

Mbale pupils to defend PLE results on March 16

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Pupils who sat their Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) last year at St Joseph Musoto Primary School in Mbale City are scheduled to defend their withheld results before the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) on March 16.

The 2025 PLE results were released on January 30 by Uneb. However, at St Joseph Musoto Primary School, only seven of the 185 candidates who sat the national examinations, all of them special needs pupils, received their results.

The head teacher, Mr Stephen Washaki, said the school administration had been instructed to present the affected candidates to Uneb on March 16 to defend their results.

Mr Washaki expressed confidence that the pupils performed well and will successfully defend their results, noting that the school had adequately prepared them.

"I ask parents to mobilise our children, inform those who are far away to return, and prepare for March 16 when they will go to Uneb to defend their results," Mr Washaki said after angry parents threatened to sue the school.

He made the remarks during a meeting attended by parents, school administrators and security officials at the weekend.

Parents continued to express frustration and confusion, pointing out that Senior One students have started reporting to school.

Mr Washaki urged parents to remain calm and to contribute Shs50,000 per



Some of the pupils at St Joseph Musoto Primary School. Pupils who sat their PLE at the school last year are scheduled to defend their withheld results. PHOTO/ANDREW WABUSHANDA

pupil to cater for transport to Uneb.

He also revealed that while responding to aggrieved parents, there had been an issue with the Science paper, which led to the withholding of the results.

However, parents remained unconvinced, questioning Uneb's role and arguing that if there was any malpractice, responsibility should also rest with the examination supervisors assigned to the school.

Mr Sirajji Muiyima, a father of two children who sat the 2025 PLE at the school, said parents were anxious because they could not secure Senior One placements without the results.

"How shall we get places for our children? You start planning for your child when you have the results," Mr Muiyima said.

Mr Rogers Mukwana, another parent, said they were deeply concerned about their children's future.

He noted that some of the girls who sat the examinations had grown older during the long holiday, warning that further delays could create serious challenges.

THE LAW

Uneb Executive Director Dan N Odongo, speaking to the media during the release of the results, said Section 5(2)(b) of the Uneb Act, Cap 259, empowers the board to withhold results of 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.

Mr Rogers Taitika, the Elgon Region Police spokesperson, called for calm.

"As security personnel, we will ensure there is peace, and we call upon the school administrators and parents to cooperate to resolve the issue without commotion," he said.

While releasing the PLE results this year, the Uneb Executive Director, Mr Dan N Odongo, said most cases of withheld results were from the districts of Kisoro, Kampala, Mukono, Namutumba, Kassanda, Buyende and Kaliro, among others.

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