

SCHOOLS MUST HAVE ONE CLASSROOM FOR EVERY 55 PUPILS AND ONE LATRINE STANCE FOR EVERY 40 PUPILS

**MUKONO**  
By Henry Nsubuga

# UPE: 18 Mukono schools below minimum standards

The Auditor General (AG) has named 18 Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools in Mukono municipality that do not meet the required minimum standards. The municipality has a total of 33 UPE schools.

In the 2015-2016 audit report for Mukono municipality, the AG found out that although the revised local government management and service delivery operation manual of 2009 requires schools to meet specific minimum standards of one classroom for every 55 pupils and one latrine stance for every 40 pupils, 18 of the 33 UPE schools in the municipality do not comply with the said standards.

Mukono Town Muslim Primary School, which according to the report had an enrollment of 964 pupils, had only nine classrooms and nine latrine stances, which gives a ratio of 1:107 pupils per classroom and latrine stance.

Seeta UMEA, which had 958 pupils with eight classrooms and nine latrine stances, has a ratio of classroom to latrine stance of 1:120 and 1:106 respectively.

For Mother Kevin Primary School, the ratio of classroom and latrine stances stands at 1:87 and 1:124.

When *New Vision* visited Mukono Boarding Primary School, which had 892 pupils by the time of the audit, the school headteacher, Susan Wamala Sserunkuuma, said the population had grown to 1,063, although the infrastructure had remained unchanged.

By the time of the audit, the pupil to classroom ratio stood at 1:64, but it is currently at 1:79 while latrine stance ratio is at 1:69.

Sserunkuuma said the school stopped enrolling pupils because of the inadequate infrastructure. She also said teachers have now resorted to conducting classes under a trees due to the shortage of classrooms.

At the school, we found a Primary Seven teacher, Norah Wambuzi, conducting a lesson under a big mango tree. Primary Seven has 114 pupils who study in one classroom.

Wambuzi decried the congestion in the classrooms, saying they risk contracting diseases.

"We are down with flu and even when on treatment, one is re-infected after entering the congested classrooms," she said.

Sserunkuuma said as a result of the big numbers, they start serving lunch to the pupils at 12:00pm and this goes on up to 2:00pm.

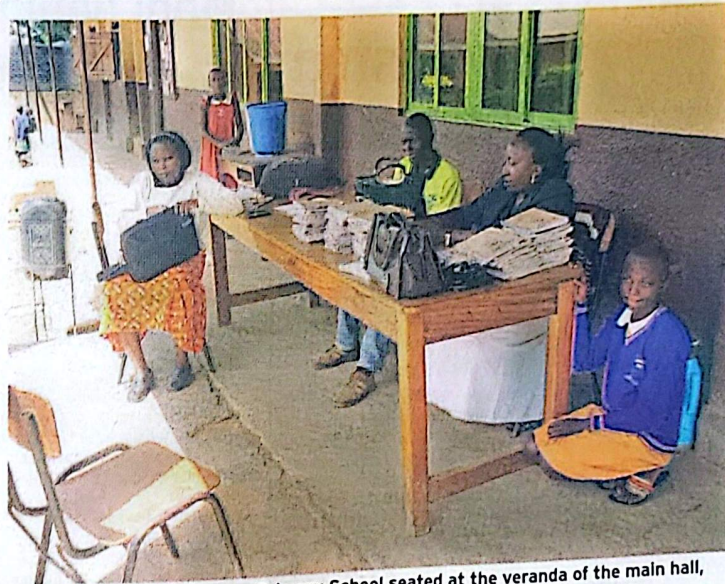
The school has turned the staffroom into a classroom for Primary Two pupils. The



Teacher Wambuzi conducting a class under a tree at Mukono Boarding Primary School. Photos by Henry Nsubuga

1. Mukono Town Muslim
2. Kiwanga UMEA
3. Nyenje C/U
4. Bishops West C/U
5. St. Peter's Nantabuulirirwa
6. Mother Kevin Primary School
7. Mukono Boarding
8. Misindye C/U
9. Kiwango UMEA
10. Kyesereka
11. Bishop's Central
12. Jinja Misindye
13. Seeta UMEA
14. Ngandu Primary
15. Kiwanga C/U
16. Namiryango Junior
17. Bishop's East
18. Augustine Primary School.

## THE 18 SCHOOLS



Teachers at Mukono Boarding Primary School seated at the veranda of the main hall, which now serves as a staffroom. The staffroom was turned into a classroom

much, but there is not much they can do about it.

At Mukono Muslim Primary School, the headteacher, Haruna Batange, said they are limited by space and missed out on the chance of getting two classroom blocks, which the municipality was going to construct for them because they had no space.

instead of the traditional structures, because there isn't enough space," he said.

### Land question

Mukono municipality town clerk Richard Monday, while responding to this query recently before the parliamentary local government public accounts committee, chaired by Reagan

UPE schools is curtailed by low funding from the central government and lack of land for expansion.

Monday cited some of the schools such as Mukono Town Muslim, which sits on only 0.5 acres of land, St Peter's Nantabuulirirwa which has one acre of land, St Augustine Primary School that is only 0.5 acres, Seeta UMEA and Mother Kevin Primary schools,

He also cited some schools which are dealing with land conflicts including Ngandu Primary School, Lweza and Kiwanga UMEA primary schools, which are involved in court cases.

The Mukono deputy mayor, Jamada Kajoba, said the advantage is that the schools have pupils and they only need to work hard to ensure they get the required infrastructure.

### WHAT THEY SAY



**Norah Wambuzi, teacher**  
The classrooms are congested. We have now resorted to conducting classes under trees.



**Jamada Kajoba, Mukono municipality deputy mayor**  
We are limited by resources. We cannot build classroom blocks and pit-latrines in all the 33 UPE schools in the municipality.



**Frida Namatovu, councillor**  
The schools are overpopulated, with inadequate infrastructure. Something should be done.



**Susan Wamala Sserunkuuma, headteacher Mukono Boarding Primary School**  
The school's population has grown to 1,063, although the infrastructure has not changed.

limited by funds that they receive every financial year, saying these cannot address all the challenges faced by the schools at a go.

"As we work towards improving the infrastructure of the schools, we also ask the Government to recruit more teachers because although the Auditor General did not list the problem of insufficient teachers, it our biggest challenge."