



The First Lady (centre) with district leaders of Isingiro and pupils of Birere Mixed Primary School after commissioning the new school buildings recently

By Apollo Mubiru

The Ministry of Education and Sports is committed to implementing the presidential manifesto (2016-2021).

The interventions pledged to be undertaken include: provision of infrastructure, enhanced inspection of schools, skills development and support to physical education and sports.

The Government will construct a vocational school per district by the end of 2021, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Janet Museveni, has said.

The ministry will prioritise the promotion and establishment of regional centres of excellence in Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTJET) to ensure production of a critical mass of relevant technical skills.

New facilities

BTJET is delivered through a network of more than 110 government training centres, schools, institutes and polytechnics.

Mrs Museveni said Uganda Petroleum Institute Kigumba, UTC Kichwamba, UTC Bushenyi and Bukalasa Agricultural College will be transformed into centres of excellence in oil and gas, construction, manufacturing and agriculture.

"To ensure production of a critical mass of relevant technical skills, four international winning institutions have been contracted for curriculum review, adaption and training of the faculties in the four colleges," the First Lady said.

Construction of facilities is underway in a number of BTJET institutions. They include Bamunanika TI in Luwero, Kiruhura TI, Hoima School of Nursing, Arua School of Comprehensive Nursing, UTC Bushenyi.

The Directorate of Industrial Training assessed and certified

Education ministry constructs 356 classrooms, prioritises sports



The education ministry has put up facilities at Buhimba Technical Institute in Holma

22,610 candidates.

Mrs Museveni said 17 facilities were completed in nine public universities and business incubation centres were constructed in Gulu, MUBS, Mbarara University School of Science and Technology as well as Kyambogo.

Ten Primary Teacher Training Colleges and three National Teachers Colleges were expanded. There has also been the construction of seed secondary schools in various places across the country.

A total of 12 seed secondary schools are at different stages of construction. Seventy schools received digital science and mathematics learning software in collaboration with Uganda Communications Commission (UCC). Among

the achievements mentioned include construction of 356 classrooms in 54 selected primary schools, 53 administration blocks and 108 five-stance VIP latrines for boys and girls. In addition, 63 stance VIP latrines for teachers, nine teachers' houses and 63 water harvesting tanks have been built in 54 selected primary schools.

The minister noted that whereas there is an increasing number of sub-counties as a result of creation of new districts, the areas are still yet to get secondary schools.

Curriculum

Mrs Museveni said the lower secondary curriculum was reviewed under 20 subjects based approach designed along competences acquired as annotated in objectives with

international events to enable them get experience to excel.

"We shall work closely with different sports associations and develop a plan and facilitate national teams to participate in international tournaments when they qualify," the minister assured.

The First Lady said funding for National Council of Sports was increased to sh11.6b to cater for FUFA, Commonwealth Games, netball team and other sports associations.

The ministry will continue with the construction of high altitude athletics training centre in Kapchorwa. The civil works ongoing include completion of casting of slab and column for second floor and rising of external kitchen up to ring beam level. The excavation works for construction of sports facilities and hostel block have also commenced.

Pending issues

Mrs Museveni appealed to parents, local governments and all stakeholders to provide lunch to school-going children.

"The Government does not have money to feed children at school. I am hoping that my campaign of calling upon parents to provide their children with lunch will yield results. If lunch is provided, it will reduce pupil absenteeism and drop outs," she said.

Mrs Museveni said although the Government has not yet provided funds for the provision of sanitary towels to girls in schools, she was optimistic that funds would be availed in future. She said her ministry has not given up on the promise, but when funds are availed, it will be implemented.

THE MINISTRY PROCURED 318,131 COPIES OF P4 INTEGRATED SCIENCE AND SST PUPIL BOOKS, PLUS 39,000 COPIES OF TEACHERS' GUIDES

learners expected to select eight to nine subjects. This is expected to start in the 2019/20 financial year.

The ministry procured 318,131 copies of both P4 integrated science and SST pupil books, 39,000 copies of teachers' guides and inspected 230 schools in selected 19 districts.

The ministry also assessed competence in literacy for P2 under the Monitoring Learning Achievement (MLA) programme in 60 districts.

Sports boosted

The ministry will support the construction of sports facilities throughout the country. The ministry will also support all sports associations to identify and nurture talent at both local and national levels. They will also increase Uganda's athletes' exposure to