

Mbale clinical school bosses ask government for more staff members

MBALE

By Violet Nabatanzi

Mbale School of Clinical Officers has asked the Government to recruit more teaching staff. At the moment, the school has only four full-time staff members training a big number of students.

Speaking to *New Vision* the chairperson of the governing council, Elisha Obella, said the school has been forced to hire part-time staff who are paid per lesson. He added that if the Government can recruit five more tutors on full-time basis, it will reduce the pressure that the governing council is facing.

"We get people from Mbale Hospital and outside to teach our students. The biggest part of our budget goes towards paying part-time members of staff," Obella added.

Mbale School of Clinical Officers is a government-aided institution that was established in 1958. The school's mission is to produce competent officers with a positive attitude to deliver quality health services for sustainable socio-economic development.

The principal of the school, Jean Babalanda, said each part-time tutor is paid sh30,000 per lesson and, if taxed, the person gets less money. "From September to December last year, between sh6m and sh10m was paid to part-time tutors," she said.

Meanwhile, Obella said the school needs expansion. He said it was meant to accommodate 120 students compared to the current enrolment of about 300 students. He added that the administration block is old and it does not give the institute the image it is supposed to have.

"We need more classroom blocks, laboratories and an administration block. At the moment, the number of facilities for learning is strained," he said.

He further said most of the books they use in the school library are outdated and the students also need to use the Internet during their research.

Obella revealed that students who complete studies at the school usually work in health centres II and III while others are employed in private facilities.

Obella says they spend a lot of money on part-time tutors.
Photo by Violet Nabatanzi

