

# Kadaga urges girls on vocational studies

KAMPALA

By Abou Kisige

Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga has urged girls in Busoga sub-region to embrace vocational education in an effort to make them self-reliant in this ever-changing world.

She said many girls are shunning vocational education and ending up in fields where they fail to get meaningful employment.

"Girls do not want to take vocational studies, especially sciences, technology and mathematics-related disciplines and yet they have a lot of room there," Kadaga said.

She said the world understands the masculinity of the studies (vocational studies), but the girls can also benefit from them.

Kadaga made the remarks during a fundraising dinner for Busoga Education Initiative, aimed

at canvassing funds to improve education standards in Busoga sub-region.

The event took place at Silver Springs Hotel in Kampala, yesterday.

The Speaker said if the country is to have girls as the major drivers of the economy, then it is time to encourage them to join technical and vocational education and training.

She urged parents to change their mindset, adding that vocational education is not for failures.

The dinner was graced by the state minister for primary education, Rosemary Seninde. She said the ministry is concerned about the poor performance of schools in the eastern region, citing Busoga as having the lowest grades.

"It is true that when results are released, the eastern region has persistently performed poorly. The school that took the last position in the country was from Busoga. When you pull Busoga out of the eastern

## ON THE GROUND

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region, the region will improve," she said.

She said the coming of Busoga Education Initiative is expected to improve the education standards in the region.

Seninde revealed that for the past five years, Primary Leaving Examinations results show that the performance of the schools has been deteriorating.

For example in 2014, out of the

1,425 candidates that scored zero in various subjects, Busoga sub-region had the highest number, at 337," she added.

The Kyabazinga of Busoga Kingdom, William Wilberforce Gabula Nadiope IV and the patron of Busoga Education Initiative, said the kingdom recognises that poor quality education has become incapacitating, especially during the last five years.

"It is a critical issue, which calls for urgent attention by all relevant stakeholders. It is not beyond our power to create a world where all children have access to meaningful education. As a kingdom, we strongly support the vision and mission of the education initiative," Nadiope said.

He said the kingdom will support the continued teacher professional development, improvement of school infrastructure and the teaching and learning environment, increased enrolment and retention of children

in schools and contribution towards good governance to achieve good academic results.

He promised to continue supporting outstanding learners who excel in the national examinations, by offering them full scholarships in their secondary levels.

The chairperson of Busoga Education Initiative, Agnes Kalibbala, said they have set strategies and are working together with stakeholders to uplift the education standard in Busoga region.

She said the initiative is expected to improve performance, reduce absenteeism of both teachers and learners and improve parental and community participation.

They are also expected to improve school monitoring and inspection by all stakeholders, increase stakeholder participation in improving quality of education and growing the number of schools feeding children, as well as motivate committed teachers.