

St Elizabeth Girls Kidetok gets impressive UCE results

BY SIMON PETER EMWAMU

SERERE. After nearly two decades of declining enrolment and dwindling fortunes, St Elizabeth Girls Kidetok Secondary School in Serere District has staged a remarkable comeback, posting impressive results in the 2025 Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) exams.

The Catholic-founded school, established by the Mill Hill Fathers in the 1940s, had seen its enrolment sharply decline in the late 1990s and early 2000s following the rise of private schools in the Teso Sub-region.

By 2020, student numbers had dropped to barely 100, putting one of the oldest government-aided girls'

schools in the region on the brink of closure.

However, according to the recently released 2025 UCE results, the school registered a significant turnaround. For the first time in over 25 years, it presented 97 candidates, all of whom passed in Result One.

Ms Florence Imalingat, the headmistress of the institution, attributed the revival to aggressive community outreach and reforms initiated when she was posted to the school in 2020.

"When I arrived, I found only 100 students. I started conducting community outreaches across Teso and lowered the school fees to Shs150,000 to encourage parents to enrol their daughters," she said.

She added that the Covid-19 pandemic further worsened the situation, but she remained determined.

With the improved academic performance, Ms Imalingat expressed optimism that enrolment could rise to 700 students this academic year.

Beyond outreach efforts, the headmistress also instituted internal reforms. She replaced some under-performing teachers with new ones.

Currently, the school has 31 staff members, about half of whom are newly recruited, while 15 are paid by parents under a PTA arrangement.

"My mission is to help the school regain its lost glory by improving performance and boosting enrolment. Once that is stable, I can approach the Min-

istry of Education for better infrastructure so that the 1940s structures, many of which are made of asbestos, can be phased out. For now, even if we study under trees, we shall achieve the results we want," she said.

She said a stakeholders' meeting involving the board, parents, and other partners would soon be convened to analyse the 2025 UCE results and lay strategies for even better performance in 2026.

Education sector leaders in Teso Sun-region said the school's revival demonstrates the impact of community engagement and strong leadership in restoring struggling institutions to their former prominence.