

Anxiety in Mbale City after Uneb withholds PLE results

St Joseph Musoto Primary School in Mbale City only received the results of seven special needs candidates.

BY ANDREW WABUSHENDA & FRED WAMBEDE

An atmosphere of shock and uncertainty has engulfed pupils, parents, and teachers of St Joseph Musoto Primary School in Mbale City after the results of only seven out of the 185 candidates who sat Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) at the school were released.

The PLE results were released by the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) on January 30. However, the school only received the results of seven special needs candidates.

Mr Rogers Mukwana, one of the parents, said they were worried about their children's future.

He expressed concern that many of the affected children had been exposed to severe mental stress and anguish.

"When we tried to use index numbers to access our children's results, it was unsuccessful. We later contacted the head teacher, who assured us that the school was not involved in any examination malpractice and that our children would get the results, but nothing has happened up to now," he said.

Mr Siraji Muyima, a father of two children who sat PLE at the school, said he invested heavily in their education, expecting them to join Senior One, but now their future remains uncertain.

He added that the school called parents for a meeting two weeks ago and promised that Uneb would summon the pupils to defend their exam results.

"However, nothing has happened yet, while secondary schools have already started registering Senior One students," he said.

Ms Sulaina Nampera, another parent, expressed dismay at the situation, saying her child had put in a lot of effort to pass the examinations, waking up at 5am and returning home at 9pm.

She called upon Mbale City education



Some of the pupils of St Joseph Musoto Primary School. PHOTO/ANDREW WABUSHANDA

officials to intervene and ensure the pupils access their results and proceed to the next level of education. "PLE results were released on January 30, but up to now we haven't received any explanation as to why our children's results are not out," Ms Nampera said.

Rehema Garinda, one of the pupils who sat her PLE at the school last year, said they did not engage in exam malpractices and questioned why they had not received their results.

Shamila Bint Silajji, another pupil, said she struggled throughout primary school, praying to join Senior One, but now feels discouraged because she has not received her results.

The school head teacher, Mr Stephen Washaki, when contacted by phone for comment, said he was in a meeting and promised to call back but had not done so by press time. When our reporter contacted him again, he declined to speak on the matter and switched his phone off.

Mr Francis Koko, the Mbale City education officer-in-charge of Industrial City Division, said they are following up on

the matter.

He added that Uneb is conducting investigations and that the pupils will be called to defend their results.

"We are not certain why Musoto Primary School's results were not released. However, since many traditional schools in the city did not perform well, and Musoto has been one of the best-performing schools in Mbale City, Uneb may have had doubts about the school's performance," he said.

Investigations.

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The release of the 2025 PLE results in Mbale revealed both triumphs and challenges. While some schools celebrated an increase in Division One candidates, others struggled, highlighting persistent gaps in resources, supervision, and community support.

Uneb Spokesperson Jennifer Kalule could not be reached for comment, as her known phone numbers were off by press time. However, while releasing the PLE results, the Executive Director of Uneb, Mr Dan N Odongo, said the withheld results were mainly from the districts of Kisoro, Kampala, Mukono, Namutumba, Kassanda, Buyende, and Kaliro.

"In accordance with Section 5(2) (b) of the Uneb Act, Cap 259, the Board will withhold the results of the affected candidates pending completion of investigations. Where there is a prima facie case, the Board's Tribunal (Examinations Security Committee) will accord all the affected candidates a fair hearing before making final decisions," he said.