

Two children drown in fish pond

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NAMUTUMBA. Residents of Kategere village in Namutumba District were on Monday left in grief when two school-going children from the same family drowned in a fish pond belonging to the former area Member of Parliament.

The deceased

Elvis Kairu, 16, a Primary Seven pupil of Fundamental Primary School and his brother Milton Nampongo, a pupil of Magada Primary School, drowned as they swam across the 60-metre deep fish pond belonging to Mr Wilson Isiko Mpongo.

The ex-legislator is a model fish farmer in the area.

The deceased, who had been sent home for school fees, had allegedly decided to swim instead of grazing cattle when they met their death.

Mr Isiko Nabongho, a resident, while speaking to *Daily Monitor*,

said he raised an alarm upon seeing clothes floating on the pond as he took his cattle to drink water.

However, angry residents who gathered at the scene, blamed the incident on child labour.

The Kategere village chairperson, Mr Wilber Kairu, said they had earlier requested Mr Mpongo to fence off the pond in vain.

"I know the pond is deep but there could have been some rescue efforts made in case someone was nearby," he added.

Appeal

The Busoga East regional police spokesperson, Mr James Mubi, advised parents to always monitor their children to avoid such occurrences.

The Magada Sub-county chairperson, Mr Matiya Mufude, urged parents to enrol their children in school instead of sending them to the fields to graze cattle.

By press time, fishermen from Bugwere had retrieved the bodies.