

academic records.

"This issue requires intervention from

he said.

He did not disclose any records supporting the said enrolment.

James Myoko,
head teacher of
St Philip SS

Maloba, District
Inspector of
Schools

Teenage pregnancy assistance
in the area, prompting government

BY MICHAEL AGABA

KAMPALA. Masindi District council has passed a resolution approving the relocation of roadside weigh bridges.

On a recommendation by the Internal Affairs Minister, on February 13, the Ministry of Trade closed four roadside weigh bridges in Katuugo, Rukondwa, Kihande and Mirya, an operation backed by Uganda Police force.

The council presided over by the district speaker, Mr Moses Kiirya, on March 3 resolved that road weigh bridges should be relocated from the current location to areas outside the sugarcane growing areas.

In his motion, the district secretary of production and trade, Mr Geoffrey Bigabwa, suggested that roadside weigh bridges should be relocated to areas on highways leading to the respective factories as provided by the law.

However, the workers representative in the district council, Mr Denis Tumwine, moved an amendment to the motion that the location of weigh bridges should be according to the national sugar regulations.

"Honorable speaker, let us move an

amendment that the location of the weigh bridges be in line with Sugar Regulations and the Sugar Act. Our recommendations shouldn't contravene them," Tumwine said.

The Masindi District chairperson, Mr Cosmas Byaruhanga, concurred with Tumwine's submission and cited section 26 (2) as the relevant regulation that council should consider while determining relocations of the weigh bridges.

Section 26 (2) of the sugar regulations states: "The weighing of sugarcane shall be carried out at the licensed premises of the licensed person."

"We don't want someone to come and buy cane through a middle person and again sell it to the sugar company because a farmer loses a lot of money along this process. Established factories always give cash top ups to the farmers at the end financial year and this means a farmer will have lost it. Sugarcane should be sold direct to the miller, from the farmer's garden," said Byaruhanga.

Mr John Kisarach, the Kyatiri Town Council District councillor, said if a farmer is to benefit from sugarcane growing,

middlemen at the weigh bridges should be completely eliminated because they enjoy money which would have been profits for farmers, adding that weighing and selling cane directly from the farmer's garden to the miller is of much beneficial to the farmer.

Among other recommendations the district council passed include the labeling of vehicles in the name of the sug-

REGISTRATION

The council resolved that sugarcane companies operating in Masindi should be registered within the district.

They also agreed that weigh bridges should be established by strictly licensed companies in order to eliminate middlemen at weigh bridges.

The business of some millers coming to pick raw materials without any formal working relationship with the district is expected to end.

ar companies, no transportation of sugarcane on tuk-tuks, boda bodas, and pickups, development of a database of farmers' acreage for sugar companies operating in Masindi district. Others include that non-contracted farmers' cane should be transported with a letter of the LCI chairperson from the village where sugarcane has been harvested, all farmers' cane should be sold directly to companies buying without involving middlemen, and that the loading and offloading of sugarcane should be done along the main roads.

According to Kiirya, the recommendations follow the increasing sugarcane thefts in the district, adding that they want to streamline the sugar cane business in the district.

Mr Zam Nsubuga, the councillor representing Labongo Sub-county, welcomed the recommendations, saying she also lost her cane to sugarcane thieves after she had harvested it.

Government's closure of weigh bridges stemmed from the increasing sugarcane thefts, as confirmed by a police investigation, which the Internal Affairs Minister

commissioned.

The State Minister of Trade, Gen Wilson Mbadi, held a consultative meeting on February 17 between millers and the Bunyoro Sugarcane farmers' Cooperative Union leaders, but the stakeholders disagreed on the location of weigh bridges.

Consequently the minister directed the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Masindi to convene a meeting of the district security committee with millers and the cooperative union which sat on the February 24 and 26 to harmonise on the relocation of weigh bridges.

The meeting agreed with the relocation of the weigh bridges to Mijeera and Nakitoma in nakasongola district or Kafu in Kimengo sub-county, Masindi District.

The proposed locations from sugar industry stakeholders in Masindi and the Masindi District council resolutions will be submitted to the minister of trade for consideration and further guidance.

"The minute extract from the district council be given to the district chairperson for submission to the Trade minister by Thursday (today)," Mr Kiirya said.