

**STATEMENT ON THE EXORBITANT FEES
STRUCTURE OF SOME PUBLIC DAY SECONDARY
SCHOOLS ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE IMPENDING
OPENING OF THE NEW SCHOOL TERM; RAISED BY
HON. MUYANJA JOHNSON SENYONGA, MUKONO
SOUTH.**

Rt. Hon. Speaker, the Ministry shares the concern of Hon. Jackson Muyanja Ssenyonga about the unrealistic and prohibitive school fees charges which are denying access to secondary education for a number of learners and compromising the Government objectives of providing affordable, quality education for all and increasing equitable access to Post – Primary Education.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, it is against this background that the First Lady/ Minister of Education and Sports set up the Kayanja Committee in March 2017. The objectives of the Committee included establishment of the current fees structures for government and private schools, finding out the cost triggers of the escalating fees and proposal of any other measures necessary in the management of fees and recommendations for controlling the escalation of fees.

The findings and recommendations of the Committee were considered and guidelines issued while taking into consideration the liberalized nature of the economy and the consequent need for Government to regulate rather than control levels of fees by designing guidelines, which schools must abide by. In the long-

term, the basis of the guidelines for fees structures should be the unit cost for each category of Education.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, from the recommendations that were drawn by the Kayanja Report, the Ministry has come up with measures to curb the continuous rising fees charges. These measures were communicated to the schools and the general public through Press Release and a Circular by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports. The Circular was issued on **24th October 2017 and re-issued on 29th October 2018**. The guidelines in the Circular included the following:

1. No school, Private or Government, shall increase school fees for whatever reason without written authorization from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports and/or Chief Administrative Officer/Town Clerk as the case may be.
2. Other cash and non-cash requirements outside the approved school fees structure are strictly prohibited. All non-cash items must be catered for in the school budget.
3. Schools implementing Universal Primary Education (UPE), Universal Secondary Education (USE) and Universal Post “O” Level Education and Training (UPOLET) shall strictly adhere to the policy implementation guidelines. Where parents decide and agree to contribute towards an emergency in the school and permission is sought and granted by the

Permanent Secretary, no learner shall be excluded from school on account of a parent's failure to pay the agreed amount in accordance with Section 9(3) of the Education Act 2008. As soon as the emergency is resolved, the school shall **stop charging the emergency fund.**

4. Where a School Board/School Management Committee has to employ additional teachers to those on payrolls, permission shall be sought from the Permanent Secretary in case of a Secondary School and Chief Administrative Officer/Town Clerk in case of Primary Schools, to use part of the Capitation grant towards the payment of the additional teachers.

5. In line with 4 above, head teachers are warned against employing additional teachers before all the teachers on payroll have been assigned the minimum required teaching load. All teachers without a minimum teaching load should be promptly reported to the Ministry of Education and Sports in case of Secondary schools or respective Local Governments in case of primary schools for appropriate redeployment. All schools must respect staff establishment ceilings for both teaching and non-teaching staff as provided by Ministry of Public Service.

6. Private schools must adhere to the approved staff employment guidelines. They should formally recruit, contract and effectively manage and develop staff on reasonable employment terms.

7. All Government and Government aided Schools should desist from taking commercial loans. Any school applying for a loan must seek authorisation from the Minister of Finance Planning and Economic Development through the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports as provided for in the Public Finance Management Act 2015.

8. Day schools must desist from changing their status to Boarding until such a time when the change in status is approved by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports. Day schools desirous to operate Boarding Sections/Hostels should seek authorization from the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education and Sports. All unauthorized hostels/ dormitories **MUST** not open starting 2018. Several Local Governments (e.g. Lwengo, Mubende, Mukono, Sheema) closed all illegal schools and boarding facilities. The enforcement of this guideline is ongoing.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, these guidelines have been widely circulated to institutions of learning across the country through Local Governments, Kampala City Council Authority and the Directorate of Education Standards.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, our prayer is that the Honorable Members of Parliament and all other stakeholders join the Ministry to sensitize their communities, the Boards of Governors/ School Management Committees on these guidelines. The Ministry also requests the Honorable Members to alert the Ministry of any

school or institution which flouts the above guidelines so that stern disciplinary action can be taken against it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. J. C. Muyingo', written over a printed name.

Dr J C Muyingo

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION