Salume: PLE star who brought pride to Oyam rural school

BY BILL OKETCH

OYAM. Salume Ajalo's remarkable performance in the 2025 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) has brought pride to Abela Primary School, a government-aided learning centre in Oyam District.

Ajalo stood out as the only candidate to score Division One among the 47 pupils who sat the examinations at the school.

In the 2025 PLE results released last Friday, Ajalo obtained Distinction Two in both English and Mathematics, Credit Four in Science and Credit Three in Social Studies.

Despite attaining an Aggregate of 11, Ajalo is being widely celebrated for elevating the profile of the rural school in Abela Parish, Aleka Sub-county.

Overall, the school posted an improved performance, with 38 candidates passing in Division Two, one in Division Three and six in Division Four. One candidate did not turn up for the examinations conducted on November 3 and 4, 2025.

Mr Tonny Ojok, the chairperson of Abela School Management Committee, hailed Ajalo's achievement, attributing it partly to parental support.

"Ajalo has made us proud this year, and I would like to thank her parents for supporting her education. We urge all parents to follow suit," Mr Ojok said.

Mr Benson Odongo, the chairperson of Abela Parish, said the school's failure to register a first-grade result in 2024 was largely due to inadequate cooperation among parents, teachers and learners.

However, he noted that Ajalo's success reflects renewed commitment and serves as a positive step forward for the school.

Nationally, girls outperformed boys in English, according to the released PLE results.

However, boys dominated performance in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Religious Education, the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) Executive Director, Mr Dan Odongo said in a statement.

Salume Ajalo of Abela Primary School in Oyam District passed the exams in Division One. PHOTO/COURTESY

> **Community hero.** "Ajalo has made us proud this year, and I would like to thank her parents for supporting her education. We urge all parents to follow suit," **Mr Tonny Ojok, the chairperson of the Abela School Management Committee**

Overall, more candidates passed in Division One in 2025, with 91,990 attaining a grade—an increase of 7,689 from 2024. Most candidates scored aggregates between 11 and 30, with the mode at Aggregate 22.

A total of 817,883 candidates registered for the 2025 PLE, a significant rise from 797,444 in 2024. Of these, girls accounted for 52.4 percent, compared to 47.6 percent boys.

Gender analysis shows that 389,469 boys were registered in 2025, compared to 428,324 girls, continuing a trend in which more girls complete the primary education cycle.

This pattern is not new. In 2024, girls constituted 52.5 percent of candidates, a proportion that has remained consistent. Educationists attribute the trend to improved access to education for girls and increased support for female learners, suggesting steady progress towards gender parity in education.