

fewer candidates appearing for the national exams in the individual dis-

tricts. There was a decline in number of PLE candidates between 2016 and 2017. Yumbe reg-

ion, Luzira, Kampala, and one failed. The Uneb chairperson,

compromise ..

Minister to cancel centres that conduct pre-registration tests

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KAMPALA. The minister of Education, Ms Janet Museveni, has vowed to cancel centres of schools that conduct pre-registration tests to allow their students to sit for national examinations.

While releasing the 2017 PLE results yesterday, Ms Museveni who is also the First Lady, said the practice of placing hurdles before learners in the form of pre-registration tests has increased school drop outs and should stop immediately.

"There should be no pre-registration tests or exams within both the public and private schools. Districts must instead put in place mechanisms to ensure effective teaching throughout the primary education cycle in order to achieve good PLE results," Ms Museveni warned.

She said her ministry will start to name and shame all schools that conduct pre-registration exams and if



Elated. Global Junior School, Mukono, teachers celebrate with Benjamin Ssekidde Baagala who scored Aggregate 4. PHOTO BY JOSEPH KIGGUNDU

they do not comply, their centres will be cancelled.

According to the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb), more than 10,000 pupils missed the 2017

PLE after failing the pre-registration tests conducted by their respective schools.

Ms Museveni also noted that she has already caused the draft of the

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JANET MUSEVENI, EDUCATION MINISTER

Uneb Act, which will, among other issues, deal with the rampant examination malpractice, which has become a serious threat to the credibility of the education system.

"I take very serious note of, and condemn examination malpractice. The fact that nearly all perpetrators are classroom teachers whose duty is to instill morals within our children but are instead the ones teaching them that it is okay to cheat, threatens the very core of the moral fabric of our society. We will ostracise such

teachers or their associates by publicly "naming and shaming" or even de-registering them," Ms Museveni added.

The minister also said she plans to visit schools in the eastern regions that have persistently been performing poorly in national examinations in a bid to reverse the trend.

She also said the debate to change the national curriculum is underway in Parliament and once approved, the subjects to be offered will be announced.

State minister for Primary Education Rosemary Seninde said the continued missing of classes by teachers account for the disparities in performance between rural and urban schools, calling for immediate tough measures against such teachers.

She said the poor attitude of parents was also responsible for the high failure rates in rural areas, explaining that such children are not given lunch at school as is the case with their counterparts in urban centres.