



## 50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON: 19<sup>th</sup> August – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### FOCUS ON THE GOVERNANCE SPHERE

## 2026 NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP IN UGANDA

### PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK FOUR: 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Day	Day of the Week	Date	Area of Focus
28	Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	The Financial Sector
29	Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Early Childhood and Primary Education
30	Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Secondary Education
31	Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Tertiary Education
32	Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Continuing Adult Informal and Non-Formal Education
33	Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Education Governance
34	Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	Science, Technology, Research, Innovation

### DAY 29: 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

### EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRIMARY EDUCATION

#### ISAIAH 54:13

*“All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.”*

#### PROVERBS 22:6

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

#### HOSEA 4:6

*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”*

#### PSALM 127:3

*“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.”*

### EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: THE TRUE WEALTH OF NATIONS

The true wealth of a nation does not lie in its minerals, oil, water bodies, land or forests, but in its people. Nations such as Singapore and South Korea - once poor and resource-constrained - have risen to global prosperity by investing in their people. A nation's

education system is the foundation of its national destiny. Nations rise or fall depending on how they train, shape, and invest in their people.

Uganda, with its divine calling as a *teaching nation*, must recognize that the key to shaping the future we desire lies in the quality of our education system and human capacity development; education is the cornerstone for building the nation we desire to see. This is why this week we are giving extended attention and prayer to this sector.

### **Education as Human Capacity Development**

Education is far more than formal schooling. It is the process through which people acquire knowledge, understanding, and wisdom for both life and livelihood. It shapes character, transmits values, and equips people with the skills needed for governance, work, and service. Through education, *life is communicated across generations* — culture, morals, and truth are handed down to preserve identity and strengthen societies.

### **The Breadth of the Education Sphere**

The education sector is vast, stretching far beyond classrooms. It involves:

- Parents and families, who are the first educators.
- Learners of all ages, from children to adults.
- Schools, colleges, universities, and vocational institutes.
- Curriculum developers, teachers, and instructors.
- Home educators and religious institutions.
- Government ministries and education authorities.
- Producers of educational materials and trainers in the marketplace.

When each of these actors plays their role faithfully, society flourishes with wisdom, innovation, and justice.

*Deuteronomy 6:7* — Parents are commanded to teach God’s Word “diligently to your children.”

### **Knowledge, Understanding, and Wisdom in Education**

Education can be seen in three layers:

- **Knowledge** — facts, concepts, and information organized into subjects like Mathematics, Science, Languages, and Social Studies.
- **Understanding** — the ability to reason, relate, and apply knowledge. It includes the essential skills of speaking, listening, reasoning, reading, and writing.
- **Wisdom** — the application of knowledge and understanding to real life, guided by godly character.

*Proverbs 4:7* — “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.”

### **Education as a Governance Priority**

The education system determines the quality of leadership and citizenship in the next generation. Where education standards are low, nations reap poor governance,

corruption, and underdevelopment. Where education is strong, nations thrive with justice, innovation, productivity, and national progress.

Every aspect of education — from policy and curriculum design to teacher welfare and access — is a governance decision. Leaders must recognize that investing in education is investing in the nation’s destiny. Daniel and his friends were found “ten times better” than their peers after training in wisdom and learning (*Daniel 1:20*).

### **Uganda’s Challenge and Opportunity**

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world, with over 70% under the age of 30. This demographic reality presents both a challenge and an opportunity. On one hand, there is youth unemployment, underfunded schools, and poor-quality learning. On the other hand, there is the potential of a young, energetic workforce ready to be equipped and mobilized for national transformation.

The central question is this: Will governance invest in this generation to build a strong and prosperous Uganda, or will it neglect them and reap instability?

*Psalms 144:12* — “May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace.”

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND GOVERNANCE**

The story of a nation’s leaders does not begin in its parliaments, markets, or universities, but in the earliest years of its children. Early Childhood Education (ECE), covering ages 0–6, is the bedrock of human development. At this stage, the brain grows most rapidly, character is molded, and foundational values are instilled. If governance fails at this stage, it sets entire generations on fragile ground.

The Bible reminds us: “*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it*” (Proverbs 22:6). Good governance must therefore recognize that investing in children’s earliest years is investing in the nation’s destiny.

Governments play a crucial role in setting policies and frameworks that determine whether children receive nurturing care, quality preschool, and equal access to learning. In Uganda, much of ECE remains privatized, leaving the poorest children behind. This creates inequality that echoes through primary, secondary, and tertiary education, producing gaps in opportunity and national development.

Beyond access, governance must also consider values. Early childhood is when children learn cooperation, honesty, discipline, and respect. A curriculum that ignores character formation produces citizens prone to corruption, selfishness, and indiscipline. Scripture emphasizes this duty: “*Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road*” (Deuteronomy 6:7).

The link between ECE and governance also lies in productivity. Economists argue that investing in early childhood brings the highest returns for a nation. Children who receive good care and quality early education are healthier, complete more schooling, and contribute more positively to society. This makes ECE not only a social responsibility but also an economic and governance priority.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Uganda focuses on the holistic development of children aged 0-6, encompassing both formal pre-primary education for ages 3-6 and informal traditional upbringing for younger children. While enrollment in pre-primary schools is increasing, challenges remain, including a lack of universal access, under-resourced community centers, and a prevalent emphasis on rote learning over play-based learning, despite ongoing efforts like the IT'S PLAY project to promote playful pedagogy. The Ugandan government, in conjunction with organizations like UNICEF, ELMA Philanthropies and NGOs, is working to strengthen policies, improve teacher training, and increase access to quality early childhood education through coordinated efforts.

ECE includes formal pre-primary education (nursery schools, kindergartens, crèches) for children aged 3 to 6, designed to prepare them for primary school, and informal education (the traditional upbringing of young children (0-3 years) is considered an integral part of ECE), preparing them for formal schooling. The government has launched a National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy to coordinate efforts between the government, private sector, communities, and families.

For Uganda, one of the youngest countries in the world, the urgency is clear. Over 70% of the population is under 30 years old. If governance neglects their earliest years, the nation risks raising a generation unprepared for leadership, work, and service. But if governance invests wisely, Uganda could harness its youthful energy for transformation.

Ultimately, early childhood education is not just about children — it is about the future of nations. It is about whether leaders will sow seeds of wisdom, equity, and justice in the smallest hearts, so that tomorrow's Uganda may be built on righteousness and knowledge.

## **PRIMARY EDUCATION AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA**

Primary education is the bedrock of Uganda's future. It is at this stage — ages 6 to 12 — that children learn to read, write, count, reason, and begin to develop character. For Uganda, where over 70% of the population is under the age of 30, the way government manages primary education today determines what kind of society the nation will be tomorrow.

*Proverbs 22:6* — “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

### **Primary Education as a Governance Responsibility**

In 1997, Uganda introduced Universal Primary Education (UPE), giving millions of children the opportunity to go to school. This was a bold governance step. Yet challenges remain: overcrowded classrooms, teacher absenteeism, poor infrastructure, and limited materials.

Good governance means:

- Ensuring resources allocated to UPE are not lost to corruption.
- Building schools in rural areas, not only in towns.
- Supporting teachers with fair pay and training.

When governance fails, children study under trees, without books, or drop out early.

*Isaiah 54:13* — “All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.”

### **Equity and Social Justice in Ugandan Schools**

Primary education is supposed to be the great equalizer — yet in Uganda, girls, children with disabilities, and rural learners still face many barriers. Many girls drop out because of early marriage, lack of sanitary pads, or household responsibilities.

Good governance ensures inclusive education by:

- Providing school meals so children from poor homes can learn without hunger.
- Protecting children from child labor and abuse.
- Supporting girl-child education as a national priority.

*Matthew 25:40* — “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

### **Building Citizens and Future Leaders**

Primary schools are where future Ugandan citizens and leaders are first shaped. If they are trained in discipline, honesty, and responsibility, they become adults who resist corruption and work hard.

Governance that integrates civic education, moral instruction, and respect for the rule of law into primary schools lays the foundation for a stable democracy.

*Deuteronomy 6:6–7* — “These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.”

### **The Economic Impact of Primary Education**

Uganda’s economy depends on an educated workforce. Without literacy and numeracy from the primary level, young people cannot progress to secondary, vocational, or tertiary education.

UPE expanded access, but the quality gap is a major governance issue. Poorly trained learners cannot compete in the modern job market. This affects productivity, innovation, and national development.

*Ecclesiastes 7:12* — “Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves those who have it.”

### **Governance, Peace, and Stability**

Uganda’s peace and stability are tied to how today’s children are educated. Without strong investment in primary education, the nation risks high unemployment, frustration, and social unrest in the future.

Good governance ensures that schools produce informed, skilled, and employable citizens who can contribute positively to society.

*Proverbs 29:18* — “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

## **PRAYER GUIDE: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND PRIMARY EDUCATION**

### **1. Thanksgiving for God's Gift of Children, UPE and Access to Schools**

- Thank God for blessing Uganda with one of the youngest and most vibrant populations in the world.
- Thank God for the bold step of Universal Primary Education that opened doors for millions of Ugandan children.

*Psalm 127:3* — “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.”

*Psalm 119:130* — “The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”

*Prayer:*

- Lord, we thank You for the gift of children, the future leaders and builders of our nation.
- We thank You for UPE and for the many children who now have the opportunity to learn. May Uganda's schools continue to be places of light and growth.

### **2. Repentance for Neglect and Corruption**

- Repent for government neglect and underfunding of early childhood education.
- Repent for inequality, where poor and rural children lack access to quality ECE.
- Repent for misuse of education funds that denies children quality learning.
- Repent for neglect that has left schools without classrooms, teachers, or learning materials.

*Hosea 4:6* — “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

*Prayer:*

- Father, forgive us for neglecting the foundational years of our children and for failing to provide equal opportunities for all.
- Father, forgive us where corruption and negligence have robbed Uganda's children of their future through poor schools and wasted resources.
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### **3. Prayer for Policies and Leadership**

- Pray for policymakers to prioritize ECE in national budgets and development plans.
- Pray for laws and frameworks that protect children and promote holistic early learning.

*Proverbs 8:15–16* — “By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just.”

*Prayer:* Lord, give wisdom to our leaders to craft policies that invest in children's earliest years with justice and foresight.

### **4. Prayer for Teachers, Parents, and Caregivers**

- Pray for parents, the first educators, to raise children in godly values.
- Pray for early childhood teachers to be well-trained, supported, and motivated.
- Pray for teachers, especially those in rural areas, to be motivated and well-supported.
- Pray for better pay, training, and integrity in their service.

*Deuteronomy 6:7* — “Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road.”

*James 3:1* — “Not many of you should become teachers... because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

*Prayer:* Lord, bless Uganda’s teachers with strength, wisdom, and provision to shape a new generation. Father, strengthen parents and teachers to nurture children with knowledge, discipline, and love.

## **5. Prayer for Equity in Education**

- Pray that vulnerable groups (orphans, rural children, girls, and children with disabilities) will have equal access to ECE.
- Pray for special attention to the children with disabilities, and those in rural areas.
- Pray for provision of school meals, sanitary care, and safe learning environments.

*Galatians 3:28* — “There is neither Jew nor Gentile... male nor female... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

*Matthew 19:14* — “Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

*Prayer:* Lord, let every Ugandan child — regardless of gender, location, or ability — have equal opportunity to learn and thrive. Lord, break down barriers that exclude children from learning, and open doors of opportunity for the least among us.

## **5. Prayer for Governance and Accountability in Education**

- Pray that leaders will invest wisely in schools, curricula, and teacher welfare.
- Pray for an end to corruption in the Ministry of Education and local governments.
- Pray that taxes on educational institutions will be eased and even removed to encourage the much needed growth in this sector.
- *Proverbs 29:4* — “By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down.”

*Prayer:* Father, raise leaders in Uganda’s education sector who value justice, accountability, and the future of children above personal gain.

## **6. Prayer for National Transformation through Education**

- Pray that Uganda’s primary schools will produce godly, wise, and skilled leaders of tomorrow.
- Pray that Uganda’s young generation will be prepared to lead with wisdom and integrity.

- Declare that the nation will invest in its children as a pathway to transformation.
- *Psalm 144:12* — “May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace.”

**Closing Prayer:**

Lord, we lift before You Uganda’s youngest children — the foundation of our nation’s future. Bless them with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. Give our leaders courage to invest in them, our parents strength to nurture them, and our teachers skill to guide them. May Uganda’s future be secured through children who are raised in righteousness and truth. Lord, use Uganda’s schools to raise a new generation filled with integrity, excellence, and godliness to transform the nation. Lord, raise up a generation rooted in wisdom, ready to serve, and equipped to build a righteous and prosperous Uganda.