

2,500 candidates' results withheld

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KAMPALA. Results of 2,559 candidates in Primary Leaving Examinations from 56 schools have been withheld this year compared to 1,886 last year due to examination malpractices.

The Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) executive secretary, Mr Daniel Odongo, attributed the increase in the number of withheld results to laxity in vigilance of the board and other supporting government institutions such as police.

"A total of 2,559 results for 56 examination centres from 26 districts were withheld pending investigation because there was suspicion that the said schools were involved in malpractice," MR Odongo said yesterday.

Fair hearing

He, however, noted that pupils whose results were withheld will be accorded a fair hearing in the principle of natural justice.

While releasing the results at President's Office in Kampala, Mr Odongo revealed that 466,235 candidates, representing 72 per cent were beneficiaries of Universal Primary Education which started in 1997. Some of its pioneers are now university graduates.



Handling

The Minister of Education and Sports, Ms Janet Museveni (right), receives the 2017 Primary Leaving Examinations results from the Vice-Chairperson, Prof Mary Okwakol, at the Office of the President in Kampala yesterday.

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ESAGALA

He said the withheld results were for schools in the districts of Kyakwanzi, Kyenjojo, Masindi, Mitooma, Mityana, Mubende, Mukono, Ntungamo, Rakai, Sembabule, Sheema, Wakiso, Alebtong and Bukomasimbi.

Others are: Bundibugyo, Bushenyi, Butaleja, Butambala, Buyende, Gomba, Iganga, Kabarole, Kagadi, Kaliro, Kamuli and Kasese districts.

The Uneb chairperson, Prof Mary Okwakol, said 646,190 candidates sat PLE at 12,751 centres compared to 622,299 who sat for exams in 2016.

Prof Okwakol said most of the malpractices emanated from suspected external assistance to candidates inside examination rooms, especially by

72%

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teachers, collusion and added that the mischief was not caused by leakage of exams.

Mr Odongo warned teachers who assist candidates during examinations to stop and instead focus on teaching effectively to enable pupils handle examinations on their own.

He further condemned commercialisation of education in the country as

one of the issues compromising quality. He said private investors in education encourage malpractices in their schools to register star performance to attract more learners.

Education minister Janet Museveni condemned the habit of examination malpractices and said there is a duty of law to amend the UNEB Act to impose severe penalties on the culprits.

She said government is committed to improving education standards by increasing access at lower levels.

Ms Museveni said selection for Senior One students will take place between January 24 and 25 at Uganda Manufacturers' Association show ground, Lugogo in Kampala.