

Poor planning failing government projects – First Lady

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Poor planning by technocrats for government projects has made several of them to fail according to the first lady Janet Kataaha Museveni.

Ms Museveni who also doubles as the minister for Education said that this is well manifested in the failure to plan for meagre resources available for development projects and their future sustainability. Many government installations, she said, have failed to live up to their expectations because of this very reason.



Ms Museveni and other ministry of Education touring the newly constructed Soroti University

She made these remarks in Soroti on Thursday while on a routine monitoring visit to the new Soroti University under construction.

“My experience in government has shown me that many of the government projects fail because of poor planning. Unless we plan well, we cannot do a good job,” she said.

Ms Museveni said that just like the case of Soroti University which is still seeking funds to finally take off, resources can never be enough and that to make progress with scarce resources, there is need for effective planning.

Soroti University, a designated science university located in Aloet central village in Soroti district has been under construction since July 2014 and is expected to be handed over to government later this year.

The university vice chancellor Prof Ikoja Odongo, dismissed media reports that the university is functional pointing out that there is still a lot to be done by government, the university council and the administration.

“The university is not fully established. This is just the first step. A university is not just buildings but land for a compound and other infrastructure among other things which we don’t have,” Ikoja said.



Although not yet fully functional, the institution has put up pillars like the university council, the administration and a total of 85 staff although there are still gaps in human resource due to budgetary constrains according to Ikoja.

“Our policy is to build onto what we have per each academic year. We are yet to admit students mainly because certain constructions are still going on,” Ikoja said.

The one stop facility boasts of 8 laboratories, 16 lecture theatres, and 16 lecture halls all with the capacity to accommodate 3,500 students add 100 staff. Ikoja said that the courses which they intend to start with have been forwarded to the National Council of Higher Education although they have not yet been approved.

These include Bachelor of Science in Medicine, Bachelor of Science in Biomedical science and Bachelor of Science in nursing.

These will be expanded later according to Ikoja and that the number of the students who enrol at the start of the university will not matter but rather their quality.

“What matters is not the quantity but the quality. So as to avoid unemployable quantity, Soroti University seeks to transform knowledge into tangible effects,” Ikoja said.

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