

# SCHOOLS DEVISE WAYS TO SURVIVE FEES BAN

BY SUNDAY VISION TEAM

A recent directive from the education ministry instructing schools to stop hiking school fees this year is biting school owners across the country.

*Sunday Vision* has learnt that some schools have been forced to defy government by increasing their charges while others have hatched innovations to bolster revenue.

Both primary and secondary schools were affected by the directive issued late last year. According to the education ministry, the directive was intended to create space for government to streamline schools' fees structures after ascertaining the cost of educating a child.

In the directive, schools which had a strong need to increase fees this year were

asked to seek permission first from the Government.

At the time the ban was issued, parents were crying foul over exaggerated school fees charges.

Some of the exorbitant school dues at the time had exceeded what university students pay for certain courses.

### SURVEY

A mini survey conducted by *Sunday Vision* in over 50 schools exposed institutions which defied the Government and the tactics being used to survive the hard economic times.

Some of the schools which increased school fees are St. Mary's College, Kisubi by about sh400,000 from sh1.4m.

Namugongo Girls Primary School also increased its charges from sh1.2m

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to sh1.3m while Seeta Kindergarten in Mukono town charges sh808,000, up from sh758,000.

Light College Secondary School in Mpigi also increased its fees by sh20,000 for continuing students. The school's deputy headteacher Abdallah Sekito, said the economy is not favourable.

"We decided that continuing students will be paying sh550,000, up from sh530,000 that was paid last year."

Many of the schools also used the current bad economic times as the reason for increasing school fees.

But *Sunday Vision* has learnt that many of the schools never explained to their parents last term why they had made changes in their school fees.

Some parents are also concerned that daycare centres and nursery schools which were already charging exorbitant amounts posted fees increment.

At Elyon Kindergarten in Mutungo in Kampala, for example, a nursery school pupil pays sh500,000 this term, up from sh350,000 while the fees for a primary school pupil shot up to sh600,000 from sh500,000.

"I think the school wants to get rid of a certain class of parents," said one of the parents.

To avoid clashing with the Government and eluding the law enforcement teams, some schools increased the list of other requirements, instead of the school fees.

A parent in one of the secondary schools speaking on condition of anonymity said her child was asked to deliver a bag of cement at the beginning of this term.

"Other dues were not increased as the case had been in the past," the parent said.

According to sources, some schools such as City Parents are said to have increased fees last year in second term, to ensure that parents never transferred their children during the course of the year.

When asked for a comment, the education ministry spokesperson, Aggrey Kibenge, said the ministry's position on fees increment is that schools must seek permission from the concerned offices before making any change.

"If anyone increases school fees without permission, they will be out of order," Kibenge said.

"I don't want to mention what will happen to them, but

when we receive information, we shall get back to the owners of such schools."

### SCHOOLS FIX FEES

To deal with school fees increment problems, some schools have fixed charges for every level.

In schools such as St. Lawrence, a student pays a fixed amount in O'level and A'level that can weather economic stress.

A parent in one of the schools said since her child joined three years ago in S.1; the charges have been the same.

A student at St. Lawrence pays sh980,000 in S.1 when joining up to S.3 and sh990,000 from S.4 to S.6.

Elijah Male, the school's public relations officer, said the institution has had a fixed fees structure for years because it devised a way of working under constrained budget yet

with effective service delivery. Allan Obbo Warayamo, the headteacher of Seeta High School Green Campus in Mukono also explained that for the last three years school fees have been consistent.

"The fees are not enough, but we cannot strain parents because we are in the same economy. We fit in the economy by handling priorities and reducing the pace of the infrastructure development," he noted.

Obbo added that their major aim is to ensure that the general lives of students, such as feeding, learning; social life and teachers' salaries are catered for.

At Seeta High School Green campus, a student from S.1 to S.6 pays sh1.4 million.

St. Kalembe SS, purchases food from local farmers to cut costs.

According to the bursar of St. Kalembe SS, Richard Ssazi, school fees have been stable for the last four years because any increment would chase away students.

In order to manage the situation, Ssazi explained that the school purchases food from local farmers at a cheap price and had reduced on the number of the staff members.

At St. Kalembe, students pay between sh650,000 and sh750,000.

To supplement the meagre resources at St. Leo's College, the school ventures into farming. James Mugisha, the director of studies, said the school has got a banana farm which is on more than eight acres, a dairy farm, potatoes and maize.

"We sell the produce to the public and supply to teachers and students," he said.

Sources said Naalya schools cut costs by relying on food supplies from the farm.

At Bugwere High School in Budaka district, the deputy Academics teacher, Suleiman Kaisuka, said the school has maintained the same school structure for the last five years.

"Senior One students are required to pay sh551,500 and continuing students sh411,500 per term. This money is very little for the school to operate," he said.


He added that they requested day-students to contribute some money for their breakfast and lunch.

"We are sure that when the students are not hungry, they will concentrate and learn because they will not be on hungry stomachs," Kaisuka said.

Compiled by Jo Semakula, Jackie Nakan David Lukiza and Derr Kyati

School	Before	After
Ibanda SS	555,000 (S.2 TO S.6)	555,000
Seeta Kindergarten and Junior School (Seeta branch)	758,000	808,000
Trinity College, Nabbingo	903,000 (S.1 to S.4)	908,000
Bright Angels Junior School, Wakiso	995,000	995,000
Immaculate Heart Girls Rukungiri District	820,000	820,000
Fair Ways Primary School, Kireka	600,000	600,000
Seeta High School Green Campus, Mukono	1,400,000	1,400,000
Naalya schools	1,000,000	1,020,000
St. Kalembe SS	650,000 (S.1 to S.2)	650,000 (S.1 to S.2)
St. Leo's College	750,000 (new students)	750,000 (new students)
	610,000 (old students)	610,000 (old students)
Kyebambe Girls Kabarole	855,000 (new students)	855,000 (new students)
	621,000 (old students)	621,000 (old students)
St. Jude Secondary School Masaka	600,000 (new students)	600,000 (new students)
	550,000 (old students)	550,000 (old students)
Light College Secondary School Mpigi	500,000 (new students)	500,000 (new students)
	300,000 (old students)	320,000 (old students)
St. Lawrence schools and colleges	(new students) 980,000	(new students) 980,000
	(old students) 980,000	(old students) 980,000
	(senior four & six) 990,000	(senior four & six) 990,000
Bugwere High School	(new students) 551,500	(new students) 551,500
	(old students) 411,500	(old students) 411,500
Amugu S.S. Alebtong	(new students) 240,000	(new students) 240,000
	(old students) 180,000	(old students) 180,000
Hillside Secondary School Nsambya	980,000 (new students)	980,000 (new students)
	500,000 (old students)	500,000 (old students)
Katikamu SDA Wobulenzi	800,000 (new students)	800,000 (new students)
London college of St. Lawrence	1,080,000 (new students)	1,080,000 (new students)
	1,080,000 (old students)	1,080,000 (old students)
Kawempe Muslim school	1,000,000 (new students)	1,000,000 (new students)
	1,000,000 (old students)	1,000,000 (old students)
Kibubura Girls' High School	(new students) 720,000	720,000 (new students)
	630,000 (old students)	630,000 (old students)
Muntayera High School Kitunga	740,000 (new students)	740,000 (new students)
	750,000 (senior fives)	750,000 (senior five)
	630,000 (old students)	630,000 (old students)
Ibanda Secondary School	690,000 (new students)	690,000 (new students)
	(senior two & four) 555,000	(senior two & four) 555,000
	770,000 (senior five)	770,000 (senior five)
	735,000 (senior six)	735,000 (senior six)
Immaculate Heart Girls' School, Rukungiri	900,000 (senior one & five)	900,000 (senior one & five)
	820,000 (old students)	820,000 (old students)
Naalya schools	1.5 million (new students)	1.5 million (new students)
	1.2 million (old students)	1.2 million (old students)

## Appreciation



**MERAB KAMBAMU KIREMIRE**  
21 April 1947 - 21 January 2018

The Kiremire and Kambamu families would like to thank all the people who have given their tremendous support and overwhelming love at this time of the passing on to glory of their daughter, sister, cousin, wife, aunt and mother to many.

May God's blessings richly rest upon you all.

We are grateful for your spiritual, moral, financial and physical input and presence during this trying moment. Without you, it would not have been easy for us.

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**2 Timothy 4:7 "I fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"**