Uneb moves to swiftly mark recovered scripts

The scripts were discovered in a box used to store Uneb materials in the head teacher's office.

BY JANE NAFULA

The Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) has assured parents and candidates of Bamure Primary School in Koboko District that the missing Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) scripts for Integrated Science will be marked and graded in time for the Senior One selection exercise scheduled for mid-February.

Uneb spokesperson Jennifer Kalule yesterday said the Board had organised a special marking session for the 34 affected candidates after the scripts were recovered intact from the school head teacher's office at the weekend.

"Examiners have been invited for a special marking exercise, after which the candidates will be graded," Ms Kalule said in a statement.

According to Uneb, the marking exercise is expected to start today in Kampala and conclude tomorrow, followed immediately by grading to ensure the candidates are included in the Senior One selection and placement exercise slated for February 12 and 13.

The reassurance comes after days of anxiety among parents and learners following the release of the 2025 PLE results last Friday, when all 34 candidates from Bamure Primary School were listed as "X" (ungraded) in Integrated Science. Uneb had initially indicated that the candidates were absent for the subject, triggering confusion and anger in the community.

On Monday, disgruntled parents, together with their children and local leaders, stormed the school demanding answers about the fate of the candidates, who include 18 boys and 16 girls.

The school head teacher, Mr Waku Zabair Abriga, said he was shocked to learn that all his candidates had been marked absent for a paper they had sat. He immediately petitioned Uneb, attaching documentary evidence to show that the learners had taken the exam.

"I wrote to Uneb after verifying the results and realising that Integrated Science had not been graded. We submitted the attendance register, seating plans for the two examination rooms and candidates' attendance lists as proof," Mr Abriga said.

It was during a follow-up search at the school that the sealed envelope containing the Integrated Science answer scripts was discovered in a blue metallic box used to store Uneb materials in the head teacher's office.

Ms Kalule explained that upon discovery, the envelope was first handed over to Koboko Central Police Station, which confirmed that the seals were intact before forwarding it to Uneb.

"For quality control, the Board had earlier established that the scripts for the 34 candidates were missing. They were tentatively awarded 'X' as investigations continued both at the marking centres and at the school," she said.

She added that the investigation eventually led to the recovery of the sealed envelope, which had not been tampered with.

Police have since opened a general enquiry file to establish how the scripts failed to reach the marking centre. "The crime scene was visited, examined, processed and documented by scene-of-crime officers with support from other officers, under the command of the District Police Commander," the statement said, adding that several officials have already been interrogated.

The Uneb response came hours after this newspaper published a story in its February 3, 2026 edition highlighting the plight of the affected candidates and parents, whose hopes had been thrown into uncertainty by the missing scripts.

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Parents and other locals demonstrate over missing PLE results for their children at Bamure Primary School in Koboko District on Monday. PHOTO/ RASHUL ADIDI

BACKGROUND

The 2025 PLE began with a briefing on October 31, 2025. Candidates sat Mathematics on November 3, followed by Social Studies and Religious Education later that day. On November 4, they sat Integrated Science in the morning and English Language in the afternoon. According to the Ministry of Education and Sports, more than 800,000 candidates registered for the 2025 PLE countrywide.

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