RECRUITMENT OF OVER 1,300 TEACHERS STARTS

By Martin Kitubi

The Government has started the process to recruit 1,333 secondary school teachers to serve at the 43 newly-constructed seed secondary schools countrywide.

As part of the exercise, over 7,000 secondary school teachers, who applied for the jobs, are being subjected to aptitude tests to measure their ability to perform.

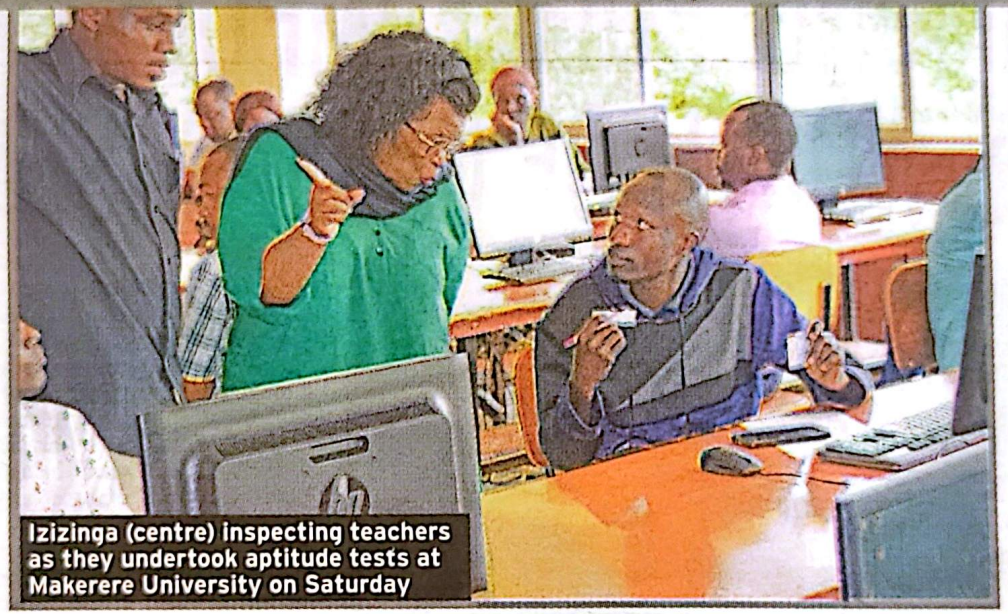
The exercise which started over the weekend at Makerere University's College of Computing and Information Sciences, is also underway at Mengo, Kololo and Lubiri secondary schools in Kampala.

The above schools have been designated as testing centres by the Education Service Commission, the recruitment agency for government secondary schools and institutions.

Documents seen by *New Vision* indicated that each of the 43 seed secondary schools will receive a total of 31 staff, including headteachers and deputy headteachers.

However, for each of the available slots, only five teachers will be shortlisted and proceed to the next level.

The beneficiary seed secondary schools were constructed under the second phase of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers, a World Bank-funded project (UgIFT).



Izizinga (centre) inspecting teachers as they undertook aptitude tests at Makerere University on Saturday

COMMISSION SPEAKS OUT

Speaking to *New Vision*, Rose Izizinga, a member of the commission, said the exercise is as transparent as possible to ensure that they recruit the best teachers.

"We have noted that the number of applicants is increasing every day and as the commission, we have made it a point to advertise all the available slots and open to all qualified Ugandans," Izizinga said.

Once concluded, she said, the final shortlist will be published on the commission website.

Haji Mohammed Kaaya, the commissioner of education service at the commission, said the recruitment will be concluded before the end of this financial year and that the beneficiary schools will be open to students, potentially during the third term.

CONSTRUCTING SEED SCHOOLS

The construction of the seed schools is part of the grand plan by the Government to improve access to secondary schools by building a secondary school per sub-county.

As part of the UgIFT project, government sought to construct, equip and operationalise 259 seed secondary schools in sub-counties that previously lacked such facilities.

To date, a total of 210 seed schools have been completed and are operational, while the remaining 49 seed schools are expected to be handed over by the close of the current financial year, 2025/2026.

Subsequently, a supplementary budget of sh70b was provided by the finance ministry to address stalled works as a result of funding constraints.

As part of the UGIFT project, a total of 7,565 teachers and 525 support staff have been recruited and deployed to support the operations of the newly-established government and grant-aided secondary schools.

At primary school level, the programme has facilitated the recruitment of 1,589 primary school teachers by local governments categorised as least staffed.

Relatedly, a total of 51 refugee-hosting primary schools from selected 10 refugee-hosting local governments were transitioned into government as part of UgIFT.

A total of 674 teachers were recruited and deployed to the respective schools, with wages provided through the respective local governments.

NUMBER OF LEARNERS TO BENEFIT

Once operationalised, each of the new seed schools can accommodate up to 1,500 new students.

This implies that the new seed secondary schools will bring an additional 64,500 learners onto the Universal Secondary Education (USE) programme.

Each of these new learners will automatically benefit from the government grants sent to the USE schools.

The unit cost for USE at O'level was recently increased from 123,000 per learner yearly to sh165,000 per learner per year, while that for A'level was raised from sh240,000 per learner per year to sh270,000 per learner per year.

Currently, the Government operates a total of 1,524 secondary schools, enrolling 1.3 million learners, majority being beneficiaries of USE.

According to the education ministry data, only 99 government secondary schools are not implementing the USE

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