

By Vision Reporter

Church-founded schools have asked the Government to make consultations before coming up with policies if they are to ensure harmonious implementation.

The schools raised their concern under their umbrella body, Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) during an education symposium organised by Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU), in partnership with UJCC and the education ministry at Pope Paul Memorial



Dr Loy Muhwezi

Church-founded schools table demands

Hotel in Rubaga, Kampala on December 10.

"When policies are developed without us being involved, we are scared that maybe the Government is trying to push us out as the foundation bodies," the Rev. Fr. Daniel Musiitwa, the UJCC secretary-general, said.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Kakooza, the UJCC national education co-ordinator for the Church of Uganda, said the lack of a well-defined policy about the relationship with the ministry has resulted

in interference conflicts.

The Rev. Fr. Ronald Okello, who represented Musiitwa, said the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Act, which gives power to the ministry to prescribe the rights and responsibilities of the foundation bodies, is not clear.

"We request that the responsibilities of the foundation bodies be clearly spelt out in the Act for smooth running of these institutions," Fr Okello said.

In response, Dr Loy Muhwezi, the commissioner for TVET at the education ministry, said they usually

consult church representatives on schools' boards and councils

She said due diligence is done when selecting representatives.

"Where we have lost as a Church, is the way we pick people. We pick anyhow," she said.

Muhwezi advised that selections be made on merit, and not because one is a relative or an active church member.

"I advise that you look for people in your churches who are good at education and can front your aspirations," she said.

"I want to tell you that for the TVET

policy, the teams went to the regions, but the quality of representatives you had in those meetings mattered. If you have like 20 institutions in a region, but the quality of board of governors members was so low, what did you expect? You were consulted, but your representation didn't do much about TVET," the commissioner added.

TAX

Theodoros Kombe, education co-ordinator of the Uganda Orthodox Church, said the Government should not tax church schools because they are not profit-oriented.

Stakeholders raised questions about the aligning the A'level curriculum with the competence-based one of lower secondary level.