



Mrs Museveni with Cronin and his spouse Susan Fraser and Niyonzima on her left. On her right are Kirwan and Collins at State House Nakasero on Monday. With them are officials from the education ministry

By Vision Reporter

The First Lady and education minister, Mrs Janet Museveni, has lauded H.E. Donal Cronin, the outgoing Irish ambassador, for the smooth and easy working relationship he has exhibited during his tour of duty in Uganda.

"Working with you has been so easy and instrumental. We will miss you and we release you with difficulty," the First Lady told Ambassador Cronin, who called on her at State House Nakasero on Monday to bid her farewell.

A release from the First Lady's office states that she acknowledged and appreciated the strong ties and co-operation between Uganda and Ireland. She also commended Ireland for the continued support to Uganda's education sector and their role in the Karamoja

Development Partners.

She thanked the Irish Aid Development Co-operation programme, which takes into account the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), education, governance and HIV/AIDS prevention.

"We have many similarities in our history as Ireland. We, therefore, value our relationship over the years and we hope to continue strengthening it," she said.

Cronin appreciated the

Education minister appreciates outgoing Irish ambassador

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engagement with Mrs Museveni in her former docket as Minister for Karamoja and now as education minister,

which he said are the two key ministries for Ireland's development co-operation.

He acknowledged the strong

impact the senior citizens' grant is having in the districts of Karamoja and the other districts in Uganda, where the programme is being piloted in partnership with the UK and Uganda Government. He, however, recommended that the financial contributions on the part of the Government for SAGE be honoured so that the roll out can be achieved.

Cronin succeeded Anne Webster in 2013, after he was promoted to ambassador.

He informed the First Lady

that his wife, Susan Fraser (who attended the meeting) and their four children, have spent nearly 11 years in Uganda and consider it their second home. He said they are leaving reluctantly, especially because of their children's friends.

Cronin was accompanied to State House by Frank Kirwan, the head of co-operation; Frances Collins, the second secretary and the personal assistant to the ambassador, Justine Niyonzima.