

BY GODFREY MASIKO

JINJA. A sombre mood engulfed Kiira Primary School in Jinja City after education officials informed parents that 66 pupils would have to repeat Primary Seven following the cancellation of their Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) results by the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) over suspiciously high and uniform performance in the Mathematics paper.

Kiira Primary School, a government-aided institution, had initially emerged as the best-performing school in the city after all its 67 candidates reportedly obtained Division One. However, only one pupil's results were eventually released.

Parents and pupils who had gathered in the school hall reportedly broke down in tears after learning that the decision would stand despite efforts by local education authorities to have it reconsidered.

Tears as Uneb cancels PLE results for 65 Jinja pupils

Mr Paul Baliraine, the Jinja City Education Officer, said the city education department had exhausted all available options in an attempt to have the decision reviewed.

"As the people in the city education department, we have done whatever it takes, but our only route now is for the pupils to repeat Primary Seven," Mr Baliraine said during a meeting with parents and pupils.

Mr Baliraine indicated that an unusually high number of candidates scored exceptional marks in Mathematics, with many obtaining 80 marks and above.

During the meeting, he reportedly asked several students to stand and publicly state the marks they obtained in the subject. None of the sampled students

had scored below 50 marks.

He said this pattern raised serious concerns about the credibility of the results, noting that such uniform high performance suggested that something could have gone wrong during the examination process.

Out of the 66 candidates who sat the examinations at the centre, results for 65 students were cancelled by Uneb. Only one student's results were upheld, although the case of that particular candidate was not discussed during the meeting.

"We know our children are bright. What happened hurts us all, but we should not remain stuck on one issue. We have to accept what has happened and move on," he said.

However, several parents expressed

frustration over the decision, arguing that the learners should not suffer the consequences of mistakes allegedly made by institutions.

Ms Maimuna Namwanga, a parent from Budondo, said any punishment arising from examination irregularities should target the school.

"As parents, we played our role. We should not be punished again for something we did not cause," she said.

Another parent, Hadijja Nalugoda, a resident of Ambercourt, urged Uneb to review how it handles cases of examination irregularities. "Uneb should change only the papers they question and reset those examinations instead of cancelling a child's entire year," she said.

Ms Nalugoda also raised concerns about the social risks girls face if they are forced to repeat a class.

"Our children have grown. Mine is a girl

and you know the challenges they face. I wanted her to finish school quickly," she said.

Mr Tonny Amooti, a resident of Kayitabawala, warned that such decisions could have serious psychological effects on learners.

"This situation can push children into depression or even worse. It has shocked us as parents," he said.

The head teacher of Kiira Primary School, Ms Rose Nakisige, said the meeting was organised to brief parents and pupils about the way forward.

"We organised this meeting to engage our parents and pupils and counsel them to remain firm and move forward because they still have a future," she said.

The school had agreed that the pupils would repeat PLE following guidance from supervisors and the Jinja City education office.

6,049
PLE CANDIDATES
FOR JINJA CITY
IN 2025