

# Ngora teachers lack houses

**NGORA**

By Charles Achoda

A Ngora district report has revealed that due to shortage of accommodation in some places, three teachers share a house.

It also showed that out of the 674 teachers in the district, 226 reside within their schools while the others commute from their villages.

Moses Matthew Ochung, the district education officer, said the situation is affecting delivery of quality education.

He was speaking during a meeting organised by the Office of the Prime Minister at Kapir sub-county headquarters recently.

## Long distances

Ochung, who revealed the findings of the report, said some teachers ride over 10km to and from school everyday.

"Much as the teachers have the will to do their work, most of them do not give their all. You cannot ride for a long distance and expect to concentrate in class," he said.

Only after the problem of housing has been tackled will the performance in schools improve, he added.

Meanwhile, some teachers revealed that sharing accommodation has given rise

*Some teachers who share houses have revealed that their marriages are on the line for lack of privacy*

to domestic tensions.

"When two or three teachers share one house, how do you expect to fulfill your conjugal obligations with your spouse?" Mike Okwii, a teacher, wondered.

"We thank God it is now the holiday season, meaning the teachers we stay with have returned to their villages. We can now enjoy some 'quality time' with our lovers, for now," he added.

Meanwhile, Ochung said his office receives such reports, but they try to solve them amicably between the parties involved.

He said the district has come up with a redesign of teachers'

houses to move away from the old model of two-in-one.

"We are trying our best, but are constrained by funds. At least, in every financial year, we construct two or three four-in-one houses," Ochung said.

Ngora is supposed to have 849 teachers, but it only has 674. The district was carved out of Kumi in 2009.

## Poor performance

In the 2016 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), the district performed poorly, with only 70 out of over 3,000 candidates managing the first grade.

Roland Taremwa, the senior monitoring and evaluation officer in the Office of the Prime Minister, promised to ensure that funds are increased in the education sector, to cater for teachers' accommodation.

He said housing is also a big challenge in other schools around the country.

## 'We hear you'

The resident district commissioner, Joseph Ariong, who moderated the meeting, said the Government is aware of what teachers are going through. He urged teachers to be calm and concentrate on their work, as the Government plays its part of paying their salaries and improving their accommodation.