



Students on Ntare School in Mbarara City and Immaculate Heart Girls School in Rukungiri during sosh at Ntare School in 2015. PHOTO/RAJAB MUKOMBOZI

Schools at the crossroads over 'Sosh' culture

Guidelines. Ministry of Education and Sports guidelines urged schools to protect learners from inappropriate exposure such as vulgar performances, sexually suggestive content, and inadequately supervised excursions.

BY JULIUS BYAMUKAMA & RAJAB MUKOMBOZI

Last year, the Ministry of Education and Sports banned schools from carrying out extravagant parties dubbed 'prom' or 'sosh' where extreme habits of immorali-

ty are portrayed.

In a May 16, 2025 letter, the ministry gave a list of comprehensive guidelines schools should follow as they carry out extracurricular events.

"The Ministry of Education and Sports has observed with concern the growing exposure of learners to inappropriate, exploitative, and unsafe entertainment co-curricular activities," the ministry letter read. "It is against this background that the ministry has developed comprehensive guidelines to provide a regulatory framework for the planning, approval and supervision of entertainment and co-curricular activities."

The guidelines urged schools to protect learners from inappropriate exposure such as vulgar performances, sexually suggestive

content, and inadequately supervised excursions.

It added: "Protect learners from harmful, exploitative or developmentally inappropriate exposure, promote safe, inclusive and educationally purposeful activities that support holistic learner's development".

However, schools in Ankole region, in western Uganda are responding differently with some still holding parties despite the ministry guidelines. Some have opted for other forms of entertainment in respect to the ministry's directive.

The Head Teacher of St Joseph's Vocational School, Mbarara, Rev Fr Christopher Bafaki Katono, noted that because of the stringent measures from the ministry that were hard to implement, they resorted to organising picnics.

"We have decided to opt for other options not necessarily having parties with opposite sex schools. Our candidates will hold picnics so they can go and have fun and boys have embraced it. We are doing it for the first time for the first year and we are going to see how it goes," Rev Fr Bafaki noted.

He said prom parties are expensive for both learners and the parents, noting that there are many other avenues for learners to secure exposure.

EDITOR'S PICK

Why improving meals for learners matters

Last year the Health ministry agreed to set up a committee to study means of improving the diet for learners. / P22



How PEIS keeps financially stricken slum kids in school

The PEIS trainings and skilling project has empowered 30 mothers to keep their children in school. / P25



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