

## PERFORMANCE

The 2025 Primary Leaving Examinations results prove that rural government-aided primary schools can excel when teachers and parents work effectively together, write **Martin Kitubi and Simon Masaba.**

For the last five years, rural government-aided primary schools have demonstrated that a child can excel even within a rural setting, if teachers and parents perform their roles.

This is evident with the just-released Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) results, where little known Kasomolo Primary School (PS) in Rakai district emerged the best government-aided primary school.

Kasomolo PS, which is purely funded under the Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme, registered an average aggregate of 6.4 with 40 candidates.

Second in position was Katara PS, also under the UPE programme, located in Buhweju district, which had 80 candidates with an average aggregate of 7.3.

The other government-aided schools that ranked in the top five include Kayanja Army PS in Kyankwanzi district, Kibiiito PS in Bunyangabu district and Kabale Preparatory School in Kabale municipality, in third, fourth and fifth positions respectively.

Kasomolo PS toppled Namilyango Junior PS in Mukono, which was the best

# TOP 500 UPE SCHOOLS NAMED

in 2024. In the 2025 exam results, Namilyango emerged sixth, having registered an average aggregate of 8.6 with 216 candidates.

Other traditional schools, such as Namagunga Primary Boarding School, Nabumali Boarding PS and Budo Junior School, were ranked eighth, 12th and 16th respectively.

The best-performing government-aided schools were ranked based on the data shared by the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEBC) and analysed by Vision Group.

Patrick Umah, Vision Group's research and data analyst, said the ranking was based on the average aggregate achieved by the candidates from each government-aided school, with lower scores indicating better results.

The 2025 PLE results were released on Friday by the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, during a function held at State House, Nakasero in Kampala.

The event was graced by state ministers including Dr Joyce Moriku Kaducu (primary education) and Patrick Ogwang (sports). Others were Dr Asman Lukwago (secretary of Education Service Commission) and Dr Bernadette Nambi (director of the National Curriculum Development Centre).

## KAMPALA PERFORMANCE

For five years running, the performance of government-aided schools in Kampala – which once topped the charts – has continued to deteriorate, with Kibuli Demonstration School in position 105, ranking the best in the city.

It registered a total of 134 candidates, with an average



Victor Austin Kiyaga of Namilyango Junior Boys School, who got aggregate 4, celebrates with his mother, Harriet Nakitende



Venrand Maria Nassiwa of Namagunga Primary Boarding School got 6



Ethan Job Kossa of Namilyango Junior Boys School got aggregate 4

## SUBJECTS PERFORMANCE, S1 SELECTION

Dan Odongo, the UNEB executive director, said the candidates performed best in English, followed by integrated science, mathematics, and social studies (SST), with religious education (under SST) ranked as the worst done subject.

The selection exercise for Senior One will take place on February 12-13, and the learners will report to school for first term on March 2.

aggregate of 12.3. St Joseph Nsambya Girls' Primary School was second in Kampala, but ranked 223th nationally, with

an average aggregate of 14 and 56 candidates.

The third-best performing school in Kampala was

Nakivubo Blue Primary School, which ranked 303th nationally, with an average aggregate of 14.8. (See lists on pages 4, 5 and 6)

## SCHOOLS, LOCAL GOVT SPEAK

While the teachers' effectiveness has been credited for this great performance, government officials also recognised parents' involvement as being key.

Apollo Niwaha, the headteacher of Kabale Preparatory School in Kabale municipality, attributed their good performance to his staff and support from parents.

"Parents attend our meetings, check children's work and follow up with the respective teachers. They also contribute to meals and we offer breakfast, lunch as well as evening tea to children in Primary Four and above," Niwaha said.

Grace Munyambabazi, the Kabale municipality education officer, said: "Kabale Preparatory School is a purely UPE school, but it has been doing wonders for a long time. The school has a good management committee, backed by an equally good parent-teacher association. These two organs have ensured that children not only



Vivian Namagembe of Kasomolo Primary School in Rakai got aggregate 4

attend school regularly, but also excel."

## GENERAL PERFORMANCE

Data from UNEB shows that the number of candidates who qualified to progress to the next level of education increased.

Out of the 817,883 registered candidates, 807,313 sat for PLE, while 10,570 learners did not turn up. Of the total, 91,990 pupils passed in Division One, 388,293 in Division Two, 165,226 in Division Three, 84,724 in Division Four.

This implies that a total of 730,233 of the 2025 PLE candidates qualify for the next level of education, compared to 722,730 candidates who qualified in the 2024 PLE.

## NEXT LEVEL OF EDUCATION

For those who qualified for the next level of education, the First Lady said, the country has two pathways for them: one through secondary education, and the other through the Technical Vocational Education and Training.

For secondary schools, Mrs Museveni said, the Government continued to deliver on their expansion by building seed schools for sub-counties that have none.

"Since 2019, we had a target of building 259 new seed secondary schools through the Uganda Inter-governmental Fiscal Transfers programme. As of today, we have completed the construction and operationalisation of 204 new seed secondary schools, while 55 others are still at various levels of construction," Mrs Museveni said.

The constructed seed schools will accommodate many more learners, she said.