

# 11 schools closed, directors arrested over standards

By Andrew Musinguzi

Authorities in Kagadi district have indefinitely closed 11 primary schools for failing to meet minimum standards.

The operation, led by the district education department in conjunction with the office of the resident district commissioner (RDC), has also seen the arrest and detention of directors over alleged defiance of education ministry guidelines.

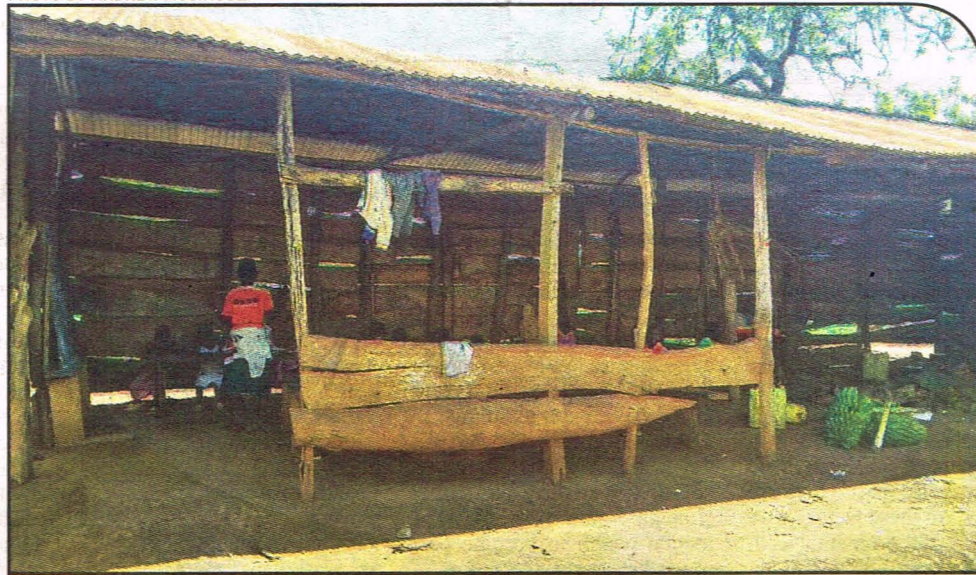
In an impromptu operation to crack down on unlicensed schools and those lacking minimum educational standards mounted by district inspector of schools Julius Alinda and deputy RDC Jeremy Namanya, 11 schools in Buyaga West and East constituencies were closed.

"We found these schools with unqualified teachers, lacking standard operating procedures, poor sanitation, dilapidated classroom structures, a lack of security, and a poor learning environment," Namanya said.

He added that a notice to cease operation of unlicensed and illegal private schools had been issued

**One of the closed schools in Mpefu sub-county, Kagadi district. Authorities closed 11 primary schools for failing to meet minimum standards. Some of the schools have dilapidated classroom structures, poor sanitation and lack security**

PHOTO BY ANDREW MUSINGUZI



to the affected schools by chief administrative officer, Pauline Epodoi, on March 18. However, the schools continued operating, compelling the enforcement of the directive.

Alinda said the closed institutions include Nakulabye Demonstration School, Nyaruziba SDA Primary School, City Light Nursery and Primary School, Mpefu Progressive

School, United Nursery Primary School, St Peter's COU Nyamirama, Talent Junior Primary School, St Augustine Primary School and Kurukuru Primary School.

"Unfortunately, the director and staff at Kurukuru and St Jude schools fled, while others were arrested and taken to Kagadi Central Police Station to record statements, but later released on Police bond. The schools will remain closed pending compliance with the licensing requirements set by the ministry," he said.

## ADVICE TO PARENTS

Alinda said parents were advised to transfer the affected pupils to nearby schools.

When contacted, the accused directors and headteachers declined to comment on the matter and referred journalists to the education department and the RDC.

Alinda said several announcements were made on local radio stations, urging parents to withdraw their children from the affected schools in vain.

Epodoi said it is risky for a school without a licence, qualified staff, or sanitary facilities, and with dilapidated classroom structures, to continue operating.