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Debate Corner This Week's Motion...



Free lunch should be provided in all schools

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The idea of providing free lunch in all schools is becoming an important topic in Uganda and around the world. Many children go to school hungry because their families cannot afford enough food. This affects their ability to learn and stay in school. Some people believe that offering free lunch would help solve this problem, while others think it may not be practical or affordable. This debate helps us explore whether free school meals are a good idea for every child.

Affirmative side

- Many children come to school without having eaten anything because their families cannot afford food. When children are hungry, they find it hard to concentrate in class. Free lunch would help them stay focused and perform better in school.
- Some children stay at home because there is no food at school or even at home. If schools provide free lunch, more children will come to school every day and not drop out.
- In some schools, only children from rich families can buy lunch or snacks. Free lunch would ensure all

pupils, whether rich or poor, have equal access to food, creating fairness in schools.

- Healthy meals give children the nutrients they need to grow strong and avoid diseases. Free lunch can be planned to include healthy food like beans, matooke, posho, or vegetables.

Negative side

- Providing free lunch for every child in Uganda would cost a lot of money. The government might not have enough funds to feed millions of pupils every day.
- If the government provides free lunch, some parents may stop taking

responsibility for feeding their children, thinking the school will do everything.

- There are cases where money meant for food is stolen or used wrongly by school officials. This could lead to poor-quality meals or no meals at all.
- Some children have special diets or food allergies. It may be hard to provide food that satisfies everyone's needs.

Rebuttal

Those against the motion say that free lunch is too expensive and parents may become lazy. But the cost of providing food is small compared to the benefit of

having educated, healthy children in the future. Also, parents are more likely to support education if they know their children will be fed at school. Instead of worrying about misuse, we should improve monitoring and management of school feeding programmes.

In conclusion, the motion "Free lunch should be provided in all schools" has valid points on both sides.

However, many pupils in Uganda struggle to learn on an empty stomach. Providing free lunch can help them stay in school, perform well, and grow into healthy adults. With proper planning and support, this can become a reality for all schools.

