



Dr Muiyungo has promised to crack down on schools without effective structures

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

Schools, parents say, are also being mismanaged, which gradually affects their children's learning.

According to Moses Mugume, a vendor in Masaka, there is lack of co-ordination between the teachers and administrators. This eventually impacts on performance for both the learners and teachers. "Teachers and parents also look detached from the school administration and teachers. How do you expect good results from such schools?" he asks.

The 2017 directorate of education standards inspections' report cited this particular issue as one that most schools heads fail to implement.

This included such factors as quality of staff deployment, headteacher and teacher attendance.

But, to make this work, the state minister for higher education, Dr. John C Muiyungo, says parents need to get involved.

"All schools in the country are expected to have proper management structures; with parents deeply involved in their management.

"This must take immediate effect, owing to the fact that we are noting serious laxity in the management of schools, especially the private ones," he says.

Muiyungo says in any serious school, parents should be involved in management, right from the class level to the general running of the schools.

He also noted that the Education Act 2008 was partly changed to ensure that schools management committees or board of governors and Parents Teachers Associations (PTA) are implemented and effective.

"This was meant to get parents involved in the running of schools, which most of the parents do not seem to know or appreciate," he says.

Muiyungo adds that most of the time schools which perform well are those whose school management committees and PTAs are effective in their operations.

"Parents should be given an opportunity to know how children in boarding and schools sleep, eat or even relate with teachers," he says. "But this cannot be done if parents only stop at paying fees and demand results at the end of the term."

"We are going to have tighter inspection of schools, which will entail checking on how schools are open to scrutiny from parents. Schools which do not have effective structures with parents, involvement will be tasked to explain and comply immediately or shut down," Muiyungo warns.

The SMCs as an organisation has many roles and are varied, but can be grouped into three categories – supervisory, consultative and administrative.

Under the supervisory, SMC by law is expected to oversee the running of the school. The committee ensures that what the headteacher and staff do is in accordance with government policy and is in the interest of the community and pupils' development.

The same committee makes sure school resources are put to good use. They should also be informed about all that goes on in the school and its permission is sought when drawing up budget estimates and when acquiring or disposing of school property.

According to the Education Act 2008, the consultative role may require a headteacher at times to seek advice from SMC while making major decisions.

The major decisions in this case may include the transfer or suspension of a teacher.