

FIRST LADY DONATES SH100M FOR SCHOOL LABORATORY

PHOTO BY HENRY NSUBUGA

By Henry Nsubuga

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, has donated sh100m towards the construction of a science laboratory at Seeta College, where Church of Uganda Archbishop Dr/Pr Samuel Stephen Kaziimba went to school.

Located at Mwanyanjiri village in Nakisunga sub-county, Mukono district, the school is seeking funds to construct a modern science block in line with government efforts to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

A SEED FOR NOBLE CAUSE

"I am sowing my seed of sh100m and urging others to join this noble cause. Those who have not contributed today can organise and do so in due course," she said during a fundraising event organised at the school on Friday.

Mrs Museveni emphasised the importance of investing in science infrastructure to enhance practical learning in schools. "This project supports the Government's broader education reforms under the competence-based curriculum, which focuses on hands-on skills, innovation and problem-solving," she said.



The First Lady, Mrs. Janet Museveni (second-right) with Kaziimba (second-left) unveil the foundation stone for the construction of a school laboratory at Seeta College in Mukono district on Friday. On the right is State Minister for Higher Education Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

Mrs Museveni commended the school for its early adoption of the Lower Secondary Competence-Based Curriculum, noting that learners are already engaged in practical projects, including making bricks used in the construction of school facilities.

The school headteacher, Yudaya Mukulembeze, said students have produced bricks through competence-based projects, which have been used to construct three classroom blocks, a perimeter wall, sanitation facilities and other infrastructure.

The First Lady noted that such initiatives demonstrate the value of a curriculum that equips learners with real-world skills, digital literacy and adaptability to global demands.

She praised the school administration for creating an enabling environment for both academic and practical excellence. However, she cautioned the school administration against poor maintenance of the school infrastructure. "A lot of money is invested in such infrastructure, only for it to

be vandalised and fall into disrepair. I urge students and administrators to safeguard these facilities so they can last longer," she said.

KAZIIMBA LAUDED

To students, the First Lady encouraged them to remain disciplined, avoid negative peer influence and stay focused on their studies amid challenges posed by the digital age. She expressed gratitude towards Archbishop Kaziimba for his continued support of the school as an old student and role model,

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, called on parents, school leaders, and other stakeholders to actively support the implementation of the competence-based curriculum.

She emphasised the importance of parental involvement and strengthened guidance and counselling services to address learners' psychosocial needs.

as well as to the Board of Governors, members of the Parents-Teacher Association and the wider community. The headteacher (Mukulembeze) revealed that the construction of the science block is estimated to cost sh2b, adding that the existing laboratory, which was built in 1955, can no longer accommodate the growing student population.

"By the time I was posted here in 2018, enrolment stood at 266 students. It has now risen to 1,163 learners," she said. Despite the limited facilities, Mukulembeze said the school has produced top-performing students, with the best student in last year's

A'level examinations scoring 20 points in physics, chemistry, mathematics, and ICT.

She added that classroom space remains inadequate, although some structures have been built using student-made materials and contributions from parents and the School Management Committee.

The education ministry permanent secretary, Dr Kedrace Turyagenda, thanked the school administration, alumni and board for prioritising the construction of a modern laboratory.

She emphasised the Ministry's commitment to ensuring that every child receives quality education in a conducive environment, regardless of their background.

ARCHBISHOP KAZIIMBA SPEAKS

On his part, Archbishop Kaziimba said the school has educated many Ugandans and students from neighbouring countries over its 70-year history. He cited former Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi among its notable alumni. Others include former vice chancellor of Ndejje University and current executive director of the Uganda vice chancellors' forum, Prof. Eriabu Lugujo.

Kaziimba and his wife, Margaret, contributed sh10m, while Rotarian Emmanuel Katongole also donated sh10m.