

How MPs can improve education

EDITOR: This December, the political season has reached fever pitch and we have only just a month for Ugandans to vote for president and Members of Parliament (MPs) of the 12th Parliament. In this article, we focus on how MPs can improve education in their constituencies.

First, MPs should support their schools to establish school feeding programmes.

Most of government primary schools have big chunks of land, utilised mostly by teachers. School land should not be used for the overall benefit of the school. Hunger negatively affects enrolment, attendance, concentration and retention. MPs can help secure land for school feeding programme, provide seeds and garden tools for pupils and establish a school feeding committee. The pupils will provide labour, parents can contribute a small amount to take care of the cooking staff. Secondly, MPs can start inter-school competitions in areas such as debating, innovations and coding, among others. The MP can attend the finals and award prizes and certificates to participants. Thirdly, MPs should closely monitor the utilisation of Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education grants. Despite government funding, government schools are poorly compared to private schools, partly because of corruption and misuse of public resources. Fourthly, MPs of the 12th Parliament should advocate for progressive education laws and policies in Parliament.

As Ugandans head to the polls on January 15, 2026, education should be a key yardstick for judging candidates.



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