

Newspapers in Education

BY JOAN SALMON

KAMPALA. Guess what, the government listened. Yes, sosh, or what you call prom, is back. The government has advised that parents and teachers agree on how to do prom as they work out a final measure in how to regulate them. I can see you smiling and I am happy for you.

But you can imagine that some school administrations will not want the wahala of prom, hence cutting it out. For such students, a leavers' farewell party

Should we really have prom parties?

might be the closest they come to having a prom. I will be glad when proms happen, but with less flamboyance and extravagance.

Keep it modest

But as you imagine, there could be some parents who may not agree when others ask that the affair be kept modest. This is intended to enable

them use their child to be the conduit for flaunting the family wealth. What happens in that case?

Picture a parents-teacher meeting where parents threaten to take their children out of the school if the school is trying to infringe on their rights. In their minds, since their peers cannot applaud them for their accomplishments, the children should become

the brand ambassadors. How else then will the world know that they have arrived? So being modest is like an insult.

That is why I will always ask parents to take their children to schools, where wealth status is never an issue.

Otherwise, what happens when the school gives in to the pressure? That child with low-income parents will feel left out wearing a second-hand dress

when the others are slaying in customised gowns.

Status divides

Schools are never meant to create status divides. If anything, they should be elevators or equalisers. I guess that is why we have uniforms, to give a semblance of equality.

So, while I rally behind you to say 'yes' to those dresses and suits ready, my heart aches for that child, who will feel the pinch of wealth status in an event that is meant to bring happiness and fun.

Feedback. Caught between glamour and inequality, students debate whether prom parties build confidence, creativity and memories, or deepen pressure, exclusion and extravagance in schools.

In senior one I was in a school that did not hold a prom parties. However, I watched how it motivated students in other schools to study hard and get to institutions that had prom parties. Proms can also drive evolution and growth of the country in ways that might not be very obvious on the surface, for instance it encourages creative and innovative evolution in fashion.

**Deborah Mutoni,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

Prom parties should be maintained in school because it is one of the best memories that students can have of their time in high school.

**Hagard Ojok,
S.5 Lubiri High School**

No... Prom parties should not be banned because it allows students to make memories of their time in high school. Prom parties also give students a short break from the pressure of their academic responsibilities which is good for our wellbeing.

**Tracy Deborah,
S.5 Bishop Cipriano Kihangire**

I have never experienced prom but I have seen other schools' prom parties on social media. It seems like a marvelous experience. School can be very stressful and prom is a once in a life time experience that gives students relief from academic stress. Students should be allowed to spend the amount of money they can afford for a prom party.

**Joash Kigongo Mukalazi,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

I think prom parties should not be banned. It should remain at the discretion of each school whether or not to give their students a prom party. Some schools view prom as an opportunity to teach their students about social etiquette such as how to be a gentleman. When it comes to prom expenses, it makes sense that some students spend a lot of money on the experience because it is a grand event.

**Jotham Byakagaba,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

Prom parties should be banned

Students weigh in on prom parties at school



from all schools so that students from schools that do not hold these celebrations, not feel left out. If it is banned, all students will have a uniform experience.

**Elijah Muzanganda,
S.5 Mengo Senior school**

Prom parties should be banned so that there is no room to exclude some students from such experiences.

**Queen Michelle,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

Prom parties should not be banned because it is a nice experience that students get to be a part of, for one day.

**Josephine Suubi
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

I think government should indeed ban prom so that students from schools without prom do not feel left out from the experience.

**Josh Musunguzi,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

I do not think government should ban prom. However there should be reasonable restrictions put to curb the current extravagance of prom events. Schools should put themes stating the dress code allowed at the event to make it easy for everyone to participate.

**Clara Mawanda,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

Prom should be eliminated in schools because it encourages competition over things such as dress code which affects students' mental wellbeing. It does not favour everyone especially parents who are not wealthy.

**Sheila Nantongo,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

Prom parties should not be banned but restrictions should be imposed to contain it. Just like government did with putting limitations on the activities allowed concerning politics in schools. Prom parties should be reoriented towards celebrating the progress

that students have made in school. It should not be about frivolous things such as having the most expensive cars and outfits.

**Jonathan Kamurasi, S.5
Mengo Senior School**

Prom parties should not be banned. There is a lot of positive impact that it brings about that is often overlooked for instance it boasts businesses that provide services for prom like makeup artists, boutiques and more. If government bans prom, it not only affects the business but also these businesses that were profiting from it. However, competition among students should be discouraged.

**Cynthia Reventah
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

Prom should be banned because it brings about inequality between students who experience it and those that do not. Prom also adds to the stress parents experience because of the added costs it introduces outside of paying

school fees.

**Pretty Natukunda,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

Prom parties should be banned because students adapt aspect of European and American culture but they do not represent their own African culture. On top of that the excessive costs that come with prom are not justified.

**Hilary Eugene Mayanja
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

I do not think prom parties should be banned. It can be extravagant at times but the option should be given to students to attend it. A lot of students look forward to attending prom throughout their high school. This can motivate them to study in order to progress to the class where they will get to experience it. It also gives students a chance to interact socially which is an important skill to have beyond high school.

**Joy Valerie Ayebare, S.5 Mengo
Senior School**

I think that prom parties should not be banned because it not meant to taken too seriously. It is simply a one day long experience that allows students to live a fantasy and feel special.

**Jennifer Wamala,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

I do not agree with banning prom parties. It gives students an opportunity to develop their confidence and to learn how to interact socially with the opposite sex. This is especially important for students from single sex schools.

**Hanifah Nantumbwe,
S.5 Mengo Senior School**

Prom parties are not a bad thing. They are a source of inspiration for students in terms of fashion. It gives students the opportunity to creatively express themselves through fashion. Prom parties are also a source of income for businesses such as business brands from which students buy their prom outfits.

**Ann Hopkins Mulungi,
Kampala**

We welcome your views which we shall feature on our Feedback Page and Online platforms.

To contribute your views on any topic of interest, Please send us your views to our email address: niecontent@ug.nationmedia.com.

For those seeking to send your views next week, - We ask whether schools are being realistic with the cost of school trips. What do you say?