

Mayuge science teachers demand unpaid salaries

MAYUGE

By George Bita

Teachers of science subjects in Mayuge district camped at the local government headquarters for several hours on Monday over not getting their July salaries.

Efforts by officials to calm them down fell on deaf ears as the civil servants threatened to sleep in the office corridors, until they are paid.

Robert Oonyu, a teacher of physics at St John S.S. Buwaaya, expressed concern as to why only teachers of non-science subjects had received their payments by August 10.

"This is unfair. Imagine suffering with chemicals in laboratories the whole month then someone wakes up to

deny us our hard-earned money," Oonyu said.

Simon Balonde, a teacher of biology, wondered how the system could have made selective errors regarding only the paying of science teachers.

Records from the registration form made by the teachers indicated that 82 of them from Malongo, Kigandalo, Baitambogwe, Bunya, Bute and St John secondary schools had not been paid.

Causes of non-payment

According to Moses Mugabi, an official at the personnel office, the cause could only be established after August 21.

"The local computer system is controlled from the centre. Finance ministry can only give us control after the 20th day of the month, to facilitate salary

payments," Mugabi said.

The chief administrative officer, Joyce Nambozo, explained that the change from the Integrated Payroll Payment System (IPPS) to a new set-up had resulted in numerous hiccups.

"Some of the names would be omitted electronically and it was not anybody's fault," Nambozo observed.

According to Nambozo, it was too early to raise complaints about the July pay as Mayuge local government only started payments for the same on August 9.

She said other districts such as Jinja had similar challenges over payments.

"You saw what happened in March when teachers protested over the non-payments of salaries. Local politicians coerced them into protesting when it was obvious that the mess was nationwide," Nambozo said.

Chronic problem

Henry Kirya, a chemistry teacher at Baitambogwe SS said how he missed salary for six months and almost gave up on teaching.

"I would go to school to sign the arrival book and go away. And when my pay finally came, I was paid only one month," Kirya discloses.

Wilson Wetyaki, another teacher, reveals that at times some teachers receive less money on their accounts.

Way forward

Nambozo urged the affected

teachers to be patient, until Monday next week, when the source of the problem would be established.

"We shall extract the payslips from the system and be able to know what reasons led to each individual's problem. In the meantime, nothing much can be done," she suggested.

However, Bashir Kayeyera, Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU) area chief, suggested that the responsible officer travels to Kampala to get a hard copy of the payroll immediately.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

John Emuron, deputy head teacher of Lwanda Primary School: From January to April, I never got paid. I was told to bring bank statements to the CAO, but up to now, I have never been paid my arrears.



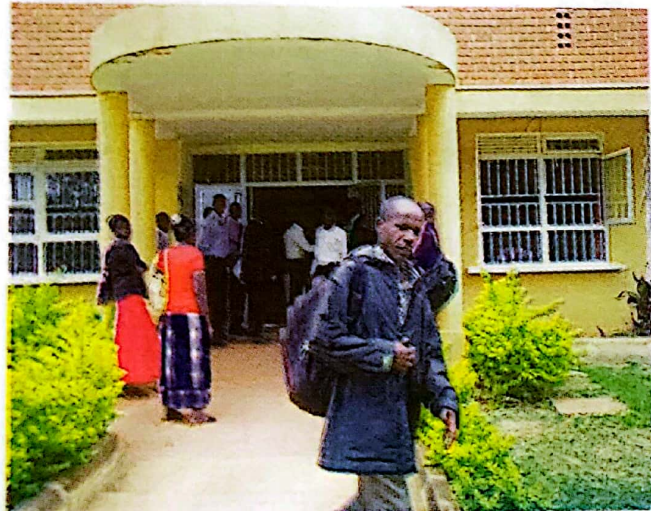
Aisha Nalumansi, a councillor of Namoni village: Whenever elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. No wonder the district's academic performance keeps going down.

KENYA AIRWAYS PLC

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Directors, Kenya Airways PLC wishes to announce that it has appointed Prof. Paul M. Maringa, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, a Director of the Company to fill a casual vacancy.

By order of the Board
7th August, 2017



Frustrated science teachers at the Mayuge district headquarters on Monday. Photo by George Bita