



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**

**STATEMENT BY THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND  
SPORTS**

**AT THE RELEASE OF THE APPROVED SUCCESSFUL STUDENT  
LOAN BENEFICIARIES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025**

**September, 2024**

- **THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD,**
  - **THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**
  - **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD,**
  - **STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS,**
  - **STAFF OF THE BOARD,**
  - **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**
  - **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**
- 

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 the eleventh cohort of the approved Student Loan Beneficiaries for the academic year 2024/2025

I would like therefore, to congratulate the Higher Education Students' Financing Board upon releasing the results for the Eleventh cohort of the Successful Loan Beneficiaries for the academic year 2024/2025.

The Government of Uganda has registered yet another great milestone in achieving the education sector objective of increasing equitable access to Higher Education. The Government under the leadership of H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda is determined to increase access to education at all levels to end the problem of inequitable access to Education and I must say the government interventions have registered great success in UPE; USE, UPOLET, Vocational education and higher education through the Scholarship scheme and the Student loan scheme at Higher education levels.

The introduction of the Student Loan Scheme is one of the fundamental changes brought about by the government of Uganda under the leadership of H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda - Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. It has resulted into increased access to higher education through the support given to learners who would not have afforded higher education.

This initiative is also part of Government of Uganda's commitment to address the **Sustainable Development Goal number 4** of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all at all levels of Education. Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for attaining sustainable development. This goal aims at achieving equitable access to affordable Higher Education Training.

Through the Board, the Government is supporting students that offer Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programmes, essential for the current local job market that will drive economic growth, innovations, and global competitiveness while addressing pressing challenges and improving quality of life for the citizens of Uganda.

This is the eleventh year of uninterrupted Student loan allocations to students pursuing undergraduate degree and diploma programmes. With the available budget of Ushs 7.25 billion for the first years, the Board has been able to award loans to a total of 1,838 posting a success rate of 27.6 %. Though this is 27.6% of the total number of applicants who have shot to 6,661, it is a sign that awareness of the scheme has tremendously grown amidst increasing numbers of students qualified to access Higher Education. The Government of Uganda is determined to increase funding in future such that more learners are able to achieve their educational dreams.

It is also important to note that 43% of the successful applicants are female, 790 female out of 1,838. This is the highest percentage of successful female candidates since the inception of the scheme. I am happy to note that, the Board has this time exceeded the 30% affirmative action towards the female students since inception. I would like therefore, to encourage the girl child to study sciences and tap into the opportunities offered by government to study on government loans.

I am happy to report to all Ugandans and more so my Honorable Colleagues the Members of Parliament, that the Board has already taken the strides in ensuring that the Loan Beneficiaries have been largely selected on District Quota system. 60% of the offers have been equitably distributed among the 137 Districts of the Country. This is a commendable effort in the right direction towards ensuring regional balance in the offering of education opportunities to all Ugandans.

I also note and would wish to congratulate the Board for so far awarding loans to a total of 16,439 students since inception. This is another great milestone for the education sector and the NRM Government that is ensuring education for all at all levels. It is also a clear demonstration of the Government commitment of increasing the education levels in the Country. These students would not have attained their education dreams if it wasn't for the government deliberate intervention of helping the poor parents.

The Ministry of Education and Sports has noted that many students are seeking for loans to enable them pursue Higher Education and this is displayed by increased numbers of applicants standing at 6,661 this Academic year. We shall continue to increase the number of successful loan applicants as approved in the Ministry Strategic Plan under the broader strategic objective of increasing access to education at all levels. My Ministry will work

with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Parliament of Uganda to address the challenges of funding faced by the Board.

I am happy to learn that, the 466 (25.4%) of the awardees are undertaking diploma programmes across different disciplines. Diploma programmes are mainly in the areas of Science and Technology, Health Sciences and Science in Education and are attained at either a University or Other Tertiary Institutions. The Government of Uganda is putting emphasis on vocational studies because they play a vital role in preparing students for successful careers, addressing industry needs, and driving economic growth. I therefore encourage learners to take up these diploma programmes since they emphasize hands-on learning, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings.

I would like to applaud the Board for taking special consideration for Persons with disabilities. A total of 29 PwDs; 20 pursuing sciences while 9 are for humanities benefitted from the scheme which is commendable. The Board is performing exceedingly well on the affirmative action front because Persons with Disabilities are considered as a special group because of the eminent problems they go through to pursue sciences.

The Board has to-date in total awarded loans to 16,437 students from its inception who are spread across 25 Universities and 36 Other Tertiary Institutions. I also welcome the newly Chartered Private Universities on Board – Mutesa I Royal University and University of Kisubi and congratulate them for participating on the student loan scheme.

As the learners take on the student Loans, they are reminded that these are loans and not grants or bursaries meaning that they must be repaid back to create a revolving fund so that more learners are supported using the same funds. The Students Loan Scheme is one of the ways Government intends to

reduce income inequalities and reduce poverty in families by supporting students to attain Higher Education and be productive in future.

The loans are awarded to needy students from poor households who are more likely to be out of school if it was not for the Government intervention. I want to applaud the Board for being very objective and transparent in selecting the loan beneficiaries.

I therefore would like to call upon the loan beneficiaries to take their studies seriously, read hard and pass with excellent grades because I am told the Board does not fund retakes/ repeats. As a beneficiary, you have no reason to relax on your studies. Your duty is just to read since the fees is paid by Government. Good grades/ performance will enable you easily get jobs and be able to pay back the loans so that other needy students also benefit from the same funds.

As I end my remarks, 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.

It is now my singular honour to release the list of the eleventh cohort of the successful loan beneficiaries totaling 1,838 for the academic year 2024/2025. I congratulate the successful loan beneficiaries and wish them success in their studies.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**