



Is the fulfillment of Presidential Pledges in the Education Sector on track?

OVERVIEW

The Education and Sports Sector is one of the country's key social service delivery sectors. In line with the second National Development Plan (NDPII) goals, the sector aims at equitable, accessible, affordable and quality delivery of education and training to Ugandans. The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports focuses resources on improving quality, relevance and access to education through implementation of a number of activities including fulfillment of the presidential pledges made in the sector.

His Excellency, the President of Uganda makes pledges and these are categorized under the sub-sectors of primary, secondary, Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTVET), and Tertiary to cater for different institutional needs in the sector. Pledges are towards construction of learning and accommodation facilities, provision of transport facilities, furniture and rehabilitation works among others.

This briefing paper examines the extent to which the sector has fulfilled the presidential pledges from FY2008/09 to FY2016/17 and the key challenges that need to be addressed for the sector to remain on track.

INTRODUCTION

From FY2008/09 to date, the Government has continued to provide funds to the education sector each to cater for presidential pledges. The funds are for construction of classrooms, workshops, administration blocks, dormitory blocks, multi-purpose halls, science laboratories, library blocks, VIP latrines, procurement of desks, and provision of transport in different education institutions.

KEY ISSUES

- There has been a decline in allocation of funds of 59% over the medium term from Ug shs 11bn in FY 2008/09 to Ug shs 4.5bn in FY 2016/17.
- Less than half of the presidential pledges have been fulfilled (45.5%) over the medium term.
- Performance has been affected by; delays in transfer of funds from the Local Governments to beneficiary institutions, inadequate funds released, late initiation of procurement processes and diversion of funds.

In some cases, the funds are for constructing entirely new institutions/schools. There have been delays in fulfillment of pledges which has led to rolling over of projects for a number of financial years.

TRENDS IN FINANCING

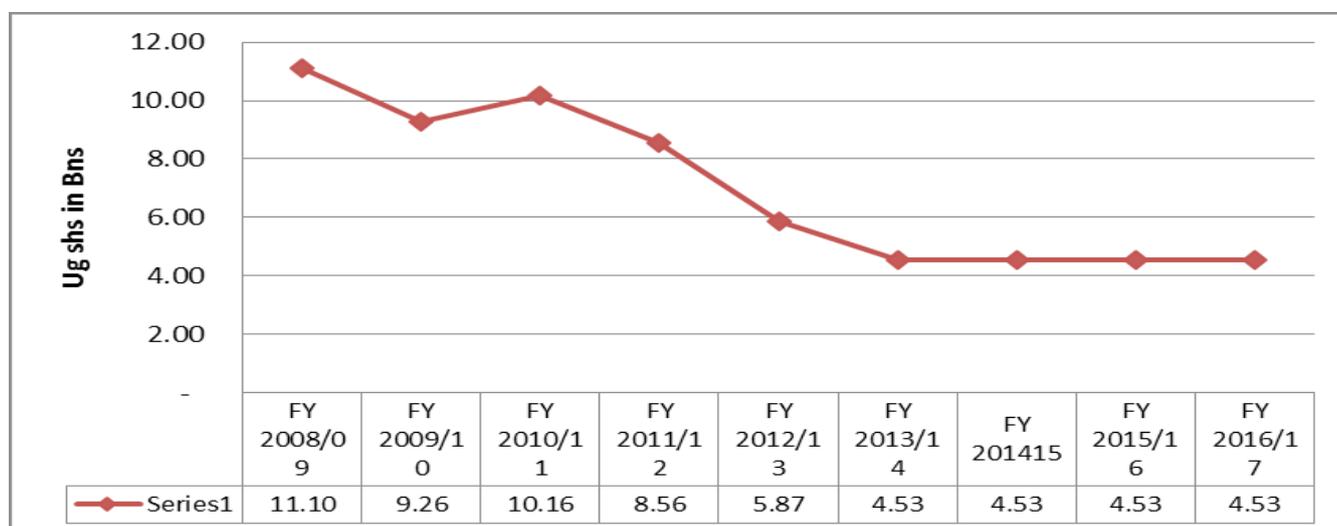
By 19th April 2017, the pledges in the Education Sector were worth Ug shs 198.28 billion (bn) of which Ug shs 65.21bn (32.8%) had been disbursed, and Ug shs 133.07bn was outstanding. The BTVET sub sector has the highest share of the budget for presidential pledges (30%), followed by the tertiary (27%), secondary (24%), primary (10%) and others (11%). Table 1 shows the presidential pledges budget by sub sector.

Table 1: Presidential Pledge Budget by Sub-sector FYs-2008/09-2016/17

Subsector	Total Project Amount	Outstanding
Primary	18,856,268,364	5,024,339,690
Secondary	47,006,508,586	23,764,927,939
BTVET	58,818,594,347	43,533,823,483
Tertiary	52,604,191,998	40,139,360,203
Others	21,000,000,000	20,608,000,000
Grand Total	198,285,563,295	133,070,451,315

Source: MoES (as at 21st April, 2017)

The financing for presidential pledges declined over the medium term from Ug shs 11.1bn in FY 2008/09 to Ug shs 4.5bn in FY 2013/14; and has remained constant at Ug shs 4.5bn from FY 2013/14 to FY 2016/17 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Trends in Funding of Presidential Pledges over the Medium Term

Source: MoES

Performance

Over the medium term (FY 2008/09-FY 2016/17), there have been 292 pledges in the different education sub-sectors, of which 45.5% were fulfilled, 7.1% had works ongoing and 47.2% were not yet fulfilled (table 2).

Table 2: Implementation Status of Presidential Pledges

Subsector	Pledges	Fulfilled	Ongoing works	Purpose of Pledges
BTVET	49	20	3	i) Construction of new technical institutes/nursing training institutes, war effort monument, staff houses, workshops, ii) Renovation of existing technical institutes, and iii) Provision of instructors, and tools/equipment.
Primary	87	55	7	Construction of primary schools, renovation and provision of scholastic materials, provision of iron sheets, cement and transport facilities.
Secondary	126	50	7	Laboratories constructed and equipped, secondary schools and dormitories constructed and rehabilitated, and transport facilities provided such as lorries and buses.
Tertiary	25	8	2	Construction of science laboratories, libraries, establishment of a college of veterinary medicine, incubation center and purchase of computers.
Others	5	0	2	Provision of a stadium and Uganda Cranes bus, and support to Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA)
Total	292	133	21	

Source: MoES and BMAU Findings

Government performance has been poor (45.5%) in terms of fulfillment of presidential pledges over the medium term majorly because of inadequate funding. Whereas there is an increasing trend in the number of pledges, there is a decline in the funding to the sector. Several works have stalled over a number of financial years due to;

i. **Inadequate release of funds.** Works at Engineer Kauliza Kasadha Technical Institute in Bugiri District have stalled since July 2014 on the premise of inadequate funding.



Stalled works at Engineer Kauliza Kasadha Technical Institute- Bugiri District



ii. Delays in transfer of funds to beneficiary institutions; especially from the Local Governments to the beneficiary institutions in cases where direct transfers were not made. In Q2 FY 2015/16, three of the six institutions monitored by Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU) had their funds still on the district collection accounts and some institutions received funds at the end of the FY. Katakwi High School reported that the district officials denied receipt of funds

for the school bus until the headteacher got a schedule from MoES and funds were remitted to the school account in June 2016.(47.98%).

- iii. Late initiation of procurement processes; performance of the presidential pledges as at half year FY 2016/17 was poor (7.2%) due to late initiation of the procurement process. Of the eight schools BMAU monitored in January 2017, three were at the advertising and bidding stage, and construction had started in only two schools.
- iv. Diversion of released funds affected scope of works; In FY 2013/14, the MoES reported to have disbursed Ug shs 37,965,790 for construction of two blocks of five stance VIP latrines at Kitagwenda Technical Institute, Kamwenge District; however the Institute received Ug shs 18,923,837 and only constructed a five stance VIP latrine. Kamwenge Secondary School was reported to have received Ug shs 170,000,000 for construction of a two-unit laboratory, library, two classrooms and a two-unit staff house. However the school received Ug shs 74,894,895 which was used to construct the staff house and classroom block.
- v. Miscommunication was noted especially between the MoES and LGs in relation to guidelines for usage of the funds by the beneficiaries. Findings indicate that funds (Ug shs 150m) sent in FY 2016/17 to Katakwi District Local Government (DLG) in fulfillment of a presidential pledge to Toroma S.S for procurement of a school bus was utilized by the DLG as part of the Schools Facilities Grant (SFG) fund. This was because the funds were sent together with the development funds with no clear guidelines, so the DLG did not differentiate.

The presidential pledge was deferred to the following FY.

Conclusion

Fulfillment of presidential pledges has been poor mainly due to declining budgetary allocations and several implementation challenges. Government through the MoES needs to address these challenges to improve performance.

Recommendations

- i. The MoES should transfer funds for activities under presidential pledges directly to beneficiary institutions to avoid delays at the LGs.
- ii. The MoES should plan to handle few institutions at a time and complete them within a given FY other than phasing constructions and disbursing piecemeal amounts.
- iii. The MoES should ensure timely development and communication of the guidelines to be used for implementation of pledges to all stakeholders, especially the LGs.

References

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