



STATEMENT ON THE FIRE OUT BREAK AT ST BERNARD SECONDARY SCHOOL MANNYA-RAKAI DISTRICT

**BY
THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**

The Ministry of Education and Sports would like to inform the general public that there was a fire outbreak that gutted the Senior Three (S.3) boys' dormitory at St. Bernard's Secondary School Mannya on the 12th November 2018 at around 11:30 p.m. A number of fatalities have been reported.

Ministry of Education and Sports, the Uganda Police Force, Security Agencies and Local Community have been working together to contain the distressing situation and reassure parents and the community.

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet K. Museveni, together with the technical team from the Ministry of Education and Sports visited the school and held a meeting with the parents and the local community to console them and convey Government's sympathy to the bereaved families. The Ministry of Education and Sports condemns such barbaric acts that put lives of our children in danger.

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Preliminary reports indicate that the suspected cause of the fire was arson as per the details of the case reported to Mannya Police Post under **SD REF 03/41/11/2018**. Investigations into this tragedy have commenced.

The number of dead students was, by yesterday, confirmed to be nine (9) while a total of forty (40) students escaped with injuries, of varying degrees, and are hospitalized in various health facilities as outlined in this Statement.

DECEASED STUDENTS

The deceased S.3 students, whose remains were taken to Masaka Regional Referral Hospital for post mortem and DNA tests, are:

- 1) Lutaya Geofrey
- 2) Tamale Lemegious
- 3) Suuna Charles
- 4) Ssekitende Antonio
- 5) Nsubuga Sam
- 6) Kasozi Emmanuel
- 7) Bukenya Timothy
- 8) Dodiye Sharif
- 9) Basita Moris



INJURED STUDENTS

The 40 injured students, who were rushed to Mannya Health Centre (25) Kalisizo Health Centre (8) and Kitovu Hospital (7) are:

(a) Mannya Health Centre:

- 1) Akaninjura Boaz
- 2) Mogonza Richard
- 3) Kafuka Joel
- 4) Kizza Davis
- 5) Niwabire Isaac
- 6) Agaba Benson
- 7) Kanwagi Julius
- 8) Haruna Rashid
- 9) Kiweewa Chrisystem
- 10) Luboobi Reagan
- 11) Mweruka Kennedy
- 12) Mugonzi Kevin
- 13) Nsaasa Mike
- 14) Kato Mathias
- 15) Ayebale Frank
- 16) Walugembe Charles
- 17) Nduya Eddy
- 18) Sserukeera John
- 19) Kigongo John
- 20) Kaweesi Juma



- 21)Sensarile Godfrey
- 22)Kayiwa Peter
- 23)Tumwine Moses
- 24)Muyombya Derrick
- 25)Ssekyanzi John Bosco

(b) Kitovu Hospital

- 1)Bbosa Rashid
- 2)Alinaitwe Geofrey
- 3)Sendyoowa Bryan
- 4)Atlas Jerome
- 5)Kamanda Frank
- 6)Sserukeera Henry
- 7)Nuwagaba Billgates

(c) Kalisizo Hospital

- 1)Kizza Devis
- 2)Walugembe Charles
- 3)Haruna Rashid
- 4)Kiweewa Chrisystem
- 5)Ssekyanzi Boscho
- 6)Kanwagi Julius
- 7)Muyombya Derrick
- 8)Sserukeera Ronald



ACTION(S) TAKEN

Police cordoned off the crime scene immediately after getting information of the fire disaster and so far eight (8) suspected arsonist had been arrested.

Government of Uganda joins the rest of Ugandans to mourn this great loss. We have made some financial contribution to the bereaved families to assist with burial expenses and to each of the families of the injured students towards medical expenses. Government will continue to monitor progress of the admitted students.

CAUTION

All Heads of education institutions, School Management Committees (SMCs) and Board of Governors (BoGs) are further reminded to strictly observe and adhere to the Security Guidelines issued by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) for ensuring safety and security of lives of students/pupils. In particular, measures should be taken to enhance their preparedness and capacity to respond to fire emergencies, including provision of fire extinguishers and fire fighting skills for all members of the school community, including the students.

Government assures the public that it will do everything within its means to bring the perpetrators of this heinous

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act to book. The Government will work with the Rakai District Local Government, after the investigations, to reconstruct the damaged structures.

May the souls of the deceased rest in peace.



for Janet K. Museveni

**FIRST LADY AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION
AND SPORTS**

13/11/18