

School closed after pupil is defiled

By Tom Gwebayanga

The authorities at Buyende district education office have closed Talent Junior and Nursery Primary School, in Buyende town council after a teacher allegedly defiled a P4 pupil.

Working on the instructions of the district education officer, Dison Bwire, the Budiope West schools inspector, Ruth Tibiri, closed the school on Monday after teacher Joshua Mugabi, 28, was arrested and detained at Buyende Central Police Station.

"Yes, we closed the school. Mugabi was arrested over aggravated defilement. The 11-year-old victim (name withheld) was in P4. That's aggravated defilement," Tibiri said.

OTHER SCHOOL CHALLENGES

She added that an impromptu visit to the school established that the school had other challenges, including the

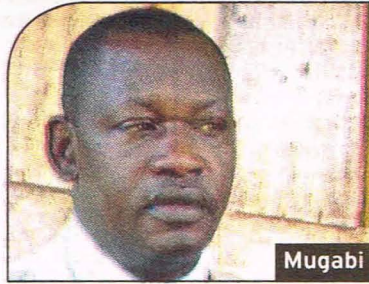
poor infrastructure, which was unsafe to hold six classes, including the boarding section.

"The dormitories were housed in squeezed rentals, some without window and door shutters. The floors were dusty, the kitchen had a temporary roof, the sanitation (pit latrines) was unsafe and some classes were pasted with wooden walls," Tibiri noted.

HOW MUGABI'S 40 DAYS ENDED

According to Samson Lubega, the Busoga North Region Police spokesperson, Mugabi ran out of luck after Fauzia Namwebya, the mother of the victim, reported the matter to police after the child narrated the ordeal.

"She narrated that the teacher had more than thrice picked her from the dormitory to his house, feigning to take her for 'special coaching,' before

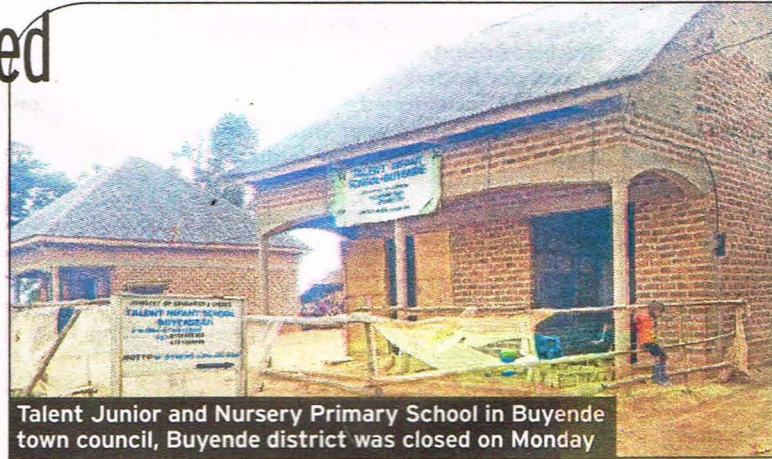


Mugabi

luring her into sex," Lubega said.

Privy sources at the school told *New Vision* that it has been Mugabi's routine habit to pick girls from the dormitory in the guise of taking them for coaching before exposing the unsuspecting minors to sexual encounters.

The victim told police that she "got fed up" and told the mother, who reported the matter to police, before



Talent Junior and Nursery Primary School in Buyende town council, Buyende district was closed on Monday

the defiler was apprehended.

Lubega said the case on SD 12/22/03/2026 is under investigation, adding that once complete, the suspect will be taken to court to answer charges of aggravated defilement.

Bwire lauded girl child rights organisations, including the Sexual

Health Reproductive Education project and Plan-Uganda, for the training in schools that empowered girls not to be shy, but to open up on incidents and personalities who abuse their rights.

"Girls have learned the name-and-shame trend, which is working out," Bwire said.