Uneb cancels 178 pupils' results over identical answers

BY ANDREW WABUSHENDA & FRED WAMBEDE

MBALE. Pupils and parents of St Joseph Musoto Primary School in Mbale City are in tears after the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) cancelled the Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) results of 178 candidates.

Uneb released the 2025 PLE results on January 30. However, out of 185 pupils who sat for PLE at St Joseph Musoto Primary School, only seven special needs pupils received their results.

Daily Monitor has since learnt that Uneb nullified the results after it found out that there was malpractice, particularly in the Science paper during the November 2025 exams.

The Deputy Town Clerk of Mbale, Ms Jolly Hasoho, told parents during a meeting at the school on Wednesday that investigations conducted by Uneb found evidence of external assistance with Science answers.

She said 94 learners had initially written correct answers but later crossed them out and replaced them with wrong ones, raising suspicion.

"In addition, all 178 candidates reportedly had identical responses, further indicating malpractice, so the results of 178 pupils have been cancelled, and the candidates will be required to repeat Primary Seven this year," Ms Hasoho said.

She added that invigilators who supervised the exams were negligent in their duties and would face disciplinary action.

Parents expressed deep frustration and disappointment following the announcement.

One parent, Mr Rogers Mukwana, said it is painful to see his child's efforts go to waste.

"My child has been waking up early and studying hard. We have invested a lot of money to support their education. It is very painful to hear that the results have been cancelled," he said.

Some parents questioned why Uneb delayed the decision until after releasing the results in January, suggesting that a supplementary exam would have been a better option than cancellation.

A group of parents also accused local education authorities of being aware of the situation but remaining silent. They demanded accountability from invigilators.

"City education officers knew about the problem but kept quiet. We want to know the role played by the invigilators. Uneb should investigate them, and we want our money [paid to transport pupils to Uneb] because we have got nothing after them going to Uneb," one parent said.

The Mbale City Education Officer for the Industrial Division, Mr Francis Koko, confirmed that investigations into the conduct of invigilators are ongoing and that those found culpable will be punished.

"There is nothing that can change now, but we urge parents to remain calm and bring their children back to school to repeat Primary Seven. We have agreed with the head teacher that no registration or additional fees will be charged," Mr Koko said.

Earlier this week, the affected candidates had also appeared before a UNEB investigation committee.

Meanwhile, the Mbale Town Clerk also revealed that the results for candidates from Bumuluya Primary School were cancelled due to suspected malpractice in Mathematics.

Mr Dan N Odongo, the Uneb executive director, while releasing the 2025 PLE results, said most of the cases withheld have been from the districts of Kisoro, Kampala, Mukono, Namutumba, Kassanda, Buyende, Kaliro, among others, in accordance with Section 5(2) (b) of the Uneb Act, Cap 259.

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