

Mbale SS secures sh3.4b to build classroom block

By Paul Watala

In a bid to end crowding in classrooms, the Mbale Secondary School Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) has secured sh3.4b loan from Centenary Bank to facilitate the construction of a four-storey block to accommodate the A'level classes.

The revelation was made by the Mbale Secondary School PTA chairperson, Patrick Maululu, during the commissioning of the sh500m Danga Multipurpose Hall.

INFRASTRUCTURE

He said the school is facing a severe infrastructure deficit, which has forced the administration to put a cap on the numbers that are admitted in Senior One and Five.

"In A'level alone, the school has about 700 science students,



yet the laboratories are not enough. The high demand has forced the administration to limit admissions," Maululu added.

He also said beyond classrooms, the school

struggles with inadequate staffing, furniture, girls' hostels and teachers' houses.

Maululu said the school administration also plans to construct a girls' hostel that can accommodate 2,000

students, renovate staff houses, laboratories and classrooms.

Moses Buyera, the Mbale Secondary School headteacher, said the institution's science facilities have been overstretched by the high

number of students enrolling for sciences due to an improvement in performance and the Government's stance of promoting sciences.

"The Government secured for us sh4b through the African Development Bank to renovate laboratories, classrooms and a multipurpose hall. It has, however, stalled," he said.

GROUND BREAKING

Buyera said the ground breaking for the new block will take place next month.

"The school's long-term expansion plan is meant to ensure a conducive environment for learning," he said.

Buyera said the school currently has about 5,600 students, which has placed excessive pressure on existing infrastructure and personnel. As of 2025, Mbale Secondary School had a teaching staff

of 293 members, yet most of the buildings at the school are more than 50 years old.

"Most staff houses were condemned and declared unsafe to live in 2008.

They should have been demolished, but teachers are still occupying them due to lack of alternative housing," Buyera added.

STAFF HOUSING

A teacher, who sought anonymity, said some of the staff houses have since been grabbed by private developers.

Michael Weyasa, a parent, said overcrowding limits learning.

The Bishop of Mbale Diocese, John Wilson Nandaah, who previously served as a diocesan education co-ordinator, appealed to the Government to urgently improve the welfare of teachers at the school, to uplift their living conditions.