

Govt to disqualify teachers over beating pupils

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KAMPALA. A teacher beating up children in school risks losing his or her qualification, the State minister for Primary Education has warned.

Mr John Chrysostom Muyingo said his ministry was ready to cancel practising certificates for any teacher found guilty of beating children.

"Beating children is outdated. The government abolished beating in schools because it was one of the major reasons why children dropped out of schools. Any teacher who will be found guilty for beating up a child will have their [practicing] certificates cancelled," Mr Muyingo warned while speaking to journalists at a workshop for violence against children in school (VACIS) in Kampala yesterday.

Mr Muyingo also castigated the police for mishandling case files for children who have been subjected to abuses such as rape, defilement, sexual harassment, among others.

In the same way, he warned religious leaders, especially those who preside over wedding ceremonies for underage couples.

Ms Noreen Prendiville, the deputy country representative for Unicef highlighted physical violence, that entails hitting children with the hand or an object, as one of the major forms of violence. Others are psychological or emotional, which involve conveying children as worthless, flawed, unloved, unwanted or endangered.

"Sadly, at times it is teachers, school authorities and peers who are the perpetrators of such abuses," she said.