

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IS BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN EIGHT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

By Vision Reporter

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, has thanked the African Development Bank (ADB) for their support to Uganda and specifically the education sector.

She cited the ongoing infrastructure development and capacity building projects under the ADB HEST Project in the eight institutions of higher learning, including Makerere, Kyambogo, Mbarara, Gulu, Muni and Busitema universities plus Uganda Management Institute and Makerere University Business School Nakawa.

Mrs. Museveni was meeting ADB's executive director, Dr. Nyamajeje Caleb Wegoro, who called on her at State House Nakasero on Monday. The meeting was also attended by Dr. John Chrysostom Muyingo (state minister for higher education), Rosemary Seninde (state minister for primary education), education permanent secretary Alex Kakooza, Robert Odok Ocheng (director of higher, technical and vocational training) and the ADB V project coordinators.

"I have visited some of the ADB HEST projects in the public universities which are doing well and have helped these universities to overcome the lack of space that was prevailing," Mrs Museveni said.

According to a release from her office, Mrs Museveni said Uganda spent some time without developing the infrastructure in the social services sector, making it lag behind and was stagnant as the population was growing. She, therefore, noted the need for more support for the universities to put up sufficient structures that can accommodate large populations. She cited Makerere, which is the oldest university in the country, whose infrastructure needs restoration.

"We will continue to work with ADB till our institutions become modern and are truly

First Lady thanks ADB for support to education sector



First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Mrs Janet Museveni and the executive director of the African Development Bank, Dr Nyamajeje Caleb Wegoro, during a meeting at State House Nakasero. PPU photo

transformed," she said.

Skills development

The minister also pointed out the need to address the skills development challenge in the country. "We must equip the technical institutes and also get instructors equipped with the required expertise to impart to our young people.

Even those young people, such as the unemployed graduates, are going to be taken for skills training so that they can employ themselves,"

Mrs Museveni said.

Wegoro, who was on a working visit, commended Uganda for being one of the best performing countries among those receiving funding from the ADB. He said as Uganda continues to perform well, the bank will also continue to support various areas and the allocation will continue to be better.

He revealed that the board of directors of the ADB recently approved Uganda's Country Strategy Paper for 2017-2021,

which focuses on infrastructure development and skills and capacity development. He said generally, the ADB projects are doing well and the bank wants to make sure that it maximises the achievements made in the projects.

"We need to continue supporting education and health because they are the software for development," Wegoro said.

He said ADB wants more resources to go towards skills development and education

training. He emphasised the need to skill people on the African continent to ensure innovations, instead of always hiring experts from foreign countries.

More funding options

Wegoro explained the different windows of funding at their bank from which Uganda can benefit. These include the ADB, ADF and the Nigeria Trust Fund that form the African Development Bank Group, China's Africa

Growing Together Fund and the Korean Fund, among others.

Wegoro advised that Uganda can apply for support under the ADB core high-fives, namely, Light up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialise Africa, Integrate Africa and Improve People's Livelihoods.

Muyingo and Seninde said the compliment of Uganda's good performance coming from ADB is exciting, energising and motivating. Muyingo also pointed out the need for support in addressing the challenge of students' accommodation at public universities and technical institutions.

"We will continue to work with ADB till our institutions are transformed."

Education minister

Wegoro was accompanied to the meeting by his advisor, Amos Kipronoh Cheptoo, Sebastian Okeke, the officer in charge of the ADB Uganda office and Dr Peter Ogwang Ogwal, the task manager for the ADB V project.

The ADB delegation visited several projects including Busitema University. Last year, Wegoro visited Nabumali High School where ADB provided Internet connectivity

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