

PARENTS MUST NURTURE CHILDREN'S TALENTS THROUGH CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

By Juliet Anna Lukwago

Parents have been urged to actively support and nurture their children's talents if they are to fully benefit from Uganda's competence-based education system.

The call was made by the former director of basic and secondary education at the education and sports ministry, Ismail Mulindwa, during the music, dance and drama (MDD) competitions at St Mary's College Lugazi (SMACOL) on Saturday.

Mulindwa said while schools are playing their role in developing learners' skills, parents must provide the necessary support for talents to grow beyond the classroom.

"Children do not come to school only for subjects like chemistry. They come to acquire a range of skills. Parents must support them to develop these talents," he said.

He challenged parents to reflect on the growing number of successful creatives, asking whether learners should leave school without practical and entertaining skills like those demonstrated by popular musicians such as Jose Chameleone and Sheebah Karungi.

The competition, held under the theme *Under the New Curriculum*, brought together four houses; Nkrumah, Nyerere, Musaazi and Mandela, in a vibrant display of creativity and innovation aligned with the competence-based curriculum.

Musaazi House emerged overall winner with 342 points and was awarded a bull, followed closely by Nyerere House with 338 points. Mandela House scored 332 points, while Nkrumah came fourth with 312 points.

Students competed in a range of categories including traditional dance, original composition, contemporary dance and solo music, with performances addressing themes such as education, health and social issues.

Mulindwa commended the school for embracing co-curricular activities, noting that the performances reflected the practical, skills-oriented approach promoted under the new curriculum.

"What I have seen here clearly shows that learners are acquiring competencies through creativity and innovation," he said.

The headteacher, Emmanuel Ofwono Lwanga, said MDD activities are critical in shaping well-rounded learners by enhancing confidence, communication skills and emotional resilience.

"We do not focus on academics alone. Through co-curricular activities like MDD, we help students to discover and develop talents that can support them in future," he said.

He added that such platforms also promote teamwork and unity among learners while giving them an opportunity to express themselves beyond the classroom.

The chief adjudicator, Godfrey Kanaabi, assisted by Henry Lugalambi of Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and Jane Nabakka of Buddo SS, praised the high level of talent exhibited, urging students to continue developing their abilities.



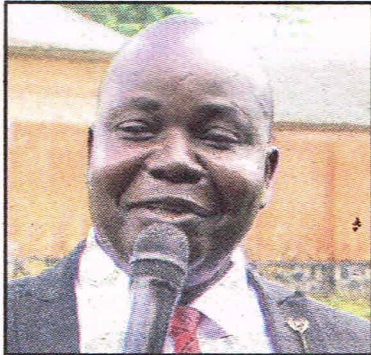
Students performing during thr MDD competitions at St Mary's College Lugazi



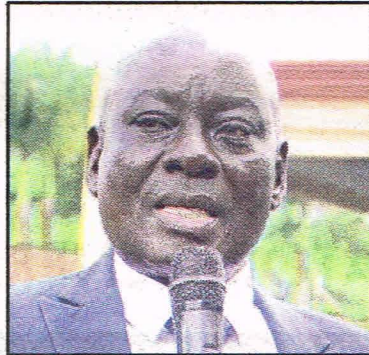
Docus Achwamu displays her certificate of excellence

PHOTOS BY JULIET ANNA LUKWAGO

LEARNERS ACQUIRE COMPETENCIES THROUGH CREATIVITY, INNOVATION



The headteacher, Emmanuel Lwanga making his remarks



Ismail Mulindwa, addresses parents and students



Students showcasing skills in the new curriculum at the event



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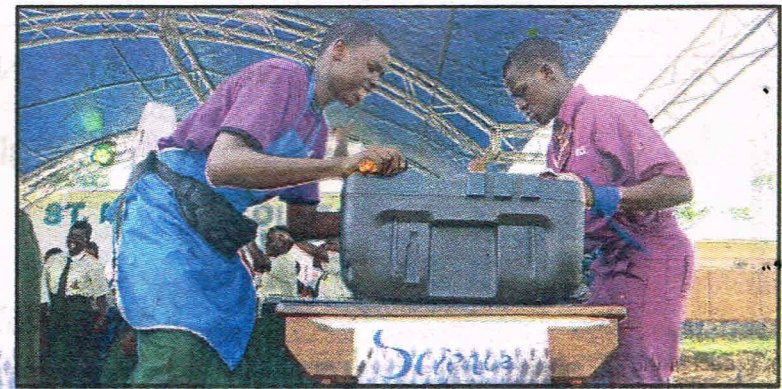
ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St Mary's College Lugazi, located in Buikwe district, is a mixed boarding secondary school offering both O' and A'level education, with a strong emphasis on sciences, skills development and values-based learning.

participants.

Some students said the festival had inspired them to take their talents seriously. John Praise Papa, a Senior One student, said he hopes to continue building on his MDD experience from primary school, while Ethan Ssenfuma, an S5 student, noted that MDD has helped him gain confidence and self-expression despite pursuing a science combination.

The annual festival also coincided with a visitation day for S2 and S3 students, attracting parents who witnessed first-hand the importance of co-curricular activities in education.



Science and technology innovations on display