

Committee. The school fees study committee, which is chaired by Gulu University vice chancellor Frederick Kayanja, was given up to six months to come up with a report on school fees by October.

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KAMPALA. The Ministry of Education and Sports has set up a committee to study fees structures in both government and private schools.

The committee will make recommendations to guide the government on regulating charges in the learning institutions across the country.

Mr Robinson Nsumba-Lyazi, the director of Basic Education, said in an interview yesterday that they have been receiving many complaints from stakeholders that schools are overcharging them, forcing the ministry to establish a committee to look at school needs and guide the ministry on how to control school fees.

"There is a committee on fees chaired by Gulu University Vice Chancellor Prof Frederick Karanja. It is looking at the fees from different schools and it will give recommendations and work out implementation guidelines. That is what we are waiting for. I think fees should be controlled so that schools focus on priorities," Mr Lyazi said.

"Schools have tendencies of looking at many projects. They then stress parents to contribute money to implement them. Some schools want to buy buses. They want to construct swimming pools and laboratories at ago. Schools can't be built in a day. It is a process," he said.

According to Mr Lyazi, they have received many complaints from parents. He advised head teachers to control their scope of work.

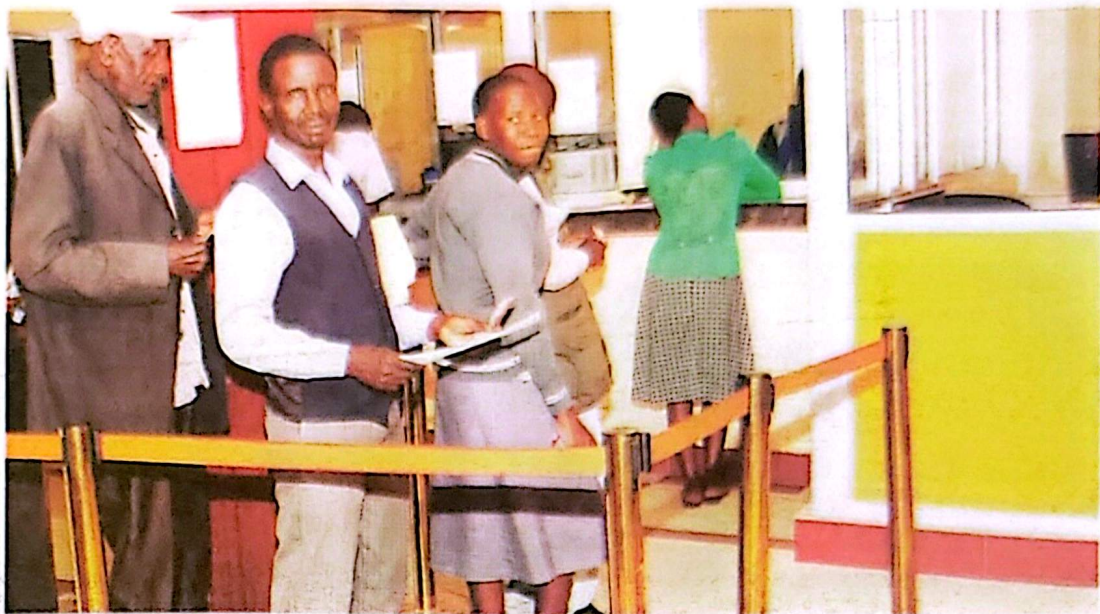
Prof Kayanja was restrained in his response when contacted yesterday. "I am a soldier. Discipline is key. I don't want to comment on the report," Prof Kayanja told *Daily Monitor* yesterday.

But Mr Patrick Kaboyo, the Federation of non-state Education Institutions general secretary, has questioned the composition of the committee.

While he appreciated the fact that government needs to control the fees charged in education institutions, Mr Kaboyo said the ministry should have considered including stakeholders from the private sector on the committee for balance in order to have a feel of what proprietors go through in running these institutions.

"Membership of that committee is purely from the Ministry of Edu-

Govt moves to curb fees hike in schools



School fees. Parents and a student line up in a bank to pay school fess in Bushenyi District recently. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

FEES STRUCTURE FOR SELECTED SCHOOLS

School	2017	2016
St Mary's Namagunga	1,700,000	
Mary's College Kisubi	1,900,000	
Gayaza High school	1,520,000	1,230,000
Kibuli SS	1,400,000	
Makerere College	1,200,000	
Ndege SS	1,530,000	1,000,000
Bweranyangi	1,000,000	
Trinity College Nabbingo	940,000	
MaryHill HS	916,000	
Ntare School	940,000	
Mengo SS	810,000	
St Henry, Kitovu	1,000,000	900,000
Tororo Girls' school	900,000	792,000
Iganga SS	800,000	730,000
St Peters' SS, Nsambya	900,000	780,000
Teso College, Aloet,	976,000	770,000
Iganga high	570,000	420,000
Mbale SS	410,000	410,000
Nabumali high school	797,000	810,000
Manjasi high school	500,000	470,000
St Paul's College, Mbale	584,000	584,000
Masaba SS	460,000	400,000
Ediofe Girls SS	680,000	510,000
Mvara SS	670,000	486,000

cation. They have kept it internal. We should be seeing representation from all sides. The concerns are global and we should have regulations on fees. To determine this threshold, it should be scientifically

supported. Where is the fees highest? Is it at primary, nursery or secondary?" Mr Kaboyo wondered.

In February, the minister of Education, Ms Janet Museveni, directed all schools to submit to the minis-

try their budgets for the last three years. The schools were also tasked to seek permission from the ministry's permanent secretary before increasing fees.

"There has been rising public outcry against the increasing number of schools which continue to levy unrealistic and prohibitive fees thereby denying access to secondary education to a number of students whose parents are unable to afford the exorbitant fees. This compromises government's objective of providing affordable education for all," Ms Museveni said then.

The prestigious traditional schools where most well-to-do most parents prefer to take their children charge not less than Shs900,000 per term even before considering costs of other school requirements.

For example, parents who sought admission to Uganda Martyrs' Secondary School Namugongo this year parted with Shs1.1m in tuition alone and development fee of Shs450,000.

In addition to these expenditure, every parent was also required to buy school uniform at Shs450,000 besides a dictionary, mathematical set, mattress, jerrycan, toilet and washing soap, slippers, sandals, night dress and a gown.