

Bridge schools closed in Mukono, Lugazi, Njeru

MUKONO

By Henry Nsubuga

The directorate of education standards in the education ministry has closed Bridge Academy schools in Mukono, Lugazi and Njeru municipalities.

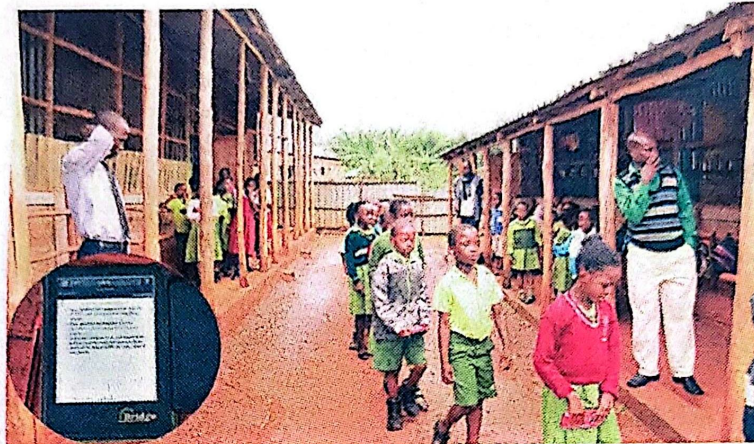
The team, which was headed by the senior schools inspector Edward Muwanguzi and Mukono municipality schools inspector, Olivia Bulya, on Monday stormed Bridge Academy, Kauga and ordered the headteacher, Martha Nakirya, to close it immediately.

The branches at Nakibizzi, Mbikko and the one in Lugazi municipality were also closed and the pupils ordered to go back home.

Muwanguzi also closed the boarding sections of Nyonjo Junior School in Lugazi municipality and Mabira Standard Academy, which were operating illegally. The schools were also extremely dirty.

Although Nakirya said they had started the process of registering the school and had put in place many things which were non-existent last year, the team was not convinced.

Muwanguzi said he was working on a directive from the permanent



Pupils of Bridge Academy- Kauga in Mukono municipality going home after their school was closed. Inset is the iPad used for teaching. Photo ny Henry Nsubuga

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The senior schools inspector, Edward Muwanguzi, vowed to take legal action if the schools reopen.

secretary, who had asked them to have these schools closed.

“Despite the fact that all the 63 Bridge Academy schools in Uganda are not registered, they are following a curriculum which they

allege is international, but it was not approved by the Uganda National Curriculum Development Centre,” he said.

Muwanguzi said the Bridge Academy teachers conduct classes following work sent to them on iPads, which are controlled by someone who may not be in the country.

He also said the sanitation of these schools is wanting and the structures in which the pupils attend classes are not up to standard.

Muwanguzi said they started warning parents in June last year to take their children away from these schools, but they did not take heed.

“The ministry is not to blame for parents who have already paid school fees. They should sit with the administrators to see how their money can be refunded,” he said.

Bulya said they have closed this school many times before, but the administrators have refused to comply.

Viola Rose Nabirye, the head of Bridge Academy Nakibizzi, said the blame should not be put on teachers, but the administrators who ask them to co-operate.

“We are just employees who must abide by the instructions. I wish the Government would resolve the issues with the administration of the school and let us work. Imagine hundreds of teachers and non-teaching staff are now jobless, yet the Government cannot employ us all,” she said.

Josephine Akol, a parent at Kauga, said there are many private and government-aided schools which are in a terrible state, but are open.

Muwanguzi vowed to take legal action if the schools reopen.