WHAT ISSUES DO YOU WANT FIXED IN EDUCATION SECTOR



Eunice Apio: A hungry teacher cannot teach a hungry pupil. On many occasions, hunger has made pupils miss school.



Charles Kilama: I hope that by 2040, all teachers in secondary schools will have decent accommodation.



Denis Jjuuko: We need schools that apply latest technology that is applicable to education and giving children real life skills.



Joel Ogwang: Institute strict half-year performance appraisals and hire teachers based on contracts.



Sue Wa Karamuzi: Computer coding lessons should be conducted in A'level schools in the country.



Kakama Velázquez: I want all schools in the country to teach both the local and the international curricula.

Education Ugandans want by 2040

By Vision Reporters

"At times private institutions offer better quality education than the public ones. This must change. All public schools should be the best in all spheres, since our Government is already increasing investment in education," says Jackline Kobusinge, a graduate teacher.

Denis Jjuuko, a researcher and communications expert, says: "We need public schools that are more effective than they are now by 2040. We need schools that apply latest technology related to education and giving children life skills."

All these are personal dreams, they are achievable. Christopher Reeves, an American actor, who rose to stardom through his portrayal of the comic book superhero Superman, says, "So many of our dreams at first seem impossible and then when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable."

Considering Kobusinge and Jjuuko's dreams, *Mwalimu* asked other Ugandans what their dream is for the country's education sector by 2040.

The country's Vision 2040 builds on the progress that has been made in addressing the strategic bottlenecks that have constrained Uganda's socio-economic development since her independence.

Ugandans' dreams

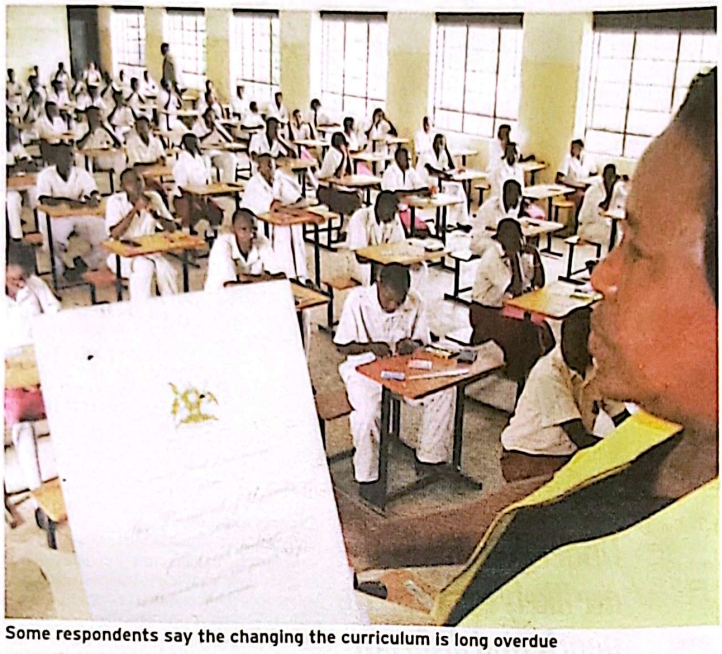
The views obtained from Ugandans, in a mini-survey done by *Mwalimu* show people's dreams range from overhauling the education system, supporting teachers, to having good meals for pupils and teachers during lunch.

Kakama Velázquez, a Senior Six student in vacation, wants all schools in the country to teach both the local and the international curricula. "But they must also be affordable," he insists.

There are less that 30 country and there are a few schools which teach both the local and international curricula.

Former journalist, Joel Ogwang, wants a future where a number of services in the education sector are privatised and all civil servants' performance appraised regularly.

"Institute strict half-year performance appraisals and hire based on contracts. As it is, we have many 'bean weevils' picking pay cheques



Some respondents say the changing the curriculum is long overdue

SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

Miriam Kawoozo @ MKawoozo
The year 2040 is very far. The future starts now and not tomorrow. Personally, I yearn to see a decent minimum wage for all working class people irrespective of their profession and work areas.

Kellorenz @kellorenz
I would like to see enough schools and technical institutions, especially in the rural areas to reduce the long distances students move.

Stella Mbabazi @ RaxzIStella
A sizeable number of pupils in a class to create relationships at three levels necessary for academic, emotional and physical excellence.

Shepherd Stephen Mpandi
I would like to see a new syllabus and curriculum where one studies for a particular job which should start in Primary Five and not in A'level as it is today.

Harriet Juliet Amuat
The Government should provide uniform and shoes for school children.

SURVEY ✓

A New Vision voter survey of 2016, a big percentage of a sample of the 15.4 million registered voters said their main concern in education was the high school charges, low funding from the Government, low salaries for teachers, poor school facilities and inadequate schools.

says.

According to the Government Standing Orders section A, a staff performance appraisal is part of the performance management system for the public service. It is used as a management tool for establishing the extent to which set targets within overall goals of the organisation are achieved.

Sue Wa Karamuzi wants to see computer coding lessons conducted in A'level schools in the country. "We need more technology companies by 2040," she says.

Lower education cost

Esther Nama, one of the respondents says: "I would like to see less of the dictatorial attitude of private schools." She says private schools have raised the cost of education through exorbitant charges.

Her argument is supported by the fact that much as the Government allocates 14% of its total budget to funding education, the 2016 National Education Accounts (NEA) report shows that the highest burden of education in this country is borne by households — parents at 47.23%, the Government funded 27.21% and development partners 24.65%.

In a *New Vision* voter survey sample of the 15.4 registered voters said their main concern in education was the high school charges, low funding from the Government, low salaries for teachers, poor school facilities and inadequate schools.

Studies show that with fees averaging $450 per year in primary and secondary schools, many families simply cannot afford to send their children to school. In addition, Uganda Bureau of Standards report shows that only 40% of villages in Uganda have a secondary school. So, for many children without any means of transport, school is just too far away.

On June 1-14, Vision group will bring you experts' views for Ugandans

Other education issues

With the desire to have quality education, David Mwebesa, a parent in Fort Portal, says he would love to see more schools with playgrounds. He also wants to see more co-curricular activities. "This is the best way to train an all-round child by 2040," he says.

Sandra Marunga says her dream is to see children reporting to school at 8:00am and not 6:00am as is the case today.

Nancy Muvawala from Masaka wishes Uganda could have an education that curbs unemployment. "I want to see more schools and universities churning our skilled people who can start their own enterprises."

Eunice Apio, a Primary Two teacher at Anaka Primary School in Nwoya district, wants both pupils and teachers to have meals at school.

Her view is the current campaign being championed by the Minister of Education and Sports Janet Museveni. "A hungry teacher cannot teach a hungry pupils," she says, stressing that on many occasions, hunger has made pupils miss schools, or even perform poorly.

Charles Kilama, another teacher at Anaka Primary School in Nwoya district, northern Uganda, hopes that by 2040, all teachers in secondary schools will have decent accommodation.

Kilama's argument stems from an acute shortage of accommodation for teachers in public schools. Only primary teachers posted in hard-to-reach areas are entitled to a top-up allowance of 30% of their basic pay to cater for accommodation.

"But, worrying to note is that at times, these allowances are not systematic and most of the time remain at the discretion of the school," Kilama says.

He would want a scenario "Where by 2040, all of us who are working in Government-aided or public schools are accommodated by the Government."

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