governmental organisation and further commissioned a 14-seater van that was purchased using funds

Nurses, midwives key in health service delivery, says First Lady



Bernard Bazaale (right), a student at the Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery, showing the First Lady (second-left) how a patient can be cared for while in hospital during her visit at the school recently. Centre is Kusolo.

Photo by Donald Kiirya

generated by the school.

Loyce Kusolo, the principal of Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery, enumerated that the institution faces, which included inadequate staff, tutors not being on government payroll, inadequate infrastructure

in form of classroom and hostels for accommodation for tutors and students, as well as insufficient training equipment used by students during their practical sessions.

"Most of the salaries of staff members are paid using local

governing council funds. Even the new school van was purchased using these local funds," Kusolo said.

She further requested the Government, through the First Lady, for funds to develop the Masese land that was given to

them by Jinja Municipal Council for expansion of their institution.

"I also request the education ministry to consider including our tutors on the payroll, so that we can be able to save the local funds used for paying their salaries for other development

programmes within the institute," Kusolo said.

She said this year, National Forestry Authority gave them 10 acres of land located on Katosi Road in Mukono, for tree planting.

Kusolo said they also acquired six acres of land at Bugaya sub-county in Buyende district, on which they plan to construct a campus and extend nursing and midwives training programmes to the district.

She added that the van will also be used to transport students for practical trainings and outreaches in various health centres in Buyende district.

"We initiated a community outreach in Buyende, to help the most vulnerable communities in the district. We put up a model outreach for two years," Kusolo said.

She revealed that they were in the advanced stages of breaking away from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, to which they are affiliated

Kusolo said the process was about to be completed by the National Council for Higher Education and once it is done, all their nine programmes would be solely under their control.

Johnson Musinguzi, the academic registrar at the school, said the water project would save the school about sh12m in monthly water bills.

Present at the function were the state minister for lands, Persis Namuganza; Commissioner for BT/VET Dr Hajati Safnah Museene; the commissioner for secondary education Standards, Benson Kule; the chairperson of the board of Jinja School of Nursing and Midwifery, George Bagambisa; district leaders, district education officers from Busoga region and chief administrative officers, among others.

By Gerald Tenywa

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