

Parents shun paying pupils' lunch fees

KALIRO

By George Bitu

Pupils in uniform climbing trees for mangoes or rushing into sugarcane plantations to pluck canes during lunch time have become a common sight in Kaliro district.

This scenario is the outcome of failure by their guardians to pay feeding fees demanded by schools.

Patrick Tabamubi, the director of studies at Nkonte Primary School, said parents were expected to pay sh10,000 as

contribution to pupil's lunch meal every term.

"Unfortunately, a sizeable number never pay. They complain that school heads ask for this money to enrich themselves," Tabamubi said on Wednesday.

However, Robinah Kasubo, a housewife in Bwitte village, said the money asked for by school authorities was too much.

"Children keep returning home for this and that money yet we are very poor. Why do we pay for reams, brooms, extra lessons plus food as if we cannot feed our children?"

Kasubo said.

Edward Kamaga, the district inspector of schools, said some pupils skipped afternoon lessons due to hunger.

"Once the pupils stray away from the school to eat they get a chance to walk home. This is the reason fewer pupils attend afternoon classes," Kamaga said.

Way forward

Peterson Basalirwa, the district education officer, called for more sensitisation of the parents about feeding of their children at school.

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