

Why parents should be active in their children's studies

EDITOR: The *New Vision*, school guide of January 23, titled; "ever increasing fees, top on parents' concerns;" gave an analysis of the different areas that most parents thought should be prioritised in the education sector, if the country is to produce quality students in secondary schools.

However, the question that has over the years remained unanswered is, do parents take keen interest in the education of their children while at school?

Overtime, different commentators have raised the need of parents taking an active role in seeing how their children progress in school, but few have endeavoured to take note of this call from day one till the end of the academic calendar.

This has led to hundreds of children being dependent on the teacher as a second parent.

In so doing, most children get the feeling that as long as their school needs are met by my parent (s) the teacher shall do his/her part.

In reference to the just released of PLE 2017 results

where the failure rates were about 56,000 students countrywide, we as parents must now interrogate why our children are not performing as expected even with all the investment made in their seven year education path? If in November, 2017 the World Bank annual education report, Uganda was mentioned as one of the countries in which the pupils are finding hard to read and count in addition to the teachers, then there must be an analysis if it is the teachers or parents who are not doing their role.

Excuses must not be entertained, if the children are assisted by the parents whenever it is necessary in order to boost the learners' ability to build self-confidence.

In addition, the Government has to put in place policies that encourage parents to become monitors of their children's education at all levels for the country to reap from its investment in the sector rather than continuing to lament and blame each other whenever examination results are released and also when they

graduate from university or tertiary institutions.

With parents taking keen interest in their children's education, this can facilitate their performance hence; echoing the call by the President in his Liberation Day, 2018 speech that more needs to be done to guide the youth in avoiding the bad vices of society like drug abuse.

This will ultimately make Uganda to achieve the educational goals by 2030 and its desire to become a middle income country by 2040.

So, to measure such achievement, all stakeholders, mostly the parents, have to start getting interested in what goes on in the classroom for their children to appreciate and become change agents in life than what we see today where few parents actually step in their children's classroom when they are being taught.

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