BUSOGA

Busoga leaders want less class hours for children

By George Bita

Leaders from Busoga have expressed concern over the current tendency to keep school-going children in the classroom for long periods of time.

David Bwire, the secretary for education in Namayingo district, observed that the trend has equally deprived student leaders of the opportunity of performing their duties since they are confined to the classroom.

Bwire made the remarks on Friday during a Busoga regional performance review meeting for stakeholders on Early Grade Reading. The event took place at Bishop Willis Core Primary Teachers' College in Iganga district.

Andrew Kirya, the principal of the college, wondered why teachers who were taught under different conditions are now making children stay long in classrooms.

"Nowadays, a typical school child has lessons from 6:00am to 6:00pm. For Primary Five to Primary Seven learners, it is even worse," Kirya lamented.



An inspection team meeting Primary Seven learners at Bishop Willis Demonstration School in Iganga district. Photo by George Bita

BETWEEN THE LINES:

The leaders say the emphasis on academics over co-curricular activities is due to competition among schools and poor monitoring.

Cause of the problem

Gilbert Ninsiima, the Buyende district internal security operative, cited lack of effective supervision of schools as one of the contributing factors to the mess.

"Some teachers do not know the adverse effects of pumping students with only class work. Parents and other stakeholders should intensify monitoring of schools," Ninsiima claimed.

Henry Kabulo, the Bugiri district inspector of schools, said competition for good grades among local schools causes the emphasis on class work, with no regard to building other skills of the pupils.

Janet Nabwire, the senior inspector of schools of Luuka district, said some schools have learners from far off places, hence they keep them in class longer to compensate for time lost when they arrive late for school.

Way forward

According to Karo Nawere, the Namayingo district education officer, the school administrators should make a timetable for co-curricular activities to strike a balance between academic and practical skills.

Ambrose Ruyoka, the project co-ordinator of Early Grade Reading at the education ministry, advised that understanding the local language will improve the children's performance.

He added: "The Government, in collaboration with development partners, has allotted $15m in seven districts of Busoga to improve academic performance."

WHAT OTHERS SAY



Moses Wambi, a deputy principal from Iganga
It is unfair that the children are missing a chance to exercise their leadership skills due to too much class work.



Edward Kamaga, Kaliro district inspector of schools
Teachers should follow time tables and make time for not only books, but also co-curricular activities.

Scanned with CamScanner