

# HOIMA DIOCESE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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*Our Ref:* .....

*Your Ref:* .....

Thursday, May 16, 2019

To all Heads of Education Institutions in Catholic Founded Schools,  
Teachers, Priests in-charge of Education,  
Parish Priests, and our collaborators in the provision of education Services,

## **RE: SECOND TERM NEWS LETTER FROM THE EDUCATION OFFICE OF HOIMA CATHOLIC DIOCESE**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Dear colleagues who work in one way or another in the provision of education services to the young generation, we send you cordial greetings from the Education Office of Hoima Catholic Diocese. I take this opportunity to express our humble appreciation to you all for the great work you do in your respective places of assignment to ensure that the children in our schools have access to quality education.

For purposes of communication between the Office of Education of Hoima Diocese and your respective offices, we issue this News Letter (Circular) at least once every term to communicate to you particular points of emphasis and programs that we wish to focus on in our work of promoting quality education for the young generation. We urge you to pay diligent attention to what we have put forward so that we are able to move in the same direction.

### **B. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ON THE PATH OF PROVIDING HOLISTIC EDUCATION**

The purpose of the Church's engagement in education is to provide a holistic education. We call upon all players in our Catholic Founded Schools to strive to make our schools real centres of education. While we applaud good academic performance in our schools, we urge that such good academic performance should be accompanied by the required moral formation, religious formation and skills development, putting into consideration the love of work. The Catholic School should be the champion of producing quality citizens that are all round and ready to face the demands of a challenging world. Though we are very passionate to see shining academic grades, we strongly discourage a form of education that drills the learners with academic work and tests, while denying them opportunities for work, spiritual

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and religious activities, and sports. Though such children might pass brilliantly, they will not be relevant to the needs of the world they are meant to live in.

### **C. SCHOOLS' PROGRAMS INITIATED BY HOIMA DIOCESE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

The duty to educate is at the heart of the very Mission of the Church, since the Church was commissioned by her Master to go out to the whole world and teach the Gospel to every creature (Mt. 28:19-20). To facilitate this mandate, and indeed to participate in the project of the formation of the human person, the Church has put in place the department of education which runs through all the structures of the Church, from the Universal Church to the Small Christian Community. The department of education prepares different education programs to facilitate real education in her Catholic Founded Schools and in other collaborating schools. Such programs are prepared to see to it that the recipients of education in our schools receive real and holistically packaged education. It is therefore our call that all programs prepared by the Department of Education of Hoima Diocese for the school communities of Catholic Foundation, in so far as, such programs don't contravene government policies, should be welcomed with an open and generous heart. We wish to inform you that all programs that we prepare for schools after tedious and systematic planning are mandatory for all Catholic Founded schools without any exception.

### **D. FIRST TERM 2019**

We congratulate you all upon having coming to the end of First term 2019. We thank you for all the education programs that you conducted in the respective institutions of learning entrusted to you. As a Diocesan Office of Education, though still struggling for financial sustainability, we successfully conducted a number of activities all geared at strengthening the contribution of the department towards improving education standards.

**i. Hoima Diocese Education Board:** We have the pleasure to inform you that now we have the Board of the Education of Hoima Diocese fully constituted and appointed. We have confidence that their input will help us take the department forward. The members of the Board of Education of Hoima Diocese are:

1. Rev. Fr. Paul Kato (Chairperson)
2. Rev. Fr. James Aliomu
3. Rev. Sr. Mary Kyomukama
4. Hon. Noeline Kisembo Basemera
5. Mr. Ssemanda Gerald Apuuli
6. Mr. Zondera Amon
7. Mr. Kyomuhendo Francis
8. Ms. Harriet Kihumuro
9. Mr. Kemara Francis
10. Mr. Deogratias Bazaale
11. Dr. Cleophas Mugenyi

**ii. Meeting of the Priests' in Charge of Education:** We are grateful to the Priests in Charge of Schools and all Priests working in schools who participated in our

meeting of March 21<sup>st</sup> 2019. We have started implementing gradually what we discussed.

- iii. **Two days workshop for Head Teachers and Deputy Head teachers of Secondary Schools:** We convey our appreciations to the Head Teachers and Deputy Head Teachers of Secondary Schools who participated in our Workshop that ran from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. We are organising a follow up meeting of a select committee to concretise on our resolutions.
- iv. **Diocesan Music Festival for Secondary Schools:** This academic year in First Term we held our first ever Liturgical Music Festival for Secondary Schools in Hoima Diocese. We are grateful to the 14 schools that participated in the competition and for all that supported us. We look forward to keep on improving, but also to implement the same exercise in Primary Schools.

#### **E. UPCOMING EVENTS 2019**

There many activities that we have planned to implement in the course of this year. At this particular moment we request you to pay attention and prepare for the following:

1. **Training of the elected leaders of Education at Parish and Sub-Parish levels and Constitution of the Parish Education Committees:** In the most recently concluded elections of Sub-Parish and Parish Councils two positions on the side of education were considered; that is, the Secretary for Education and the Catholic Teacher. In the Second term of this Academic year we have planned and prepared a training exercise at Parish level for these elected members of education at Parish level and Sub-Parish levels. The other members to be involved in the training will be all the Chairpersons School Management Committees of the Catholic Founded Schools in the Parish, all the Chairpersons PTA of our Schools, the Catechists of the Sub-Parishes where our schools are located, the Head Catechist, and the Priest in-charge of schools and the Parish Priest. At the end of the trainings we shall elect the Parish Education Committee from that big team. A separate letter communicating the dates has been attached.
2. **Diocesan Mock Examinations:** From last year we started a mock examination for all Primary Seven Candidates in Catholic Founded and Collaborating Schools. The purpose of this paper is to assess the readiness of the candidates prepared by our schools. For this year the P.7 Mock will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2019. As we already communicated to you each candidate will pay 5,000/= only for the examination. We urge the Head teachers of the concerned Primary Schools to submit the P.7 enrolments and pay the money in time. The examination will be marked centrally at the Diocese. This year we shall also prepare promotional Mock examination for P.6 and Pre-P.L.E for P.7. These papers do not substitute those prepared by the respective districts, the two should complement each other.

In our Workshop of Head teachers of Secondary Schools and their deputies, it was resolved that we prepare such common papers for Catholic Founded Secondary Schools. We are due to have a follow up meeting to see how such a resolution is concretised.

3. **Day of the Holy Childhood:** Sunday, July 14, 2019; the Second Sunday of July will be **Missionary Holy Childhood Day**. We request and encourage all Pre-Primary and Primary School Head teachers, especially through the Catholic Teachers, to prepare the children in your respective schools to celebrate this day meaningfully. Of particular importance, this day is prepared to encourage and build the missionary work of children. Therefore, children should be encouraged and prepared to donate for the aid of children in need. Each child should be able to give however small (as little as 50/=) the contribution may be. This contribution should come in the name of the School, through the Parish and then to the PMS (Pontifical Mission Societies) office. It is such contributions that have helped the Catholic Church to build schools, especially Primary and Nursery Schools and to give other forms of aid to children.
4. **Catholic Teachers Day: Saturday, September 28, 2019** will be marked as Catholic Teachers' Day in the Diocese of Hoima. All the Catholic Teachers in the various institutions and capacities in the Diocese will make pilgrimage to the Diocese and there will be the Holy Sacrifice of Mass in the Cathedral starting at 10:00 am. The Bishop of Hoima Diocese will be the main celebrant. On **Friday, July 12, 2019**, there will be a preparatory meeting of representatives of Catholic Teachers that have been elected at the Parish. The meeting will take place at the Diocese.
5. **The Education Month:** It is our planned activity that every year the month of July is marked as the **Education Month in the Diocese**. We are still working on the concept of activities of what it will all involve this year. The details will be communicated to you in due time.

**F. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DIOCESAN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FUND**

We convey our sincere gratitude to all those heads of Catholic Founded Education Institutions who submitted their contributions to the Diocesan Education Development Fund for the First term 2019. If we are able to conduct any programs regarding the promotion of education services in the Diocese, it is because of these contributions. And where we are finding difficulties to implement some of our planned education programs, it is because most of the schools are not yet faithful to these contributions. I take this opportunity to remind you that the contributions to the Diocesan Education Development Fund are as follows:

- i. Nursery School: Every child in a Nursery School that is Catholic Founded must contribute 500/= per term. This brings it to 1,500/= per year.
- ii. Primary Schools: Every pupil in a Catholic Founded Primary School must contribute 1,000/= per term which brings it to a total of 3,000/= per year.
- iii. Secondary Schools: Every student in a Secondary School that is Catholic Founded must contribute 2,000/= per term, which is equivalent to 6,000/= per year.
- iv. Tertiary Education Institutions: Every student in a Tertiary Education Institution (or Vocational Education Institution) must contribute 5,000/= per term or per semester, which translates to 15,000/= or 10,000/= per year.
- v. All teachers working in Catholic Founded Schools: Effective this year, it was resolved that every teacher teaching in a Catholic Founded School, must

contribute 10,000/= per year to the Diocesan Education Development Fund. All teachers Contributions must be made in the Second Term of the Academic year.

Following our meeting with the Priests in charge of Education in the different Parishes, we resolved that all contributions to the Diocesan Education Development Fund must be remitted through the Priest in Charge of Schools of the respective Parish where the schools are located, who will in turn submit the funds to the Diocesan Education Office, and should be able to deliver a receipt to the concerned school.

Secondly, as the Secretariat of education of the Diocese, we do not receive any special funding or grants either from foreign donors or from the Diocesan Treasury. We therefore solely rely on the contributions of the Diocesan Education Development Fund to pay the staff of the secretariat, to manage all the program costs, to make contributions to the Diocese and to the National Education Office, and to undertake other developments in schools, such as, constructions and renovations of schools whenever possible.

Some head teachers have been telling us that the parents are not sensitised. For the past two years we made efforts to make sure that all head teachers were informed and sensitised about the need to contribute to the Diocesan Education Development Fund. We therefore give the duty of sensitising the parents and the rest of the school community to the head teachers of the respective schools. Whenever possible, the respective Priests in charge of schools in the different Parishes can be invited to give an input.

Just as the service of fundraising is difficult in every other place, we acknowledge that it is challenging to get these collections from parents, especially in UPE schools, just as it is the case with other collections. Nevertheless, it is still possible to get these collections as we do continued sensitisations. If any school does not make any single contribution in a term, it is a matter of bad will exhibited by the head of the school. We cannot believe that all the children in a given school have failed to pay.

### **G. CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

We wish to inform you that our office is in direct coordination with the Catholic Universities in Uganda, that is, **Uganda Martyrs University – Nkozi** and **University of Kisubi**, which was founded and is managed by the Brothers of Christian Instruction. In each of these Universities there are scholarship opportunities which you can easily access. Applications to these Universities can be made either directly through our office or online.

- i. Uganda Martyrs University Scholarships:** Uganda Martyrs University is offering Scholarships in different categories:
  - a)** We have five (5) half tuition scholarships for the Catholic Youths of Hoima Diocese who will be doing full time programs at the main Campus of Uganda Martyrs University.
  - b)** Each Catholic Founded 'A' Level school has been offered five (5) half tuition scholarships, and beneficiaries of this type of scholarship are free to study from any Uganda Martyrs Campus of their choice.

- c) Every district has also been offered five (5) half tuition scholarships. Beneficiaries of this type of scholarship are also free to study from any Uganda Martyrs Campus of their choice.

Students who would wish to benefit from these scholarships should first apply for entry to Uganda Martyrs University and there after they will be given the forms for the scholarships. All this information can be got from our office.

## H. TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN HOIMA DIOCESE

In Hoima Diocese we have a number of Catholic Founded Tertiary and/or Vocational Education Institutions offering a range of programs and skills development with various degrees of certification from Non-formal to Diploma courses. These education institutions include:

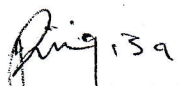
1. St. Simon Peter's Vocational Training Centre.
2. Millennium Business School, Hoima
3. St. Joseph's Technical School, Munteme TECO
4. St. Martin Institute of Health Sciences, Munteme
5. St. Kizito Vocational and Apprenticeship Centre, Masindi
6. Birembo War Memorial Technical Institute
7. Mother Gerine School, Kakumiro
8. St. Andrea Kaahwa Kooki Vocational Training Institute
9. St. Kirigwaijo Nursery Teachers' College.

We request all stakeholders in our Catholic Founded Schools to encourage learners and the entire school community to love vocational skills. Vocational education, especially today where jobs are scarce is the pillar of the nation. Endeavour to give direction to the learners to join our own Vocational Education Institutions.

## I. CONCLUSION

We thank you all our dear collaborators in the education mission of the Church. We give special credit to those schools that are making the mandatory contributions to support the office of education in time. God Bless you all abundantly.

Sincerely yours,

  
Rev. Fr. Patrick Mugisa  
Education Secretary  
Diocese of Hoima

