

1,400 unlicensed schools defy govt, reopen

Deadline. The Education ministry has issued a directive tasking all local governments to ensure that no unlicensed private school is operational by December 31.

BY PATIENCE AHIMBISIBWE
pahimbisibwe@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. At least 1,422 private schools have defied government and reopened for third term after they were closed last term over failing to meet the basic minimum required standards.

Dr Kedrace Turyagyenda, the Directorate of Education Standards

(DES) director, told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that the schools were closed because they did not have trained and registered teachers, the curriculum the children were exposed to was unknown to the Ministry of Education, some lacked instructional materials while others did not have contracts for the land and buildings they were using.

Ms Turyagyenda explained that for a private school to be allowed to operate, it must have a running contract for at least five years to guarantee parents and the learners that the institution will be in operation in that area for some time without changing location.

"We closed them and the owners know what to do. Some of them have refused and gone ahead to reopen. They claim some parents had already paid fees," Dr Turyagyenda said in an interview.

She added: "No law in Uganda allows illegal schools to operate. Think of the safety of these children. If something bad happened to them, who will be responsible?"

Structures

However, Ms Turyagyenda said some proprietors have started schools in garages, shops, bars and people's sitting rooms and the public doesn't know what happens in

such premises.

However, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Education, Mr Alex Kakooza, has issued a directive tasking all local governments to ensure that no unlicensed private school is operational by December 31.

"The ministry informs the public that permission to operate a new school is only given in the first instance in form of a licence. ...no private school should operate in the school calendar year 2018," Mr Kakooza noted in his September 22 letter.

He asked the public to desist from enrolling their children in any school

without a valid authority from the ministry. "Any school found not conforming to the set guidelines will be dealt with," he said.

According to Dr Turyagyenda, the two months which the ministry has given to the unlicensed schools is enough to rectify their problems and have them registered.

She defended their action for closing only private schools, saying government-aided institutions have "a semblance of sanity since their teachers are appointed and on payroll unlike their counterparts who work without appointment letters and sometimes go for months without pay."

School	Reason for Closure
MUBENDE	
Joweria Masiqidi	Un licensed
Step Up Infant & P/S	Un licensed
Kijiwa C/U P/S	Un licensed
Bright Star Junior Sch	Un licensed
Glory Nursery & P/Sch	Un licensed
Katibenda Parents P/S	Un licensed
Kyeeza Nursery & P/S	Un licensed
Zav nab Kids Academy Dav Care	Un licensed

School	Reason for Closure
River Of Calvary Nursery & P/S	Un licensed
Kiyuuni Parents Mandela	Un licensed
God Cares	Un licensed
Bright Star P/Sch	Un licensed
Light Infants P/S	Un licensed
Light Infants P/S	Un licensed
God's Mercy Nursery & P/S	Un licensed
Excel P/S	Un licensed
Aloha Junior Sch	Un licensed

School	Reason for Closure
Amazing Grace Pri Sch	Un licensed
St. Ibanda Pri Sch	Un licensed
Spire Nursery & Pri Sch	Un licensed
Hand of Mercy Pri Sch	Un licensed
Oasis Nursery & Pri Sch	Un licensed
Bugame Nursery & Pri Sch	Un licensed
St. Ibanda Nursery & Pri Sch	Un licensed
Pearl Sec Sch - Namwiwa	Un licensed
Rasa Model Nursery & Pri Sch	Un licensed

School	Reason for Closure
St. Happy N & Pri Sch	Un licensed
Jovens Pri Sch	Un licensed
Bimara Unique N & Pri Sch	Un licensed
St. Christine	Un licensed
Modern Life	Un licensed
Miracle Pri Sch	Un licensed
New Style	Un licensed
Mt Rwenzori Pri Sch	Un licensed