"Leadership is about standards, professionalism and ensuring that what you do gaps to social welfare.

"If you are intentional in what you do, you will transform the renovate dilapidated maternal wards at Azul Medical Centre in Hoima district, where some that are often left behind, Nakazibwe said.

perspectives, especi...

Insecurity at Salama School for the Blind raises alarm over pupils' safety

MUKONO

By Joanita Nakatte

Administrators at Salama School for the Blind in Mukono district have raised concern over increasing insecurity at the institution, following repeated break-ins by armed robbers that have left both staff and learners living in fear.

School authorities say the lack of a perimeter wall has made it easy for intruders to access the premises at any time, exposing the vulnerable learners to security threats.

The administrators noted that many pupils are still recovering from the trauma of the devastating fire outbreak four years ago that claimed the lives of 11 pupils and the continued security threats have only worsened their anxiety.

The headmistress, Dorothy Ssebadduka, raised the concerns while receiving donations from St Balikuddembe Old Students Association, which included food items and other basic necessities aimed at improving the welfare of the learners.

PHOTO BY JOANITA NAKATTE



Kiwendo (third-left) handing over donations to Ssebadduka, during their visit to Salaama School for the Blind in Mukono district recently

Ssebadduka said the school, as the only government institution in the country dedicated to blind learners and with over 150 pupils, continues to face severe financial and infrastructural challenges.

She revealed that the school receives only sh1.7m as a government grant per term, an amount she described as insufficient to meet essential needs such as food, learning materials, infrastructure maintenance and staff support.

Ssebadduka also said the rising cost of specialised learning materials for blind pupils has made it increasingly difficult to provide quality education.

"Yes, we are grateful for government's support, but the money is not enough to run the school effectively. We struggle so hard to meet the pupils' needs. Sometimes we lack food, we do not have a perimeter wall and we also lack a sick bay.

Recently, a blind child named A... Nabende, suffered a serious injury and had to undergo sur... that resulted in the removal of his...

"We, therefore, appeal to Government and all well-wishe... support us," Ssebadduka said.

She further appealed for sup... in acquiring an ambulance, cit... difficulties in handling me... emergencies due to the lack of reli... transport.

"Our special needs chil... sometimes require urgent medi... attention, but without an ambula... it becomes very challenging ... respond immediately," she added.

BETWEEN THE LINES

School authorities say the lack of a perimeter wall has made it easy for intruders to access the premises at any time.

CALL FOR VOCATIONAL STUDIES

Joseph Kiwendo, the chairpers... of St Balikuddembe Old Students Association, emphasised the need for establishing a vocational institute for blind learners, saying it would play a critical role in equipping them with practical skills for independent living after completing their studies.

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