

BY ANTHONY WESAKA

Polls: Commencement of new school term postponed

KAMPALA. The Ministry of Education and Sports has postponed the reopening of all schools and education institutions across Uganda to Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

The ministry cited the need to ensure the safety of millions of learners during the ongoing election season.

In an official statement issued yesterday, the ministry revised its earlier directive of January 6, which had scheduled the reopening of schools for the first term for February 2.

"The ministry hereby informs you that due to the general elections and to ensure the safety of all learners, all schools and education institutions across the country are directed to reopen on Tuesday, [February] 10, 2026," the circular re-

leased by the Education ministry and signed off by its permanent secretary, Dr Kadrace R Turyagyenda, read in part.

The move affects all educational institutions nationwide, including public and private schools.

"For avoidance of doubt, this includes all international schools, tertiary institutions, and universities," the statement read in part.

The ministry explained that the adjustment was made to allow for a safe and smooth electoral process while minimising potential disruptions to learning activities and safeguarding students.

School administrators have been directed to strictly comply with the re-

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vised dates and to follow the approved school calendar published on the ministry's official website. Parents, guardians, students, and the general public have also been urged to take note of the changes to avoid confusion.

The ministry reassured stakeholders that further updates, if any, will be communicated through official channels.

Ms Turyagyenda, in her earlier January 6 school calendar release, reiterated the official school hours, noting that learning in primary and post-primary schools should run from 8am to 4:30pm, while pre-primary schools should operate from 8am to 12pm (midday).

To address traffic congestion, particularly in urban areas, head teachers of

boarding schools in the Kampala Metropolitan Area have since been advised to stagger the opening and closing dates for different classes.

The ministry's permanent secretary added that school opening days, visitation schedules, and other major annual events should be organised in consultation with neighbouring institutions to avoid congestion and disorder.

"Management of these functions should adhere to the guidelines for the safe conduct of entertainment and co-curricular activities and the election of student leaders in pre-primary, primary, and post-primary schools," Ms Turyagyenda said in her earlier communication.