Mayuge parents start education campaign

MAYUGE

By Betty Angatai

Parents in Bunya East constituency, Mayuge district, have resolved to carry out door-to-door sensitisation campaigns, among other strategies, to improve the education standards in the area.

The parents admitted that the poor performance among pupils in last year's Primary Leaving Examinations was the result of their laxity in ensuring routine school attendance and giving less support to children while at school.

"Our children are performing poorly. Therefore, there is a great need for us, parents, to get involved in their (children) education," Kalisa Nnungo, a resident of Mpungwe village, said.

The parents were speaking during a consultative meeting organised by Bunya East Member of Parliament, Waira Kiwalabye Majegere, at Mpungwe Primary School in Mpungwe sub-county, Mayuge district on Friday.

"Some parents have failed to realise the value of education. Some have deliberately stopped their children from going to school so that they can work in sugarcane plantations, fishing and stone quarrying sites," Nnungo said, adding that some parents have married off their children at tender ages due to poverty.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

The parents asked the district inspector of schools to make impromptu visits other than first notifying head-teachers of their intended visits.

The parents also vowed to fight against latecoming, absenteeism and agreed to feed their children as strategies to promote education. The parents also agreed to participate in community dialogues and parents' meetings geared towards improving performance.

"We will arrest and prosecute parents who will be found with children of schoo-going age at home," Jamiru Nzigu, the Mayuge district National Resistance Movement vice-chairperson, said.

Majegere noted that out of 2,323 pupils who sat last year's PLE in Bunya East, only 24 got first grade.

He said despite the Government's emphasis in promoting education through universal primary and secondary education programmes, some of the children are not schooling due to lack of sensitisation in communities.

The Mayuge district education officer, William Nadiope, attributed the poor performance to increased child labour, absenteeism, teenage pregnancies and early marriages.

He added that the education department would do more monitoring of teachers.

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