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permit is given to a resident, bona fide occupant or the legal owner of

sh145m in special

Kabarole school closed after violent strike

KABAROLE

By Wilson Asiimwe

Students of Trinity International Secondary School in Fort Portal have staged a violent demonstration protesting the failure by the administration to register them with the Uganda National Examinations Board.

The students went on rampage yesterday morning, smashing windows on several buildings and destroying the school laboratory.

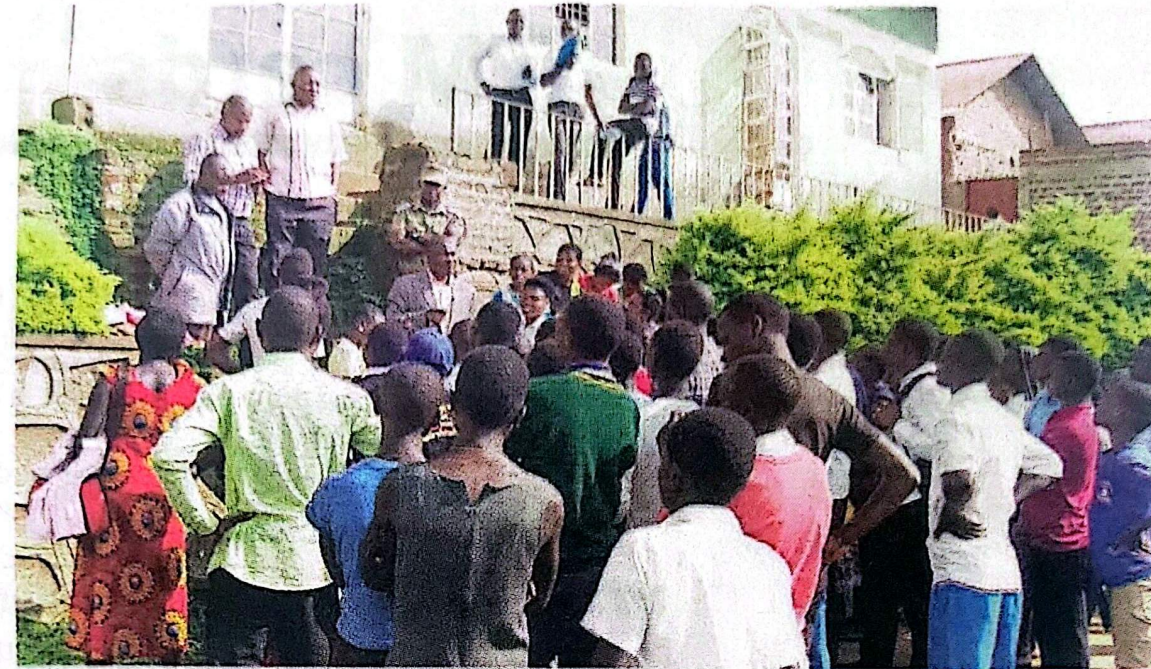
The students, who destroyed property worth millions, demanded an explanation as to why they did not appear on the 2017 registration list and yet they had paid the fees.

Senior Four and Senior six students said they had not seen the headteacher, James Malinga and the school director, David Balinda, since the start of the second term and that the teachers have been leaving the school.

The students also accused the administration of not caring about them and that they have been having one meal a day.

"We have not had any lessons since the term began and many teachers have left. When we realised that we had only remained with one teacher and a gateman, we became suspicious and checked with UNEB for our registration status only to find out that our names did not appear in their records," said Moses Ategeka, a Senior Four student.

Ategeka said each student was told to pay sh200,000 as UNEB registration fees by the school



Asiimwe addressing some of the students after the strike. Photo by Wilson Asiimwe

management at the start of term one in February.

Francis Bwambale, a gateman, said the students went on strike to demonstrate against many issues, which included poor feeding and the failure of the school administration in providing adequate lighting for night studies.

"Ever since the director and the headteacher left, the school has been running on a generator, but it developed a mechanical fault," Bwambale said.

The Kabarole resident district commissioner, Steven Asiimwe,

closed the school yesterday and sent the students home.

Anti-riot police were deployed at the school premises to ensure that the situation is calm as Police launched a hunt for the school director and headteacher.

"We are going to look for the director and headteacher and ensure that they are arrested and prosecuted because what they did is unacceptable. They conned the students and the students are living in poor conditions," Asiimwe said.

He said the two officials had disappeared and their telephone

numbers had been switched off, but Police had started hunting for them.

Richard Alituha, the Fort Portal education officer, who held an emergency meeting with the students, said the school was licensed as an O'level day school but he was shocked to discover that it had a boarding section and was conducting A'level classes.

"We are not going to allow this school to operate anymore. Students will have to look for an alternative because the school has been operating outside the guidelines of the education ministry," he said.

Ngoma students sent home

NAKASEKE

By Frederick Kiwanuka

Nakaseke district authorities have closed Ngoma Secondary School following a strike on Monday, during which students destroyed school property and beat up staff members.

The district education officer, Steven Batanudde, said the students, who were sent home on Monday, will pay for all the damaged property when the school re-opens.

He said the strike, which left the school furniture and buildings damaged, started with students beating up the school's watchman, whom they accused of 'being too strict'.

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ This is the third strike to take place in the district. Other schools which have had strikes are Kaloke SSS and Nakaseke International College.

Batanudde said the school administration responded by summoning the culprits, which sparked off a riot by the rest of the students, who started throwing stones, breaking furniture and attacking teachers.

He said the school administration called in the Police, who dispersed the rioting students and restored calm at the school.

Nakaseke district chairman, Ignatius Koomu, condemned the strike, saying it was going to be costly for the parents who will foot the cost of the damage.