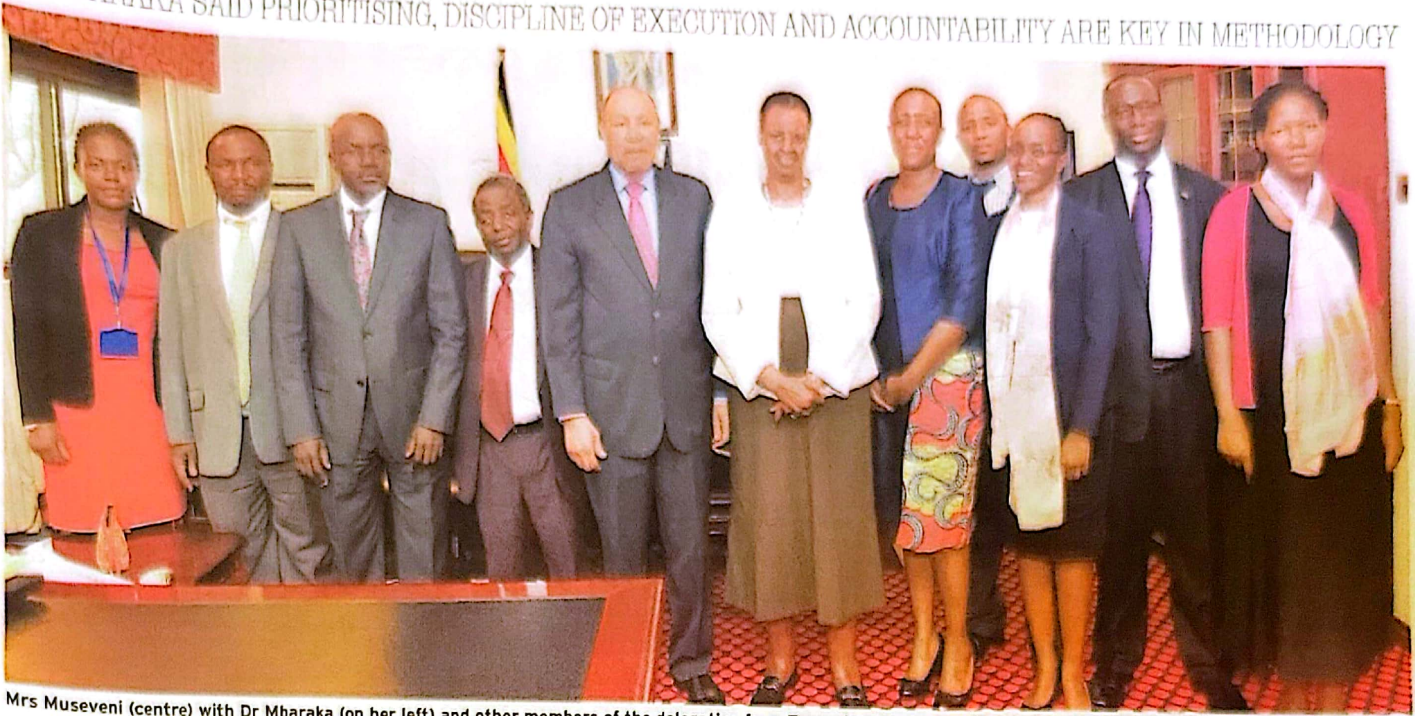


DR MBARAKA SAID PRIORITISING, DISCIPLINE OF EXECUTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARE KEY IN METHODOLOGY



Mrs Museveni (centre) with Dr Mbaraka (on her left) and other members of the delegation from Tanzania, plus senior officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports

Education ministry preparing for learning generation lab approach

By Vision reporter

Preparations by the education and sports ministry to conduct a Learning Generation Lab workshop are in high gear.

The Learning Generation Lab workshop brings together key stakeholders to jointly analyse problems impeding successful delivery of education services in the country and their causes and to recommend priorities for reform and budget for their successful implementation. With its emphasis on direct participation and inclusion of multiple voices in the process, the lab helps to create a home-grown transformation and action plan that can spark genuine behaviour change and new ways of doing business for faster and better results.

The international project is being championed in 14 pioneer African countries by former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete from

the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity (the Education Commission), a major global initiative which works to reverse the lack of financing for education around the world in order to achieve equal education opportunity.

On Friday, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, met officials from Tanzania, affiliated to the Education Commission whom she hosted at State House, Nakasero.

According to a release from the First Lady's office, the team, led by advisor to the Education Commission Dr Omari Issa Mbaraka included Dr Ezekiel Linda Margaret Kokulamuka, Kamugisha Gerase Mugisha and Ndunguru Neema Janet. The meeting was also attended by officials from the education ministry who included the permanent secretary, Alex Kakooza, and undersecretary Aggrey David Kibenge.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The Learning Generation Lab emphasises direct participation and inclusion of multiple voices in the process of learning and, thus, helps to create a home-grown transformation and action plan that can spark genuine behaviour change and new ways of doing business for faster and better results.

The Education Commission team, which had been in Uganda since July 30, held consultative meetings with various stakeholders in the education sector, in preparation for the Education Commission Learning Generation Lab Workshop

During the meeting at State House, Mrs Museveni said the team at the Ministry of Education and Sports is eager to see a change. She, however,

observed that there is a need for mindset change and determination of all stakeholders to implement the Lab methodology.

She commended the team from Tanzania and noted that sharing the experience of Tanzania, which successfully implemented the Education Commission Learning Generation Lab, will give Uganda mileage.

"We shall rely on you to lead us on this journey," she said.

Dr Mbaraka said all 14 pioneering African countries had been assessed and Uganda is among countries in Group One, together with Ghana and Tunisia. The other participating countries are Tanzania, Ethiopia, Namibia, Botswana, Gabon, Chad, Nigeria, Congo, Ghana, Malawi, Cote d'Ivoire and Mozambique

He reported that during consultations, his team received positive feedback and support for the new lab methodology. Stakeholders

in Uganda who participated in the consultations included heads of directorates and departments in the ministry, education development partners, civil society organisations and the delivery unit in the Office of the Prime Minister

Mbaraka pointed out that the three pillars in this methodology include prioritising, discipline of execution and accountability throughout the system and focusing less on the inputs and more on the outputs. He also explained that there was a need to establish a delivery unit in the education ministry, whose members should be recruited on merit from different backgrounds and experiences.

The permanent secretary in the education ministry, Alex Kakooza, reported that the next step in the process is to lobby stakeholders to mobilise resources to facilitate the activities that will be agreed on during the workshop.