

Let's improve our country's schools

The Government is revamping and constructing more public primary schools around the country. The initial stages of the construction and revamp are funded by the Global Partners in Education, through the World Bank.

This is a commendable move and should be supported. However, communities and parents also need to find mechanisms of supporting schools in their communities for the betterment of our country's education.

Today, many of the schools face the combined challenges of deteriorating conditions, substandard construction and changing utilisation pressures as enrolment grows.

In certain instances, communities do not have schools in the vicinity

and children have to move long distances to access quality education. This gradually affects the quality of education they attain. A child who studies in a leaking classroom or under a tree cannot concentrate like the one who has better facilities.

These combined deficiencies impair the quality of teaching and learning and contribute to health and safety challenges for teachers and students. The way buildings in a school are designed and the facilities available have also been associated with teacher motivation and student achievement in a number of studies.

If we care about our country's education, communities and parents should be involved in the construction

and maintenance of schools. We cannot always rely on Government, owing to the budgeting and funding constraints that it often faces.

When the parents and communities are involved in constructing these schools, they will also be the first line of management and inspection of the teaching and learning of pupils. With more people acting as watchdogs, we can be assured of good quality education for this country's young generation.

Conan Businge

cbusinge@newvision.co.ug

