

Seninde directs Ibanda, Isingiro to deworm children

ISINGIRO

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

The state minister for education, Rosemary Seninde, has directed Isingiro and Ibanda district leaders to work with district health officials to ensure that children in all primary schools are dewormed immediately.

Seninde made the directive after observing that children in some schools in the two districts needed deworming to improve their health.

"It is absurd that almost all the children I have seen have got signs of worms. District leaders must ensure that all children are dewormed," the minister directed.

Seninde said the Government had stocked enough drugs in all health centres to help parents deworm their children. She called on heads of schools to work with district directors of health services and make appropriate arrangements to deworm children before the term ends.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

The Ibanda district Woman MP, Joveline Kariisa, called for unity among district leaders and urged parents to monitor the project to ensure construction materials are not stolen by contractors.

She also urged parents to pack food for their children, saying children who walk barefoot every day face health risks as they can acquire parasitic infestations.

The Isingiro district education officer (DEO), Nathan Kabikire, said the district's health centres are well-equipped with drugs that can be used for deworming and promised to take the minister's directive seriously.

Adah Byarugaba, a parent from Nyabushenyi parish, attributed the worm infestation to the shortage of water, which she said has persisted for many years and that many children



Seninde addressing pupils. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssengendo

depend on unsafe water. In response, the minister reassured them that the Government is working around the clock to ensure Isingiro district gets safe water.

Seninde made the observation on Monday and Tuesday while monitoring the progress of civil

works at 20 selected primary schools in Isingiro district and 11 in Ibanda district, which are being built under the Global Partnership for Education support to the Uganda Teacher and School Effectiveness Project (UTSEP).

The Government, through the

education ministry, received a grant of \$100m from the Global Partnership for Education to support the project, which is being supervised by the World Bank.

Ambrose Ruyooka, the project co-ordinator, said part of the grant has been allocated as

school facilities grant for the construction of structures at selected public primary schools.

"I thank the Government for the construction that is going on. The work done so far is of quality and has been properly supervised. It is done in time and by the end of this year, all the construction will be completed and schools will be handed over to the Government," Seninde stated after her tour.

She was happy to note that in all the schools she visited, the enrolment of pupils had increased. At Kishojo Primary School in Bukanga-Isingiro district, she was told that the enrolment of pupils had increased from 391 last term, to 611 and that they expect the number to hit 1,000 before the year ends.

The Ibanda North MP, Maj. Guma Gumisiriza, thanked the Government for improving the education sector and encouraged parents to give their children all the requirements needed at school.