supplied as the country awaits the revival of Uganda Airlines.

"The parties commended the beginning of practical co-operation

the communiqué noted.

The three-day meeting sessions in Moscow started on Wednesday last

Germany and [illegible]

Regional flights for Uganda [illegible] will commence by November, while [illegible]

No stone will be left unturned to ensure children feed at school, says First Lady

By Vision Reporter

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, has said she wants to ensure that parents take up their responsibility of providing school meals for their children.

She said it was for this reason she went around the country, launching the School Feeding and Nutrition Campaign

Through this campaign, the First Lady has continued calling on leaders at all levels in the local governments, religious denominations and cultural institutions, as well as their affiliated organisations and the media, to join her in reminding parents of this cardinal role of feeding their children while at school.

Mrs Museveni, who was hosted at Radio Buddu in Masaka last Tuesday, said a big percentage of children still spend the day at school without food and that is why she had opted to use the radio to reach both mothers and fathers and to remind them of their responsibility to feed their children.

She said some parents have not been providing food for their children while at school because they had misunderstood that with the onset of Universal Primary Education (UPE), the Government had taken over all roles, including feeding the children.



Left to right: Mutazindwa, Mbabaali (third-left) Kityo, First Lady and education minister Mrs Janet Museveni, Ssekindi, Mulindwa and Mark Tamale, the general manager of Radio Buddu (extreme right) at the radio station in Masaka after the talk show to mobilise parents to feed their children while at school. PPU photo

Roles of parents

According to a press release from her office, the minister clarified that the roles of parents in the UPE programme are clear.

They include feeding their children, buying uniform, pens and books, while the Government pays the teachers, constructs classrooms and provides instructional materials.

Mrs Museveni added that it was also a child's right for the parents to provide food, shelter, clothing and healthcare and, therefore, said those who failed to respond to such a call would have violated their children's right.

"Local governments will be instrumental in this area. But I appeal to the media to also educate the community about the issue of rights and obligations," she said.

"We cannot risk the lives of our children who are the future of families and the nation. Parents have the responsibility of caring for their children, until they grow into adults who can fend for themselves," she stressed

Haji Umar Ssekasamba, the programme moderator, wondered why the Government does not just charge parents an amount of money for feeding their children at school.

Mrs Museveni explained that UPE and Universal Secondary Education were introduced because many children were not accessing education because parents could not afford paying school fees. Therefore, levying extra charges could defeat the objective of the Government's programmes.

She, however, suggested that well off parents in urban areas could pay some money to the school so that their children receive lunch, while those who could not, could pack food for their children.

Relatedly, children who live near schools can be allowed to go back home for lunch and return for afternoon classes.

Mrs Museveni also advised that in cases where schools encourage a parent to contribute food items, there was need to study the cost of preparing this food at school.

Safety and hygiene

About the safety and hygiene of the food that children carry to school, the First Lady said the food committee in each school should ensure that there are facilities in the classrooms where children can keep their food containers.

She said the ministry will ensure there is water in schools and emphasise good hygiene.

During her visit to the studios, Mrs Museveni was accompanied by the chairperson of Masaka Jude Mbabaali; the Kalungu Woman MP, Aisha Ssekindi; Central Region Youth MP Babirye Kityo; the commissioner for Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training standards Abdullah Mutazindwa and the district inspector of schools for Masaka, J.B. Mulindwa.

The leaders from the Greater Masaka thanked the First Lady for initiating the School Feeding and Nutrition Campaign and pledged to continue mobilising the parents to fulfil their role of feeding their children, both at home and at school.

Mbabaali pledged to use his position as chairperson of all district chairperson in Greater Masaka to encourage district councils to pass bylaws that compel parents to fulfil their role of feeding their children.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Mrs Museveni said it was a child's right for the parents to provide food, and healthcare, therefore, those who failed to respond would have violated children's rights.

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