

Nakaseke teachers to sit PLE in April

NAKASEKE

By Frederick Kiwanuka

Tension is high among Universal Primary Education (UPE) teachers in Nakaseke after the district authorities passed a directive to make them re-sit Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE).

The move by the district authorities is part of a grand plan to improve education standards in Nakaseke by eliminating incompetent teachers, especially those who could have secured employment

using fake documents.

The Nakaseke district LC5 chairman, Ignatius Koomu, said on Friday that the exams, which will be sat in April would target all teachers in UPE schools across the district, especially those whose schools performed poorly in last year's PLE exams.

Koomu said the district authorities also demoted 30 headteachers after their schools registered failures in the PLE exams of 2016 and 2017.

The chairman noted that the rural district, which is located less than

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145km from the capital city, has consistently performed poorly in PLE exams.

Last year, seven schools registered a 20% total failure in PLE, leading to the demotion of their headteachers.

In 2016, 23 teachers lost their jobs after their respective schools registered a 30% PLE failure rate.

Koomu said there was administrative laxity among headteachers and a lack of commitment and competence among classroom teachers, both leading to poor performance in PLE.

The impending move has, however, attracted criticism from teachers' leaders who say

the district leaders should also consider other factors that affect teaching, instead of apportioning blame.

The chairman of Nakaseke District Teachers' Union, Emmanuel Kizza, said he welcomed the move by the district authorities to test the competence of the teachers. Kizza, however, suggested that the teachers should be tested in the subjects they teach.

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