

SH69.7B WILL GO TOWARDS U.P.E WHILE U.S.E WILL GET SH57.49B

GOVERNMENT RELEASES SH127B CAPITATION AS FIRST TERM OPENS

PHOTO BY ERIA LUYIMBAZI

By Martin Kitubi

It will not be business as usual for government schools following the revision of the conditions for access to capitation grants.

Although the Government has released sh127.2b in capitation grants to local governments for the 2026 first term that starts today, headteachers are required by the education ministry to present a detailed accountability for the money they received for the third term of 2025.

Of the funds released for first term 2026, sh69.7b will be for

Universal Primary Education (UPE), while sh57.49b will cover Universal Secondary Education (USE).

As of last term, education ministry data shows that there were 9.4 million learners enrolled at 12,550 government primary schools, most of whom are beneficiaries of the UPE programme. Relatedly, 1,425 of the 1,524 government secondary schools are implementing the USE programme with an enrolment of 1.1 million learners.

RATIONALE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY
Sources said headteachers who

Parents buying school materials in downtown Kampala on Friday as the new school term begins. The Government pays sh20,000 per pupil per year as capitation grant for those enrolled under Universal Primary Education

fail to account for the funds will be required to refund them or face the law. "Over the years, some rouge headteachers, school management committees and boards have abused their powers by

diverting these funds. Now we demand accountability; if you fail to account for even sh1,000, you face the law," a senior government official said.

The source further explained that some local governments were inflating the number of UPE and USE beneficiaries to defraud government.

But following the roll-out of the Education Management Information System (EMIS), the source said inflating students' numbers is impossible since children have unique identification numbers.

EMIS is an online portal used by the education ministry to manage data and information about Uganda's education system right from pre-primary to higher education level.

The senior government official said swindling capitation grants does not only affect the management of schools, but also robs children of a chance to access quality education.

Gabriel Richard Atama, the chairperson of chief administrative officers in Uganda, confirmed that local governments have received the funds, but said they would wait for approvals before sending the cash to the



WHAT EDUCATION MINISTRY SAYS

Dr John Chrysostom Musingo, the state minister for higher education, asked schools to utilise the capitation grants as prescribed by the Government.

"These funds are intended to ensure that we deliver quality education for all Ugandans," he said.

Musingo urged headteachers and teachers to ensure that teaching starts immediately, following the delayed reopening of the school term by a week.

To the parents, Musingo asked them to ensure that all learners are at school from day one to enable teachers cover the syllabus as prescribed.

As schools re-open, the minister tasked inspectors of schools with ensuring that schools are in good condition and safe for learners to return.

respective schools.

WHAT SCHOOLS GET

The Government now sends money based on the number of learners uploaded on EMIS. The Government pays sh20,000 per pupil per year as capitation grant for those enrolled under UPE.

For special needs pupils such as the visually impaired enrolled under UPE, the capitation grant is sh22,000 per child per year.

Under USE, the Government pays sh58,300 per term per student at O'level and

sh90,000 per term for each A'level student.

For special needs students under USE at inclusive schools, the Government pays sh192,500 per learner per year.

For exclusive special needs schools at secondary level, the Government pays sh1.23m per learner per year as capitation.

The Education Sector Grant Guidelines for the financial year 2022/2023 indicate that capitation for schools that have significantly higher costs in delivering education services because they lie in hard-to-reach areas, may be supplemented. These get a hard-to-reach capitation of up to sh2,000 per learner.

There are 24 districts gazetted by the public service ministry as hard-to-reach.

They include Abim, Amuru, Adjumani, Bundibugyo, Bukwo, Buvuma, Sigulu Islands in Bugiri and Malonge Islands in Mayuge.

Others are Kaabong, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Pader, Kitgum, Gulu, Nwoya, Koome Islands in Mukono, Kalangala, Kisoro, Kanungu, Lamwo, Namayingo, Napak and Ntoroko.

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