

## **STATEMENT ON UNEB WITHHOLDING EXAM MATERIALS OVER SESEMAT FEES**

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,** I beg to respond to the issues on the relationship between UNEB and SESEMAT as raised by the Hon. Macho Geoffrey, MP Busia Municipality.

For Members' information, SESEMAT is a program that was established to enhance the quality of teaching and learning of Science and Mathematics in Secondary schools. It was initiated and approved by this August House in 2005. The programme was sponsored by JICCA whose support expired in 2016.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker and Members,** in order not to lose the purpose for which SESEMAT was initiated, after the expiry of JICCA's sponsorship, a sustainability strategy was jointly agreed on that students should contribute to continuity of this important programme.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,** therefore, Learners pay 1,000/= per term but in many cases, Headteachers and proprietors of Private Schools do not remit this money to the Regional Management Committees who are mandated to make the collection. The requirement to present the certificate to UNEB is therefore a strategy to ensure schools comply and don't cheat our learners who pay.

**Rt Hon. Speaker,** for that matter I wish to clarify that it is not true that UNEB collects SESEMAT fees from schools.

It should further be clear that, the Ministry of Education and Sports can use its organs to enforce the implementation of its Policies and achieve its objectives including SESEMAT which is part of our strategy to improve the delivery of Science Education.

Schools are supposed to remit payment to the SESEMAT Regional Management Committees which are comprised of headteachers elected from the different regions. After payment, schools are issued with a remittance certificate which they present to the SESEMAT officer who sits at UNEB to confirm payment and authenticity of the certificate. Thereafter, the school is issued examination materials.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker**, on the matter of involvement of private school owners in the programme, I would like to clarify that they are involved in the following ways:-

- (i) All schools participate in the election of their Regional Management Committees.
- (ii) Refresher courses for teachers benefits both private and government schools.
- (iii) Some headteachers of private schools are members of the regional SESEMAT management committees.

### **Current status**

Of the 3,596 secondary schools which registered for UCE, 2,136 have already collected their materials.

Out of the remaining 1,460 schools, 469 schools have not yet or are still clearing UNEB examination fees.

While 991 schools, for several unknown reasons have not yet picked up their Examination Materials.

### **ADVISE TO THE AFFECTED SCHOOLS**

In conclusion, since the regional management committees are comprised of headteachers, we advise the affected schools to urgently liaise with their Regional SESEMAT Committees to discuss the modality of settling this important issue.

As a ministry and regulator, we encourage all schools to continue making these payments. However, we have also organized a meeting of all stakeholders including UNEB and the National SESEMAT Team to address this challenge.



Nansubuga Rosemary Seninde (MP)

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION**