

Teachers in Tororo decry high school dropout

TORORO

By Faustine Odeke

Teachers of Merikit Secondary School in Tororo district have decry the high rate of school dropout and absenteeism.

They blamed the problem on parents failing to guide and support their children.

The school's headteacher, Benedicto Oketch, said out of the 480 students at the school, about 100 have dropped out this year due to pregnancy, child marriage or hard labour.

Speaking during the school's annual general meeting last week, Oketch said some students report to school drunk and others carry along mobile phones.

He said gadgets, such as phones, distract students at school.

Merikit trading centre LC1 chairperson Peter Oketch Jamagara said market days and video halls are also a distraction.

He said female students are either defiled inside the video halls or at the boreholes, where they collect water from.

Male students reportedly escape from school to gamble at the trading centre.

Joseph Oburu, the Merikit sub-county LC3 chairperson, asked the Police to arrest and prosecute parents who protect the children found engaging in dubious activities.

Parents resolved to support their children's feeding programme and to provide all the school requirements for their children.