



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS

PRESS STATEMENT

Phasing out Universal Secondary Education (USE) Programme in Private Schools

Background:

In 2007 Government of Uganda started implementation of Universal Secondary Education (USE) programme to consolidate the gains of Universal Primary Education (UPE) that had been running since 1997. The main objectives of the USE programme are:

- (i) Expanding access and improving attendance in secondary education;
- (ii) Adding value to the sustainability of UPE;
- (iii) Reducing high cost of secondary education;
- (iv) Increasing equitable access to secondary education for special groups

USE is being implemented in both Government and private schools. Initially, some areas of the country did not have adequate and easily accessible Government secondary schools. As a result, Government entered into Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreements with selected private schools in these areas, as stop-gap measure, to ensure equitable access to USE.

Decision to Phase out PPP Arrangement in USE Implementation:

In the last 10 years, Government has intensified construction of Seed Secondary Schools and grant-aiding of community schools across the country to cover the sub-counties without a government secondary school. There has also been expansion of existing Government schools implementing USE, especially in urban areas.

In its 2016 Election Manifesto, NRM Government committed to; *"Continue with the policy of establishing a government secondary school in every sub-county. In line with this policy Government will accept to take over community schools if the communities willingly offer them."* Ministry of Education and Sports is implementing this government priority by expediting the establishment of government secondary schools in the remaining sub-counties without

any. This process will be completed by 2021. As a result, a decision has been taken to begin phasing out PPP arrangement in USE implementation.

Gradual Phase-out of USE Programme in Private Schools:

Ministry of Education and Sports has planned for a smooth and structured phase-out of USE programme in private school to minimize possible disruptive impact on the learners, parents/guardians and schools.

Beginning with Term I of 2018, Government will not sponsor new students (S1 and S5 entrants) in private schools under USE or UPOLET. However, continuing USE and UPOLET students (S2-S4 and S6) in private schools will continue to be sponsored until they complete the respective cycles. By 2021, there will not be USE/UPOLET Students in private schools.

Government will continue to monitor PPP schools to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the partnership. To safeguard the interests of the learners and the public, Government will terminate the PPP MoU, as has been the case, wherever a school is found to be flouting the implementation guidelines.

Ministry of Education and Sports calls upon the management of PPP schools to work closely with the designated officers to ensure a smooth and non-disruptive process.

The owners and Managers of all private secondary schools implementing USE/UPOLET are hereby notified. You are advised to pick the letter communicating details of this position from Ministry of Education and Sports, Private Schools Department on Legacy Towers, Kyadondo Road.

Alex Kakooza
Permanent Secretary