

Deputy Governor's Speech for the Handover Ceremony of Computers to Educational Institutions; 10th July 2009

One of the core functions of Bank of Uganda is the development and modernization of the National Payment System. Over the last decade, the Bank has invested heavily in the development of an efficient and safe national payment system.

Bank of Uganda implemented the National Cheque Standard in 2000, Electronic Cheque Clearing in 2002, Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) in 2003 and Real-time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System in 2005.

Globally, there is a steady and consistent increase in the digitisation of payments. Compared to paper-based payments like cheques, electronically generated payments like EFTs are both safer and more efficient. In order to improve the overall efficiency and safety of the national payment system, Bank of Uganda, working closely with other stakeholders, is actively promoting the use of electronic payments.

Following persistent complaints about the cumbersome, time-wasting and risky system of standing in long queues to pay school fees, Bank of Uganda, working with the Ministry of Education and educational institutions, implemented the use of EFTs in making fees payments in the first term of 2007.

In order to promote EFT utilization in schools, Bank of Uganda has donated 20 computers to 20 educational institutions to facilitate EFT-based fees payments.

I am glad that your institutions were selected to benefit from the Bank of Uganda's initiative to promote EFT usage in educational institutions. Please accept these computers and start collecting fees using the electronic fund transfer method. The computers have MS-Excel 2007, MS-Word 2007, MS-PowerPoint 2007 and MS-Access 2007. Staff from Bank of Uganda will be periodically visiting your schools to facilitate regular skill enhancement in EFT-based fees payment.

We would also request that you regularly update us on the degree of EFT utilization in fees payments and the challenges that your institution may be facing.

With those few remarks, I wish you successful implementation of collecting fees using the safe EFT method.

Thank you.

PATRICK BYABAKAMA KABERENGE

AG. DEPUTY GOVERNOR