30TH AUGUST 2021

**CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS VIA ZOOM ON THE GOV’T PROPOSAL FOR REOPENING OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2020.**

**AGENDA.**

1. PRAYER
2. COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR
3. PRESENTATION FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH
4. PRESENTATION FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION
6. CLOSURE.

1-**PRAYER-Led by Dr Kedrace Turyagenda**

**2-COMMUNICATION-Mr Ismail Mulindwa,** Director of Education welcomed everybody and highlighted the objectives as follows;

1. Engage stakeholders to get insights on gov’t proposal for reopening of schools
2. Harmonize strategies for safe reopening

**NOTE:** He also noted that no teacher will be allowed into schools without being vaccinated

3**-PRESENTATION FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH-Dr. Irene Mwenyango.**

1. **BACKGROUND.**

* That there was need strengthen surveillance in schools
* That there was also need to review the SOPs

1. **WHAT HAS SO FAR BEEN DONE.**

* Trained different stakeholders countrywide
* Held radios/television disseminations
* Established call centers

1. **EXISTING GAPS.**

* Disease monitoring was poor
* There was misreporting or concealing of information
* There has been no support from various levels
* There has been poor collaboration among stakeholders

1. **PLAN FOR REOPENING.**

* Prioritize vaccination
* Activate district taskforces
* Disseminate existing school protocol
* Support establishment of school based care systems
* Conduct capacity building of key stakeholders

4-**PRESENTATION FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS-Dr. Kedrace T.**

1. **JUSTIFICATION FOR REOPENING**.

* Lessons learnt from previous reopening, for instance hiding of cases which shouldn’t be repeated.
* The Ministry has moral obligation for continued learning
* Need for current learners to progress to the next level
* Vaccines can’t be preconditions for reopening because of many factors
* Covid-19 has come to stay, so there was need to cope with it

1. **STRATEGIES FOR REOPENING.**
2. **Adopting Multi-sectoral approach to implementing continuity of learning**

* Involve stakeholders like MoLG, MoG, ICT, Office of the President, Parliament, Proprietors of Private schools, and others

1. **Conduct covid-19 vaccination for teachers and learners**

* Mobilize everybody for vaccination
* Prioritize vaccination of teachers and learners above 18years
* Exempt learners below 18years from vaccination

1. **Ensuring safe reopening of institutions of learning**

* Localize phased reopening-meaning other parts of the Country can continue to learn as those other parts badly hit remain closed.
* Prioritize medical schools reopening
* Stagger reopening
* **Adapt school calendar to staggered reopening(August 2021 to June 2022) for Academic year 2021**
* **Prioritize P1-3 and S1-2 classes for reopening as other classes follow**
* Provide temporary structures for classrooms and double shifts more especially in over populated schools

1. **Ensuring completion of Academic year 2020 and progression to the next level.**

* All learners aged 6years should enroll to P1 without necessarily undergoing Pre-Primary education
* P1-3and S1-2 to undergo the 14 weeks of study
* Finalists in higher institutions be given time to complete
* Synchronize reopening in tertiary institutions
* Schedule end of cycle summative assessments by schools
* UNEB exams be done before end of June 2022
* Conduct S1/S5/others’ selection by September

1. **Strengthening continuity of learning**

* Promote community led learning (CLL)
* All Pre-Primary and lower Primary pupils to study from schools closest to them
* Print and distribute additional home study materials
* Strengthen radio and Tv platforms
* Online learning in higher institutions should be used equitably or handle face to face in a staggered manner in Basic education levels
* Shift systems especially in day schools will be encouraged

1. **Reviewing the school curriculum**

* Extract content that is core
* Re-orient teachers to handle the adjusted curriculum

1. **Strengthening Covid-19 surveillance system in schools**

* Hold accountable heads of institutions for implementation of SOPs and supervising all activities related to Covid-19 management, ensuring effective teaching and learning, ensuring vaccination for all, daily tracking of activities, etc
* Recruit a health worker in a cluster of schools or linking up with nearest health facilities
* Implement M-Track digital surveillance system in all institutions
* Map and link all institutions to nearest health facilities

**5-QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION.**