

Eight arrested over shoddy work in Namayingo

NAMAYINGO

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The Police in Namayingo are holding eight people for allegedly doing shoddy work on a five-stance pit latrine at Buchwera Primary School.

The eight were reportedly doing the work without a contract from the district.

Robert Wanda, Charles Wetunga, David Kutosi, Ivan Wabalya, Juma Chrispus, Tomas Wamonya, Joshua Masaba and Alex Wambululu were picked up from the school in Buyinja sub-county after authorities alerted the LC5 chairperson that the accused

were constructing the latrines using logs instead of iron bars.

The eight, who claim to be employees of Mbale-based Star Construction Company, were reportedly hired by Juma Masaba to work as casual labourers. Masaba is believed to be on the run after he was tipped off.

The Namayingo LC5 chairperson, Ronald Sanya, then ordered for their arrest.

"The directors of the company could have connived with the district procurement officer," he said.

The district had early last month advertised for bids to carry out construction of the five-stance pit

The suspects were said to have used logs instead of iron bars for building the latrines

latrines at Buchwera under the school facilitation grant. JJ Construction Company emerged as the best bidder.

However, proprietors of JJ Construction Company were shocked to learn that another company had already started doing the work.

The district Police commander, Ibrahim Tukundane, said investigations into the matter were still underway.

The district education officer, Kaawo Nayi Kawere, said he had not been informed about any construction at the school.

"I only came to know about the construction after the arrest of the eight suspects," he said.

Kawere said under local government rules he must be informed of any developments.

The district engineer, Godfrey Kirya, wondered how the construction could be conducted by people who were never pre-qualified.

Kirya said the shoddy work puts the lives of the pupils at risk since the latrine was likely to cave in within four months.

The district procurement officer, Harriet Kakayi, declined to comment on the matter.

Star Construction Company, the company which built the pit latrines, had earlier been awarded a tender to construct a pit latrine at Nabitula Primary School. It is said the latrines caved in three months later, causing a financial loss of sh34m to the district.