

Giving back. Indian community donates to orphans



Charity. Members of Indian Muslim Community under their umbrella Tamil Muslim Munneta Kalagam pose with pupils of New Midland Islamic Orphanage Primary School in Kawempe Division, Kampala after donating to them 70 mattresses and blankets on Sunday. The Indian community has started an annual project aimed at providing scholastic materials and other necessities to 12 orphanages around Kampala. Mr Vaheed Mohamed, one of the association leaders, said since they [Indians] have been given an opportunity to work in Uganda, they feel it is only fair that they give back something to the community where they live.

PHOTO BY ELVIS SENONO

Teachers reject transfers

Reason. Some 140 affected teachers, including seven head teachers, claim the exercise was marred by malice.

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LYANTONDE. At least 140 teachers in public schools in Lyantonde District have rejected government transfers and are pondering joining private schools.

The transfers were communicated by the district education officer, Mr Medard Byarugaba, last December.

However, some 140 affected teachers, including seven head teachers, especially those posted to remote schools, claim the exercise was marred by malice and corruption.

Some 22 teachers out of the 140 transferred, who spoke to *Daily Monitor*, said they are not ready to report to their new work stations since the district education authorities have denied them a chance to appeal against the transfers yet they have genuine reasons.

Some claim the schools where they were posted are far from their families, while others lack decent accom-

modation.

Mr Godwin Twikirizi, one of the affected teachers who refused to relocate to Kabwanswa Primary School and joined a private school, said he could not risk leaving his family and all his developed projects in Lyantonde Town.

Kabwanswa Primary School is

356

THE CURRENT NUMBER OF PRIMARY TEACHERS ON PAYROLL OUT OF THE TOTAL 424 TEACHERS REQUIRED TO FILL THE DISTRICT TEACHERS' STAFF CEILING.

located in Kasagama Sub-county, which is about 40 kilometres outside of Lyantonde Town.

"I am happy with the decision I took, government salary is little and could not sustain my family where I had been posted. Those transfers are

sometimes influenced by some individuals to achieve their own goals and leave the teachers suffering," Mr Twikirizi, said in an interview at the weekend.

Some other teachers, who spoke to *Daily Monitor* on condition of anonymity, said they are also considering joining private schools in their localities.

"I am married with six children who attend schools within [Lyantonde] town. Therefore, I need to be in a school not far from my family, given the fact that my husband also works in town," said one of the female teachers.

"I have been at this school for more than seven years and I am now a permanent resident of this area. My son is in day school and I cannot afford paying school fees in a boarding section if I relocate to where I was posted," another teacher, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said

Daily Monitor has learnt that none of the 'defiant' head teachers have prepared hand over reports yet.

Mr Julius Mugenyi, the Lyantonde District youth councillor, asked government to address challenges that force teachers to shun

schools where they are posted.

"Public servants should not be taken for granted. We all need good working environment and that is what should be put in place if we are to get improved service delivery," Mr Mugenyi said.

Ms Royce Tushabe, one of the parents of Lugala Public School in Kaliro Sub-county, urged the district education department to stop mass teacher transfers as schools will be left with no teachers thus leading to their collapse.

Authorities speak out

Mr Medard Byarugaba, the Lyantonde District education officer, said the district will look into the teachers' concerns after they have reported to their new stations.

"Let them know that refusing to go where one is posted is an act of insubordination, which is punishable in our profession," he said.

All public schools officially open for first term on Monday.

The Ministry of Education and Sports usually make annual teacher transfers to improve efficiency, management and performance of schools but because the Education Act 2 suggests that foundation board, churches and mosques be consulted before making the transfers, have always influenced some teachers to shun transfers and their vested interests.