

Parents reject head teacher over past record

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KAGADI. Parents and members of the School Management Committee (SMC) at Nyamiti Primary School in Muhoro Town Council, Kahyooro Ward, Buyaga West Constituency, Kagadi District have rejected the appointment of Ms Night Karali as the school's new head teacher.

Ms Karali was expected to report to the school on Wednesday, February 25, but her arrival was met with resistance from parents and school leaders. Members of the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) and the SMC resolved not to receive her, citing concerns over her past record.

Before her new appointment, Ms Karali had reportedly been dismissed from Mpamba Primary School following allegations of incompetence raised by parents.

She previously served as head teacher

at Rusuga, Pacwa, Kyakadehe and Mpamba primary schools, all within the district. Some parents claim they are familiar with her track record and fear her leadership could reverse gains made at Nyamiti in recent years.

Her appointment followed the transfer of the former head teacher, Mr Charles Tumusiime, to Butumba Primary School ahead of the start of the first term.

Mr Julius Alinda Mpigiza, the District Inspector of Schools, said the education was investigating the matter.

"As the education department, we have not yet established justified reasons as to why the parents do not want Ms Karali as the new head teacher. However, the Education Act permits parents to raise concerns where they are dissatisfied," Mr Alinda said.

Mr Peter Kyaligonza, a PTA member, said parents are unwilling to work with her due to what they describe as a poor

performance record in schools where she previously served.

"She has been head teacher of several schools within the district, and we are aware of her performance. We do not want someone who may take our school backwards. Mr Tumusiime worked hard to improve the school, and we have seen progress," Mr Kyaligonza said. Parents have instead thrown their support behind Ms Imelda Tuhaise, who is currently serving as acting

head teacher. They argue that she understands the school's needs and challenges.

Mr Samuel Baker, the leader of Nyamiti Church of Uganda, the school's founding body, said the parents should not be allowed to decline under what he termed poor leadership.

The District Education Officer, Ms Beatrice Mbabazi, described the situation as challenging. "Parents should have exercised patience and monitored her performance. As a district, we face a shortage of about 600 teachers and lack Grade Three teachers. However, I will receive my teacher and seek a way forward," she said.

The school remains under the leadership of Ms Tuhaise in an acting capacity.

BACKGROUND

According to the district inspector of schools, Nyamiti Primary School was established in the 1990s, and this is the first time such an incident has occurred at the school.

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