

Minister blames teachers for leaked O-Level exams

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KAMPALA. The minister of State for Primary Education yesterday linked the leaked national examinations to last-minute panicking that stems from failure by teachers to complete the syllabus on time.

Ms Rosemary Seninde said the decision whether to cancel and repeat some of the papers for Senior Four exams or the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) will depend on the outcome of ongoing investigations.

The UCE exams commenced on October 16 and are expected to end on November 20. The first two weeks of the exams were marred with paper leak-

It is sad the exams leaked. Uneb did its job. But there are teachers who didn't do their part. They didn't complete the syllabus. They waited and started panicking in the last minute. They started cheating to cover up what they didn't do. This leakage must have happened during distribution,"

ROSEMARY SENINDE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION

ages, with many circulating on social media platforms, especially on WhatsApp, hours before the scheduled time.

The exam papers for Chemis-

try, Physics, Biology, Religious Education and Geography were some of the papers that went public before the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) administered them to the Senior Four candidates.

"It is too early to tell whether the leaked papers will be repeated. We shall wait for investigations to be concluded so that we establish where it happened from and which people were involved," Ms Seninde said in an interview yesterday.

But Mr Zadock Tumuhimbise, the chairperson of the Uganda National Teachers' Union (Unatu), put the blame squarely at the feet of the national exams' body.

"The teachers should not be blamed for this. They are not

among those who packed and dispatched them. The staff at Uneb; whether they are teachers or not, should be blamed for this mess," Mr Tumuhimbise said in an interview.

"The leakages were made before they were sent to centres where scouts received them. Uneb should be fair to all candidates and give an alternative paper for those that leaked. If they continue and release these results, it will discredit the entire Uneb system," he added.

Mr Hamis Kaheru, the Uneb's spokesperson, last week said in a statement that Uneb had received reports on possible leakage of some papers in the on-going Senior Four exams and were treating the matter "seriously". He, however, said the timetable would remain as earlier planned.

The board and security officers working with Uneb have remained tightlipped on the number of arrests so far made, but initial reports indicate that six people had been arrested.