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# City schools defy KCCA directive, start first term

**KAMPALA.** Some privately-owned schools which Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) recommended for closure over non-compliance with standards have defied the directive and opened for first term.

*Daily Monitor* visited at least 11 schools out of the 48 in all the five divisions of Kampala that had been recommended for closure and discovered that they were operating normally.

The schools are: Jack and Jill Primary School, Makerere Busia Zone, St Francis School Dynamic Primary School Bwaise, Eastland College Namungoona and Cape Valley International found in Kawempe and Rubaga divisions.

Others are African Child Primary school, Ntuuse Nursery and Primary school, Little Arms School, Ebenezer Nursery School and Viannet Junior School, all in Makindye Division.

This comes barely a week after the KCCA director of education and social services, Ms Juliet Namuddu Nambi, said they would only allow schools which have complied with the standards to re-open.

## Requirements

The city authority demands that the schools must have well-constructed structures, a compound, well-trained teachers, a pit-latrine, enough scholastic materials, safe drinking water, proper rubbish disposal, physical planning approval and security, among others.

However, teachers and proprietors of the schools said they had complied with most of the standards as required by the Ministry of Education and KCCA.

They said they are still waiting for official communication from KCCA on how to proceed with their operations.

Mr Geoffrey Mwanje, the head teacher of Dynamic school in Bwaise, said although he had put in place most of KCCA's requirements, he has not received any official communication on



**Learning.** A pupil of Ntuuse Nursery and Primary School in Nsambya consults a classmate yesterday. The school is among the institutions KCCA recommended for closure. PHOTO BY ISAAC WAFULA

whether to open for first term or not. "As school proprietors, we request KCCA to extend the grace period to at least one year so that we get time to prepare. For instance, I saw the letter on January 11 yet we were left with only three weeks to open for the new term. The requirements are many yet they need a lot of time for one to re-organise," Mr Mwanje said.

All the four schools we visited in Bwaise are grappling with the scarcity of land for expansion as they are located in a slum.

For instance, when we arrived at African Child School in Ggaba, school programmes were going on normally.

A female teacher led a class through the alphabetical letters as the pupils chorused through. They sat, some on bricks and others on pieces of wood

One teacher in the head teacher's office who only identified herself as Lydia denied their school having been recommended for closure.

**“We opened for the new term because we are sure KCCA will not close us since we have expanded our compound as asked. But if they close us, we might be kicked out of the entire system yet this is the only place where we earn a living.”** BETTY MUTESI, TEACHER AT LUGUMBA NURSERY SCHOOL

"We have never been closed and we are not ready to talk to you. Take what you want and leave our office now," she ordered.

When we visited Ntuuse Nursery and Primary School in Nsambya, it showed signs of construction

and improvement in some of the facilities.

Mr Charles Ndituuka, the school director, said they were improving the areas.

"We have had a number of meetings with KCCA trying to figure out how we can improve some of the places we were asked to. We had the area of the toilet, roofing it and draining it. After we did that we called the inspector of KCCA to see. He told us to continue operating as we improve the other sectors," Mr Ndituuka said.

Mr Peter Kauju, the KCCA director of corporate affairs, told *Daily Monitor* on phone that schools which have already complied will be allowed to open.

"We have so far reviewed 21 schools which we shall allow to open for this term but those who have not complied will remain

## briefly

### Govt pledges on illegal arms

**KAMPALA.** Government is working with other regional stakeholders to crackdown on illegal entry of weapons and firearms into the country, an immigration official has said. Speaking at the opening of a training on physical and security stockpile management in Kampala yesterday, the director of citizenship and immigration control in the ministry Internal Affairs, Mr Godfrey Ssasaga, said government agencies have only a quarter of the registered guns. The training is being conducted by the Regional Centre on Small arms. Recently, a woman was arrested in Amuru District after trying to sneak explosives into the country [Moses Ndhaye]

### EU calls for action on FGM

**KAMPALA.** The European Union has called for wide criminal sanctions against female genital mutilation (FGM) in all EU member states. In a press statement yesterday, the EU indicates that prosecution against the offensive act is broadly possible, following the principle of extra-territoriality. The body indicates that there may be as many as 200 million victims of FGM worldwide, including at least 500,000 in the European Union but there is no official data on the number of victims and girls at risk. The call was made on the International day of zero tolerance to FGM. [Moses Ndhaye]

### Police ease traffic flow

**KAMPALA.** The police have stepped up the management of traffic flow on major routes in Kampala and its outskirts to control the heavy traffic flow. The traffic police spokesperson, Mr Charles Ssebambulidde, said they had to deploy more officers at strategic points connecting to different schools to ensure that it is safe for parents dropping their children. He added that although the flow of traffic is heavy it is manageable. So far no cases of accidents have been registered. Mr Ssebambulidde adds that the situation will soon normalise because many pupils and students in boarding schools are settling in. [Moses Ndhaye]