

Curriculum centre to focus on skills

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Dr Grace Baguma, the executive director of the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC), has said they are going to benchmark on the best curriculum development practices at the forthcoming international conference on curriculum, with a focus on innovative ways to skill students.

Speaking at the Uganda Media Centre last week, Baguma said NCDC was looking at strategies that would help them rethink and revise the secondary school education curriculum into one that is focused on addressing the issue of unemployment among youths in the country.

"We will look at strategies to revive it, rethink and revise the curriculum to replace classroom teaching with experiential learning, enhance innovative education programmes and look at how they can make learning better," she said.

The conference, which will be held at Imperial Golf View Hotel in Entebbe from May 28 to 31, will be under the theme "Curriculum for sustainable learning".

The focus of the discussions will be on harmonising

BETWEEN THE LINES:

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curriculum in the 21st century, curriculum transformation in Africa, evaluation and assessment, curriculum reviews and implementations, curriculum instruction, curriculum and politics and using innovations to prepare students for success.

The meeting is being organised by Uganda in collaboration with Ghana, Nigeria, Namibia and Kenya. Delegates from over 120 countries are expected to attend.

"The conference will raise awareness on education for sustainable development and Sustainable Development Goal number four, which focuses on quality. It will help us assess ourselves as Africans to determine if we have got it right when we talk on focusing on quality," Baguma said.

She said they will look at good policies and practices that have happened elsewhere

around the world and how they can fit into the African context and environment.

Baguma said the conference comes at a critical time when Uganda is reviewing its O'level teaching curriculum.

She said NCDC was currently doing the reviews to see how it could improve the already existing objective-based curriculum to make it a competence-based and student-centred curriculum, so as to equip students with skills that later translate into job creation.

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She said the Government had approved the move and given them sh2b to retool the teachers and students and to carry out stakeholder engagements on the curriculum review.

Baguma also said the conference will re-establish the African Curriculum Organisation to provide technical support to all educators, so that they can integrate education for sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goal Four through their education structures and forge common goals on the peculiar needs of Africa.