



REMARKS

BY THE

NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE MASS REGISTRATION  
EXERCISE

HON. NANSUBUGA ROSEMARY SENINDE.  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY  
EDUCATION)

AT THE

DEBRIEFING MEETING OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
STAKEHOLDERS ON MASS REGISTRATION LEARNERS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, CONFERENCE HALL  
TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2017

**Rt. Hon. Prime Minister**

**The Honorable Minister of Education and Sports**

**Honorable Ministers and Ministers of State**

**Representatives of our Education Development Partners**

**The Permanent Secretary and Staff of the Ministry of  
Education and Sports**

**National Identification and Registration Authority officials**

**Representatives of Line Ministries**

**Religious Leaders**

**Distinguished Participants**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I thank you all for joining us this morning.

As most of you may already be aware, Ministry of Education and Sports in collaboration with National Identification and Registration Authority [NIRA] plan to undertake a registration exercise of all learners in all Primary, Secondary Schools and Post Primary Institutions.

This highly anticipated exercise will commence on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2017.

The idea of mass registration of learners was first conceived in the year 2004, when Cabinet approved the setting up of a comprehensive national bio-data bank for easy access by Government Institutions.

The retreat of Ministers and Permanent Secretaries at Kyankwanzi 6<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> February 2014, recommended that the Education and Sports sector, works towards strengthening of Monitoring and Supervision mechanisms to fight ghosts, general laxity and indiscipline in order to achieve quality education among others.

The matter of the possible existence of ghosts in Primary and Secondary schools was again discussed during the recent retreat of Cabinet, NRM Central Executive Committee members and Permanent Secretaries that was held at Kyankwanzi in July, 2016. It was then proposed that the National Identification System that is being set up by the National Identification and Registration Authority could be used to weed out the ghosts.

It is for this reason that H.E. the President directed biometric registration of all pupils and students as a way of wiping out

ghosts so as to save resources that can then be applied to other activities in line with the strategic guidelines and directives issued by the President.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016, wider consultations were held. Those who participated in these wider consultations included: The Hon. Minister of Education and Sports; The Hon. Minister of Finance Planning and Economic Development; The Hon. Minister for Internal Affairs; The Hon. Minister of Public Service; The Hon. Minister of State/Higher Education; The Hon. Minister of State/Primary Education; The Hon. Minister of State/Internal Affairs; The Permanent Secretary/Ministry of Education and Sports; The Permanent Secretary/Ministry of Internal Affairs; The Executive Director/NIRA; and Other Technical Officers from above MDAs.

I also want us to recall that the registration of citizens aged sixteen years and above was done by the National Security Information System (NSIS) project through which over 16 million persons, out of an estimated 36.6 million were registered. However, all those who were below sixteen years of age (a very high percentage of whom are in primary, secondary and other post-primary Institutions some of which

are thought to be ghost institutions or harbor ghost learners and teachers) were not registered.

Following this realization, Cabinet on 28th September, 2016 directed the Ministers of Internal Affairs and of Education and Sports to hold discussions and agree on how to fast-track the process of registration of students in order to weed out ghosts.

The Education and Sports sector is one of the sectors that continue to receive one of the largest shares of the GoU budget. However, leakages attributed to the existence of “ghosts” are undermining the efficient use of these resources. Various study findings indeed confirm that Ghost Teachers, Schools and Pupils exist and persist within the Education and Sports Sector. This phenomenon is costing government unwarranted loss currently estimated at over two billion shillings annually paid out in terms of Capitation grant, School Facilities Grant, Teachers’ Salaries and Instructional Materials.

The proposed registration of pupils and students will be jointly undertaken by NIRA and MoES. The combined

undertaking will eliminate duplication of efforts and resources since the registrations will be done once and data will be shared across the relevant institutions.

The exercise of registration of pupils and students will yield benefits both in the short and long run.

**The short term benefits:**

- (i) Use of shared infrastructure and resources enabling a shorter period of registration i.e. three months. This comes with a reduction in the overall cost of registration by 13 billion;
- (ii) Improving service delivery through development of e-Government services; and
- (iii) Ready identification data will enhance planning for government services.

**The long term benefits:**

The benefits will be in the form of resource savings and improved and effective management of Education services. Resource savings are in two categories namely:

- i) Elimination of the need to conduct Annual National Head Count Exercise. Statistics will be generated instantly from the Education Management Information System (EMIS) which will be linked to the NIR for purposes of regular identification of pupils and students;
- ii) Integrating EMIS with the NIR at National Identification Register National Identification Register (NIR), will eliminate any form of ghost pupils, facilitate tracking of transfers, drop outs and fresh enrolments and will lead to effective implementation of capitation grants; and
- iii) Registration of 0 – 5 years would further ease management of the planned pre-primary education.

A proposed roadmap to guide the implementation of the exercise has been designed. Details of the road map for the exercise are contained in the documents that will be shared with you.

We can already see that this initiative that we are sharing with you is an outcome of inter-sectoral meticulous planning and deliberations. You will agree with me that getting to where we are today has not been easy.

It has only been made possible by the unwavering commitment by the members of the Steering Committee, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Let me take this opportunity to thank members of the Steering Committee who have worked tirelessly to make this initiative a reality.

We those few remarks allow me to invite the Hon. Minister of Education and Sports who is also the First Lady of Uganda to officially open this debriefing meeting.

I thank you all

**For God and My Country**