

"I cannot give you details right now until we finalise the investigation," **Waku Zabair Abriga, the Head Teacher of Bamure Primary School**



Candidates
34

Marked as absent. Documents seen by *Daily Monitor* show that all the 18 boys and 16 girls sat for the subject on November 4, 2025, between 9am and 11.15am.

Forgotten PLE scripts

Dashed dreams: The future of 34 PLE candidates from Bamure Primary School in Koboko District has been left hanging by a thread after it was discovered that officials from the Uneb and school authorities failed to submit their final exam scripts for the Integrated Science subject, despite the pupils having sat for the paper. ...P.4,5



Angry parents and other locals demonstrate at the Bamure Primary School in Koboko District, West Nile, after learning about the unfortunate occurrence that has placed the future of 34 pupils in jeopardy. PHOTO/RASHUL ADIDI



Forgotten PLE scripts found locked in

Without divulging details, the school leadership and officials from Uneb yesterday told *Daily Monitor* that the matter has been forwarded to the police, and they have commenced investigations.

BY BUSEIN SAMILU & RASHUL ADIDI

Thirty-four candidates from Bamure Primary School in Koboko District have been thrown into panic after their Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) results for Integrated Science returned, marking them as absent, yet they had sat the exams.

It was discovered that officials from the Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) mistakenly left the final exam scripts at the school.

Without divulging details, the school leadership and officials from Uneb yesterday told *Daily Monitor* that the matter has been forwarded to the police, and they have commenced investigations.

Officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports said the findings from the ongoing probe would inform the next decision on the fate of the affected pupils.

Mr Waku Zabair Abriga, the head teacher of Bamure Primary School, said: "I cannot give you details right now until we finalise the investigation."

Uneb, ministry react

Relatedly, Ms Jennifer Kalule, the Uneb principal public relations officer, said: "We are aware of the issue, and the police together with Uneb are handling it. We shall let you know when we get to the heart of the matter. It's under control."

Dr Dennis Mugimba, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Education, in a telephone interview yesterday, said: "For now, we cannot make any substantive decision nor speak about the matter, but rather wait for the outcomes of the investigation by Uneb to inform our next course of action."

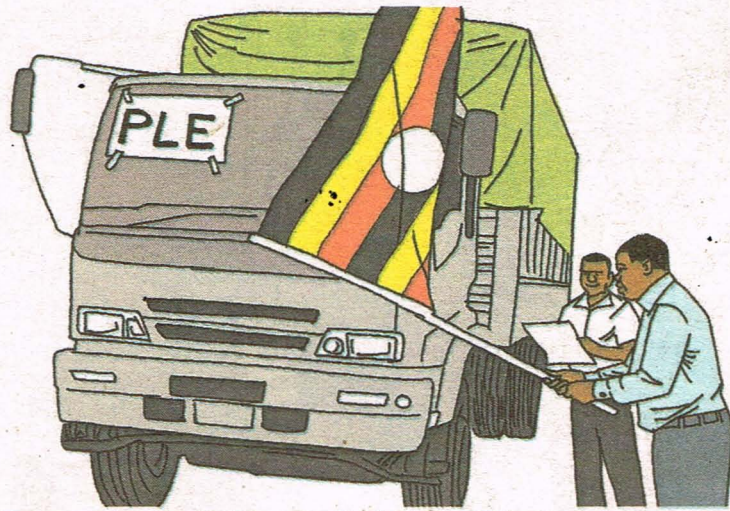
The scandal was uncovered after the school leadership, parents, and affected pupils learnt that all their candidates had been marked absent for the Integrated Science exams, meaning none of them had sat for the paper, yet they all did.

Upon realising this last Friday, Mr Abriga petitioned Uneb, seeking an explanation on why his candidates had been marked 'absent' yet they all sat for the paper.

He wrote: "I write on behalf of Bamure Primary School Centre Number 000451, following the release of the 2025 PLE results on Friday, January 30, 2026. Upon verification, we discovered that the results for the Science subject were not entered, resulting in the entire set of candidates being marked 'X' (UNGRADED). Please advise at the earliest possible time."

Mr Abriga attached copies of evidence showing that the pupils sat for the subject, including: the PLE attendance register, the seating plan for the 2025 PLE for the two examination rooms, and the

Steps of delivering Uneb papers



Exams are transported from the Uneb offices to the district. ILLUSTRATIONS/CHRIS OGOON



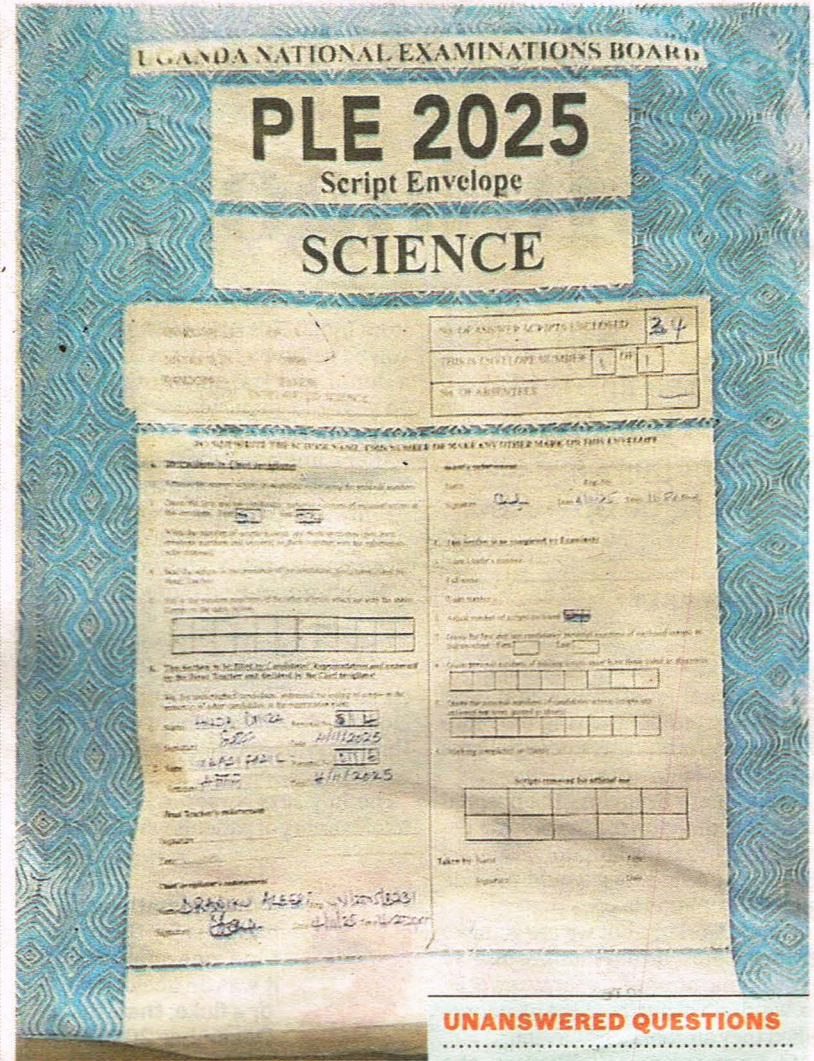
They are then taken to the school by the head teacher and examination distributor.



At schools, exam papers are handled by the Uneb supervisors.



After exams are done the papers are sealed and returned to Uneb for marking.



An envelope containing unmarked papers of Integrated Science Subject for 34 candidates that was found in a metallic box in the office of the head teacher of Bamure Primary School in Koboko District. PHOTOS/RASHUL ADIDI

candidates' attendance list for the two examination rooms.

Collaborated comments from various officials from the school and officials who participated in the exams invigilation, scouting, and observing process, said the exam papers were later found in one of the boxes in the office of the school head teacher on Sunday.

Sources said Mr Albert Dwaniku, the chief invigilator who supervised the two-day examination process, yesterday filed a report at the Koboko District Education Offices, which were forwarded to Uneb to assist in the investigation.

By last evening, Mr Abriga was also still held up in Kampala to assist in the ongoing probe.

"It is not one person's problem, we were all concerned to see that all the pupils had been marked xx and upon a thorough search, we discovered the exam scripts were actually at school in the headmaster's office," a source, who preferred not to be named, said.

The source added: "The problem cuts across all of us because it is the responsibility of the head master, the Uneb scout, the supervisor and the invigilator to ensure the examination distributor has been given the sealed paper. So, we are all wondering how the papers have been at school all this while without the knowledge of the officials. And what did the Uneb monitors at the district approve having received? All of us are to blame."

One of the teachers, who preferred not

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

1. Who occasioned lapse - head teacher, Uneb scout, Chief Invigilator, exams distributor?
2. How did sealed exams scripts end up in metallic box in the head teacher's office?
3. What sealed envelope did the exam distributor receive from the school?
4. What sealed envelope did the exam distributor return to the district education offices?
4. What did school and Uneb officials do after sealing the envelope?
5. What did the Uneb scout do?
6. Why did it take so long for the head teacher to discover sealed exams scripts in his office?
7. Why didn't the District Education Officer notice the anomaly?
8. What fate awaits the 34 candidates?

to be named in order to speak freely, said they are frustrated to see their efforts yielding nothing.

The teacher said the pupils sat the Integrated Science exam on the morning of November 4, 2025, in the presence of the head teacher and the Uneb officials.

A total of 807,313 candidates sat for the 2025 across 15,388 examination centres between November 3 and 4, last year. The pupils started with Mathematics in the morning on the first day, followed by Social Studies and Religious Education in the afternoon, then did Integrated Science in the morning of the second day, and concluded with English.

"We had 34 candidates registered last year, and all of them sat. The papers are the ones the candidate sat but their scripts remained in the metallic box given. The distributors and police who were assigned were even here up to the last

headmaster's office

Parents and locals demonstrate at the school in Koboko District yesterday.



day. They had to take the English scripts and left Integrated Science scripts behind.

"Unfortunately, the head teacher didn't check the metallic box until yesterday when the police, district education inspector, the LC5 chairperson and secretary social services came here and discovered that the box had remained around. We were all shocked as teachers because we didn't expect the mishap," the teacher said.

The source added: "The head teacher tried to access the results to only find everything XX and this shocked all of us and he informed the District Education

Office and he was tasked to write a letter to all of us. We are frustrated because our efforts are in vain and the community is putting us under pressure."

A group of disgruntled parents yesterday stormed the school premises, armed with posters with inscriptions: "Uneb has sold our children, help us leaders".

The PLE results for Bamure Primary School show that all the 34 candidates who registered at its Centre Number 000451, sat for English, Mathematics, and Social Studies, but missed the Integrated Science exam.

Despite Uneb results showing that none of the pupils missed Integrated Sci-

ence, all documents seen by *Daily Monitor* show that all the 18 boys and 16 girls sat for the subject on November 4, 2025, between 9am and 11.15am.

The pupils were invigilated by Ms Christine Abaru and Mr Tom Kiwere, with Albert Draniku as chief invigilator.

Mr Draniku yesterday said: "I have submitted my reports of the oversight, but how the papers did not reach the intended destination is something that is being investigated."

Handling exams papers

The process of handling the examination at the school centre is always open

List of schools with absentee candidates in 2025 PLE

RANK	DISTRICT	SCHOOL	DIV 1	DIV 2	DIV 3	DIV 4	ABSENT	TOTAL	% DIV 1
11716	Koboko Main	Bamure Primary School					34	34	0%
15310	Bukomansimbi	St Charles Lwanga K. PS					5	5	0%
15313	Nwoya	Prolar Christian School					5	5	0%
15316	Ibanda Main	Mutukura Primary School					3	3	0%
15318	Kisoro Main	Kabindi Mixed School					3	3	0%
15326	Kassanda	Buswa Primary School					2	2	0%
15329	Buyende	Nabitula Primary School					1	1	0%
15331	Isingiro	Kagaaga li P S					1	1	0%
15332	Kampala	Takuba Primary School					1	1	0%
15333	Kazo	Kigarama li P S					1	1	0%
15334	Manafwa	Buturu Demonstration P S					1	1	0%
15337	Tororo Main	Super Standard P S					1	1	0%

and witnessed by several officials, including the head teacher, who is the head of the centre, the chief invigilator, the invigilators, scouts, and candidates' representatives.

All these witness the opening of the sealed examinations paper that include the question papers, answer booklets (in case of UCE and UACE), attendance lists, unfilled sitting plans, and any other documents. After the paper, the same officials witness the sealing of the envelope, which is handed to the examination distributor.

Candidates, parents speak out

One of the affected pupils yesterday said she dully sat for all the papers and all the materials were collected from the rooms by the invigilator after being signed by the candidates.

"I have been waiting for my Science results only to get X. I was expecting to pass and join secondary school, but this whole thing has frustrated us. With X, I can't be admitted to any secondary school. If Uneb does [not] work on our issues, I won't go to school again," the pupil said.

Ms Maneno Kubura, a parent of one of the affected candidates, said, "I paid my son through hardship, my husband died years back...Every term we were paying Shs150,000 plus 10kgs of beans, 15kgs of maize flour and 13kgs of cassava flour—all these expenses for the whole year, who will pay them again?"

Mr Mubarak Enzama, the male youth councillor for Ludara Sub-county and a former learner at the school, expressed disappointment and demanded an immediate explanation.

"After the release of the results on Friday, we tried following the results of the learners, but the Science marks were missing and results were indicating XX which prompted the authorities to do more inquiries. On Sunday, a search was done only to discover that the Science scripts were left behind and unmarked. The community is shocked and we still can't understand how the scripts remained here," he said.

He urged Uneb to ensure the scripts are marked and results availed.

Bamure is a government-aided primary school that has an enrolment of 1,482 learners.