Pupil dropout rates blamed on rice growing

BY FRED MUZAALE
fmuzaale@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMULI. Authorities in Kamuli District are concerned about the high school dropout rates in the district, which they blame on sugarcane and rice growing being undertaken by many residents.

The district inspector of schools, Mr Ibrahim Kanakulya, said many dropout of school to earn quick money by cutting sugarcane and protecting rice gardens from birds.

He also said some, especially girls, drop out after being impreganated by men who induce them into sexual acts with small gifts such as chapati. "Last year alone, more than 300 learners registered for PLE in this district but never turned up to sit for the final exams because they were cutting sugarcane or scaring away birds from rice gardens," he said.

"Parents should stop this practice because it is frustrating our efforts of enhancing educations standards in Busoga region," he added

Mr Kanakulya was speaking during a thanksgiving ceremony for excellent 2015 PLE results for Global Education Centre, Kisozi in Kisozi Sub-county, at the weekend.

Busoga sub-region is among the areas where sugarcane and rice growing is practised as a source of income.

Mr Kanakulya also said the district will close at least 200 primary and secondary schools which are operating illegally.

He said the schools are either operating in business premises, lack operational licences while others are run by unqualified personnel.

"The district council has passed a resolution to close all these schools operating illegally before the opening of first term will soon start," the district official said, adding: "These so-called schools are killing the future our children and the owners are cheating parents."

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