

Child kindergartens warned against formulating own syllabi

JINJA

By Doreen Musingo

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has warned Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres (kindergartens) to stop formulating their own syllabi and teaching guidelines, but instead adopt those formulated by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Ivan Jimmy Obbo, a senior technical officer on social development at the ministry, said mushrooming ECD centres, which are both licensed and non-licensed are using their own developed syllabi to teach children yet the stage is a strong foundation of education.

Obbo was on Friday speaking to various stakeholders in Jinja district on the National Integrated Childhood Development Policy.

"We are going to check all ECD centres and those that do not meet the minimum standards will be closed," he said.

Obbo said he made the observation in 32 out of 49 districts he has visited while popularising the policy. He directed the education officer to critically scrutinise documents and teaching workplans before licensing ECD centres saying since it had become a business, some people are using this to brain drain children.

Moses Mutakisa, the Jinja municipal education officer, said they had closed three ECD centres due to lack of minimum standards, but were reopened through political connections.

Ronald Katongole a councillor from Masese urged the Police to regulate the number of children the bodaboda riders carry.

(Look out for our Kindergarten Guide tomorrow)