



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS

REMARKS BY THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRIMARY
EDUCATION. HON DR. JOYCE MORIKU KADUCU

AT THE RELEASE OF THE APPROVED SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS'
LOAN BENEFICIARIES LOT 2 FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

8th FEBRUARY 2022

- THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD
 - MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
 - PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS
 - STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS
 - STAFF OF THE BOARD
 - MEMBERS OF THE PRESS
 - LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
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On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you all and thank you most sincerely for turning up to grace this very important occasion when the Higher Education Students' Financing Board is releasing the list of LOT 2 of the 8th cohort of the approved Student Loan Beneficiaries for the academic year 2021/22.

I would like therefore, to congratulate the Higher Education Students' Financing Board who have worked tirelessly to conclude the second phase of this process which began in October 2021.

A few weeks back, we were here releasing the list of successful beneficiaries under Lot 1 Institutions which included all the Private Universities and four Public Institutions. Today, we releasing the list of successful Loan Scheme applicants under Lot 2 Institutions which include, Makerere University, Kyambogo University, Gulu University, Lira University, Soroti University and all the listed Diploma Awarding Other Tertiary Institutions.

It is important to note that the Higher Education Students' Financing Board for the first time handled the Loan Award selection process in a

phased manner because of the staggered admissions by the Higher Learning Institutions due to effect of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would like to thank the Board for extending the deadline for receipt of the Loan Applications for the afore mentioned Lot 2 Institutions to 15th January 2022 and later considering the request to extend the applications for learners from Other Tertiary Institutions to 21st January, 2022. We are going to sort the issue of the staggered admissions by Higher Education Institutions to ensure that all learners are within streamlined schedules and are able to benefit from established higher education financing opportunities.

The Government of Uganda is committed to increase the enrollment of learners into Higher Education Institutions and through the Students' Financing Scheme, many parents and learners with financial constraints, are being helped to access higher education by granting them study loans which are empowering them to access the skills and qualifications they need to seek employment or start enterprises and then pay them later.

When the NRM Government started the Scheme in 2014, only 1200 students were able to benefit. To date, 11, 186 students have benefitted and this will increase to 12,717 following today's release. It is evident, the Government is increasing equitable access to Higher Education.

In order to increase the human resource in critical sectors of the economy, the Students' Loan Scheme is still funding students admitted to programmes under the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), except Persons with Disabilities who are able to study any programme of their choice under affirmative action. These are programmes identified under the subsequent NDPs as programmes with human

resource gaps and needed to drive key programmes such as industrialization, innovation and agricultural mechanization.

In the first LOT, the Board awarded study loans to a total of 920 students out of the eligible 3,926. These students have already signed their loan agreements with the Board and are progressing with their studies at their respective higher education institution. Those who missed were given a chance to appeal and this is still ongoing.

In Lot 2, the Board is awarding 610 applicants with study loans out of a total 1,028 eligible applicants, representing 59.3% of the total number of eligible applicants. This includes 325 undergraduate Degree and 285 Undergraduate Diploma applicants.

I am happy to note that the number of successful beneficiaries joining Technical and Vocational Institutions as well as those joining Health Training Institutions on Diploma programmes has been increased as this is instrumental in supporting other Government programmes such as skilling Uganda project and the support to industrialization. Nurses, midwives and other clinical professional are still in short supply and through the Loan Scheme, we will continue to raise the numbers of this critical human resource.

I am happy to note that out of the overall 1,530 successful applicants for the Academic Year 2021/22, females are 681 representing 44.5% while the males at 849 represent 55.5%. I am informed that in this academic year, the Board purposefully provided extra seven (7) points to female applicants so as to increase the gender parity in the distribution of these loans. I call upon girls to continue to work hard in Science subjects in the lower secondary education as we continue to increase the numbers of girls in science education.

I wish to emphasize that Student Loans are the future of higher education financing in the modern world. This which mostly begun and is responsible for the increase of the higher education enrollment in the Western world, has been adopted as the contemporary strategy in all parts of the world including in Africa. In order to make higher education more affordable, more than half of African Countries introduced study loans in the last two decades and these have proven to be the most efficient and cost effective way to increase the human resource needs of countries.

Through a revolving fund, many students are able to be supported and trained while recoveries and repayments are re-invested to support other students to access the same service. In this way, we are increasing both the gross enrollment ratio for higher education while increasing the number of skilled Ugandans for social economic development.

As the Government, we recognize the increasing demand for study loans as evidenced in this year's applications to the Board and we pledge to increase the budget to support more disadvantaged students to start or complete their studies. The Board has presented a number of requests in this regard and these are being discussed in the current budget framework papers in different committees of parliament. I am sure these discussions will have a positive impact on the budget of the Board.

I would like to thank the Board for effecting an affirmative action programme that has led to the number of Persons with Disabilities benefitting under the scheme grow to 89 and I would like appeal to the public not to neglect children with special needs and enroll them into school. Through such initiatives, they will be able to use their God given abilities and qualification to serve their Country and society.

In the same light, I am aware that in the means test assessment criteria which the Board employs to select beneficiaries, the Greater Northern and the Karamoja regions plus the island districts were given special priority under affirmative action which has led the Northern region perform at 51% in this academic year under consideration. I am informed that over 90% of all applicants from the Karamoja region were study loans. This will in the long run help to change the social-economic outlook of the region.

I call upon all the beneficiaries of the Students' Loan Scheme to work hard in your studies, remain disciplined and focused. Remember that you are studying on credit and this should motivate you to pursue excellence in your studies such that this loan helps you achieve your career dreams and contribute positively to society.

To those who have finished their studies and are in their repayment period, I challenge you to do more as what you pay back is what is used to support your brothers and sisters to achieve their higher education dreams. Do not become selfish, voluntarily pay back as early and as fast as possible such that another student is supported.

Finally, permit me once again to thank and applaud the Members of the Higher Education Students' Financing Board and Staff of the Secretariat for the tireless effort and good work done. I want to equally thank all the stakeholders (Members of Parliament, Ministry of Education Staff, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; Universities among others) for the continued support to the Board and the Ministry at large.

I want to thank the Press for the good work you are doing for this Country and especially to the sector of education and for attending today's event.

It is now my singular honour to release the list of LOT 2 of the 8th cohort of the successful loan beneficiaries totaling to 610 for the academic year 2021/2022 and the consolidated report of awards for the AY2021/22 where Government of Uganda is supporting a total of 1,530 Beneficiaries under the Students' Loan Scheme. I congratulate the successful loan beneficiaries and wish them success in their studies.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY