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HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS'
FINANCING BOARD

SPEECH BY THE CHAIRPERSON

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD

ENG DR. CHARLES WANA-ETYEM

**AT THE RELEASE OF THE APPROVED SUCCESSFUL STUDENT LOAN
BENEFICIARIES**

FOR THE A CADEMIC YEAR 2022/23

6th December 2022

RELEASE OF APPROVED STUDENTS' LOANS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23.

- **THE HON. MINISTER OF STATE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION – HON JC MUYINGO**
 - **THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**
 - **DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS – MOST ESPECIALLY THE DIRECTOR HIGHER, TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, DR JANE EGAU.**
 - **BOARD MEMBERS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD,**
 - **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD**
 - **STAFF OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD, LED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**
 - **OUR DEAR FRIENDS - MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**
 - **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**
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1.0 Introduction

On behalf of the Higher Education Students' Financing Board, we welcome you all to this function when we are releasing the 9th cohort of the Students' Loan Beneficiaries for the Academic Year 2022/23.

In a special way, I would like to welcome the Minister of State for Higher Education, the Board members and the staff of the Board.

Hon Minister, on behalf of the Board, we appreciate your continued support and the desire you have for increasing access to Education to all Ugandans. We applaud you for ensuring that the Students' Financing Scheme was put in place to support needy Ugandans who may not afford Higher Education; the intended objectives of widening and broadening access to Higher Education are slowly being registered; for this you have supported the Board in "Empowering the Dreams" of the young people.

Hon Minister, as a newly appointed Chairperson of the Higher Education Students' Financing Board, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, may I start by thanking from the bottom of my heart, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, maama Janet Museveni for giving us the opportunity to steer this very sensitive and important Board in the development of Human Capital for our generally young population. I also wish to thank and appreciate the Hon minister for the team that I am going to be working with. Please take our message of appreciation, we have accepted to serve with humility and commitment.

Again, on behalf of all the new Board members and myself, we wish to pay growing tribute to the outgoing Board under the Leadership of Rev. Fr. Prof Callisto Locheng A.J (PhD), for the services rendered to the Board in the

past 8 years. Their contribution has been significant, with lots of accomplishments. All I can say is thank you once again for a job well done!

Hon Minister, allow me recognize and thank the Board members; they have been on the Board for now 1 week; the enthusiasm with which they have started their work is quiet encouraging. We appreciate the working team at the Secretariat of the Board for the tremendous work they have carried out this year.

I would like to welcome and pay special tribute to the members of the Press for your continued support for covering the Board's events. The press has been a good ally, and I pray that this continues in the years ahead. It is our sincere hope that you continue to report accurately on matters of Financing Higher Education in the Country.

2.0 Background

The Higher Education Students' Financing Board is established by an Act of Parliament No. 2 of 2014, as a body corporate mandated to provide Loans and Scholarships to eligible citizens of Uganda to enable them access Higher Education and to increase equitable access to Higher Education in the Country.

Hon Minister, this academic year the Board received a total of 3,089 Loan applications compared to 6,256 received during 2021/22 academic year. The Education system is still experiencing the effects of COVID-19 pandemic, where in the Calendar year 2021 there were no A' Level Examinations; Never-the-less, the Board has been able to receive a substantial number of applications within the targeted group especially those A' Level leavers who had not got the opportunity to join Higher Education Institutions due to financial challenges.

3.0 Call for Applications

The Board made the call for loan applications on 15th July 2022 and set a deadline which was extended to be able to meet most of the applicants' expectations. The final deadline was 15th October 2022. The information was adequately placed in the print media; the Board website and on social media.

Hon Minister, the Board has deliberately utilized the digital space and social media for purposes of reaching out to the citizenry we target to serve. We started by ensuring that all Loan Application processes are done online; we advertise and interact with the Applicants digitally using WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook. We have held several media broadcasts on Facebook and every broadcast attracted over 3,000 students or listeners. This indeed improved our efficiency and effectiveness in reaching out to our intended audience.

4.0 Number of Applications Received

The Board received a total of 3,089 applications as compared to 6,256 applications received in the academic year 2021/22, as mentioned earlier the implied 51% drop in Applications is an after effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of the 3,089 received applications, 2,417 (78%) were eligible into the Scheme. Of these 1,854 (77%) are male while 563 (23%) are female.

Hon Minister, today you are awarding financial support to 625 students out of the 3,089 received applicants. Of these, 418 are male while 207 are

female. This is the number which our current budgetary allocation of UShs. 2.6 billion can support for the year 2022/23.

5.0 Successful Loan Applicants

Hon Minister, the number of successful loan applicants is 625 students representing a success rate of 20% of the applications received; as mentioned earlier, 418 (67%) are male while 207 (33%) are female. Of these, 518 (83%) are undergraduate Degree students, while 107 (17%) are undergraduate Diploma students.

Hon Minister, we have noted the small numbers of Diploma Loan awards and this was partly caused by the delays the Diploma students experience due to the delayed admissions by the Joint Admissions Board.

Hon Minister, the total number of female successful applicants has steadily remained at just over 30% over the years due to our affirmative action initiatives to ensure Gender Equity, but we wish to call upon girls to strive harder in competing with their male counter parts in pursuing STEM Programmes. But all together, I am grateful to the Board for taking bold steps towards the support to the girl child in Higher Education.

In terms of policy support for Persons with Disabilities, we have offered support to 23 students with disabilities. Of these, 5 are female while 18 are male. This category of learners are able to pursue degrees or diplomas in both Science and Humanities Programmes. **Since inception, the Board has supported 91 students with Disabilities.**

As a mandate, we are also meant to ensure regional balance, Hon Minister, I am happy to report that in terms of Districts participation, we received applications from all the districts of the country apart from Amudat, and Karenga where we did not get applicants, and so we have not supported

students from these areas this academic year. All the Districts where we received applications have successful loan applicants and for this, I am glad that the Scheme has continued to portray a national outlook.

6.0 Participating Higher Learning Institutions

There has been an increase in the number of Universities benefitting from the Scheme. Starting with 12 Universities in the academic year 2014/15, we are proud to support 23 Universities this academic year and a host of other diploma awarding institutions. The Universities increased from 22 to 23 after Victoria University received a Charter in the course of this year 2022.

The participating Universities are:-

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD			
LIST OF THE RECOMMENDED PUBLIC & PRIVATE CHARTERED UNIVERSITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDENTS' FINANCING SCHEME FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23			
S/No	Public Universities	S/No	Private Chartered Universities
1	Busitema University	1	African Bible University
2	Gulu University	2	Bishop Stuart University
3	Kabale University	3	Bugema University
4	Kyambogo University	4	ISBAT University
5	Lira University	5	Islamic University in Uganda
6	Makerere University	6	Kampala International University
7	Mbarara University of Science & Technology	7	Kampala University
8	Mountains of the Moon University - Fort portal	8	Ndejje University
9	Muni University	9	Nkumba University
10	Soroti University	10	Uganda Christian University
11	Makerere University Business School is an affiliate of Makerere University	11	Uganda Martyrs University
		12	Victoria University

Hon Minister, the supported Other Tertiary Institutions (diploma awarding institutions) are now 37 after we added the Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute among the participating Higher Learning Institutions.

7.0 Approved Courses and Programmes for the Academic Year 2020/21

For this 9th cohort of Loans for the academic year 2022/23, Board approved support for students to pursue any of the listed 137 Undergraduate and 82

Diploma programmes. This has really widened and deepened our scope of coverage. This also comes with the approval that Students with Disabilities can pursue any programme within their abilities.

8.0 Loan Coverage

The loans awarded to students shall cover the students' tuition fees, functional fees, research fees and funds to cover Aids and Appliances for persons with disabilities.

9.0 Way Forward

- i) All successful Loan Applicants shall be informed today of their fate through SMS messages and on the Website and other social media platforms.
- ii) All successful Loan Applicants shall be required to sign the Loan Agreements. The Loan Agreements shall be dispatched to the respective Tertiary Institutions and administered by staff of the Board.
- iii) The loan amounts shall be disbursed to the respective Higher Learning Institutions **BUT NOT** to the loan beneficiaries.

10.0 Conclusion

We would like to pay special tribute to the following:

- (i) HE the President of the Republic of Uganda and his Cabinet Ministers for the continued support and guidance.
- (ii) We specifically appreciate all the Ministers of the Education Sector.

- (iii) The Permanent Secretary and staff of the Ministry of Education and Sports for the support and good working relationships.
- (iv) All the participating Universities and the Other Tertiary Institutions for the good and cordial working relationship.
- (v) The Board Members and Staff of the Secretariat for doing their best in the best interest of all the supported students.
- (vi) The Press for the continued sensitization of the public and coverage of the activities of the Board

I now take the pleasure to invite the Honourable Minister of State for Higher Education to make his remarks and officially release the list of the successful loan beneficiaries for the academic year 2022/23.

Eng Dr. Charles Wana- Etyem

CHAIRPERSON

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD