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Govt investigates Wakiso schools over shoddy work

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KAMPALA. Government has instituted a three-member team of engineers to investigate alleged shoddy works at three public schools in Wakiso District where new structures are under construction.

The appointed engineers include; Henry Lubega Tondo (a principal structural engineer), Kenneth Ssekasala (a civil engineer) and Francis Kaddu (a clerk of works).

According to Mr Edward Ssimwa, the acting commissioner Public Structures in the Ministry of Transport and Works, investigations into the construction works followed a petition from Wakiso District chief administrative officer Luke Lokuda after the district technical team doubted the work done by the contractor on site.

The affected schools include; Nasse Muslim Primary Schools in Gombe,

Lugo Primary School in Busukuma and St Mathias Primary in Bunamwaya.

They are part of the five schools which last year benefited from a World Bank project aimed at improving infrastructure at selected primary schools in the district.

“Reference is made to your letter Ref.CR/305/3 dated December 11, 2017 in which you requested this ministry to constitute a team of engineers to carry out structural integrity assessment of the construction works being undertaken by M/S Sarjan Construction (U)..,” Mr Ssimbwa’s letter of January 3, which he wrote on behalf of the Ministry of Works permanent secretary, Mr Bageya Waisswa, reads in part.

In his letter to Mr Waisswa, dated December 11, 2017, Mr Lokuda pointed out that in all the three schools, the contractor had reached window level and in some cases ring beam without certification from the district techni-

NUMBERS
Wakiso District has a total number of 1,973 education facilities covering the entire infant section of kindergarten up to Primary Seven. Government aided/Universal Primary Education schools total to 256, community schools (25) while privately owned schools (1,436) Enrollment in government schools is more than 100,000 pupils who occupy 1,933 classrooms and use 36,665 desks.

cal team, which created suspicion. “The contractor is probably not conversant with government procedures, and being overzealous, speedily commenced construction works in three of the five schools... The actions of the contractor put the integrity of the work to test,” he said.

Each school, according to Mr Lokuda, was earmarked Shs600m to construct a seven-classroom block, one administration block, five-stance ventilated improved pit-latrine for pupils, two-stance ventilated improved pit-latrine for teachers and a 5,000 litre water tank.

Ms Tom Muwonge, a councillor representing Kasangati Town Council and also chairperson of district education committee, says due to poor inspection of con-