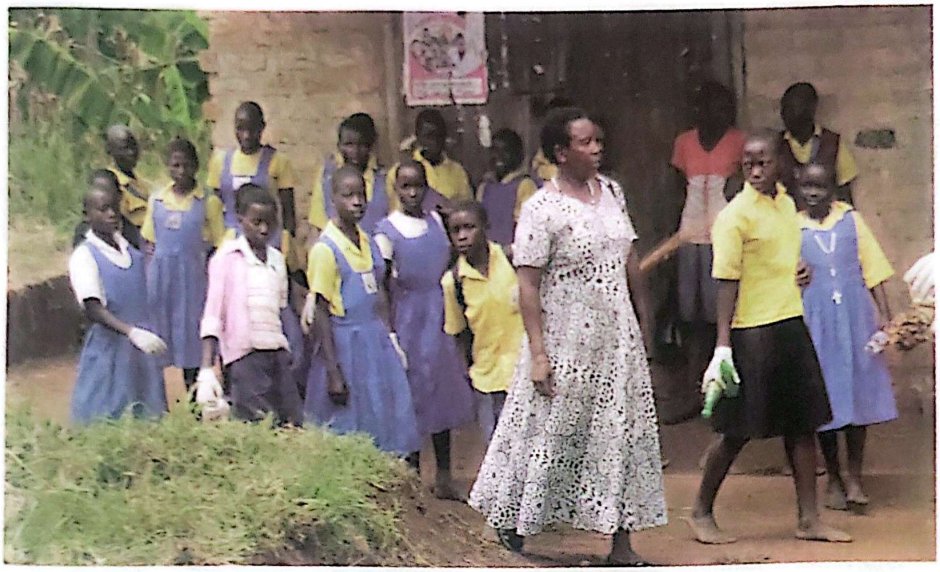
Kibaale teachers share dorm with pupils of opposite sex



Affected. A teacher supervises pupils of St Veronica Nursery and Primary School in Kyebando Sub-county as they clean their compound before the school was closed on Tuesday. PHOTO BY ALEX TUMUHIMBISE

Crackdown. The district authorities have closed three schools for lack of requirements.

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KIBAALE. A school inspection in Kibaale District has found some teachers sharing dormitories with pupils of opposite sex.

"I am questioning your integrity. How can a teacher sleep with a child of opposite sex in the same hostel and in a dirty environment?" the Kibaale District inspector of schools, Mr Lawrence Kadidi, asked authorities at St Veronica Nursery and Primary School in Kyebando Sub-county, Kibaale District.

The operation by the district authorities left three primary schools closed for allegedly failing to meet the required minimum educational standards as the first term opened officially on Monday.

The affected schools include St Cleophus Primary school in Bwamiramira Sub-county, Kicunda Charity Nursery School in Kasimbi Sub-county and St Veronica Nursery and Primary school in Kyebando Sub-county.

The operation was majorly meant to crack down all unregistered and unlicensed primary schools operating in the district.

School speaks out

When contacted on the matter, the director of St Veronica Nursery and Primary School, Mr Joseph Kasaija, said: "I have started the process of registering and licensing the school. I only urge parents to remain calm as the process goes on. The teachers were sleeping with pupils to provide them with security since they are still young."

"There is poor staffing levels, imagine, how can three teachers teach seven classes? This is impossible," Mr Kadidi said.

He further revealed that some of the closed schools are headed by Senior Six leavers, a situation that cripples education standards in schools.

Mr Samuel Kisembo, the Kibaale Resident District Commissioner, said the affected schools were also found operating in a filthy environment with inadequate sanitary facilities.

Mr David Otabong, the Kibaale District police commander, said any closed school that will be found operating again will have its administrators and owners arrested.

"Tell your parents to take you to other schools," Mr Otabongo said while addressing learners at one of the closed schools on Tuesday.

The Education ministry has warned parents and stakeholders against enrolling children in unregistered and unlicensed schools.

Speaking to *Daily Monitor*, Mr John Kyaboona, the Kibaale District education officer, said The Education Act, 2008 of Uganda under Section (32) prohibits operation of a school by anybody without due registration and licensing by relevant authorities.

He said the ministry of Education in a September 22, 2017 circular directed that all unregistered and unlicensed schools be closed before December 31, 2017.

He urged parents to avoid enrolling their children in such schools. He added that the crackdown on defiant schools will involve security operatives such as police, which has already been informed.

THE LAW

According to the Education Act 2008, some of the basic requirements for a school to be registered and licensed include enough land, good sanitary facilities such as toilets, trained teachers and instructional materials, among others.

Resident to sue municipal

KABAALE. A resident of Kabale Municipality has threatened to sue Kabale Municipal Council for destroying Mwanjari cemetery. The municipal authorities leveled the cemetery to pave way for a parking yard. The resident, through his lawyers of Bikangiso and Co. Advocates, accuses the authorities of not respecting the rights of the dead by exhuming the remains of the

Farmers complain

MBARARA. Farmers in Mbarara District have decried lack of technical advice on how to carry out farming projects such as fish farming and fruit growing. Mr Humphrey Arinaitwe, the chairperson of Nyakikara Fish Farmers, said their project, which started three years ago, has not yielded better results mainly for

Withheld PLE results out

NTUNGAMO. The Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) has agreed to release Primary Leaving Examination results for three primary schools in Ntungamo that were withheld over alleged exam malpractices. This was revealed by the district inspecti of schools, Mr Fred Bahati, on Monday. The affected schools include Rwentobo Prepara tory School (76 candidates), Kiyoora Primar School (57