

Expert's thought
PROF MONDO KAGONYERA, OLD BOY...
"While Kigezi High School was still a junior school, all her pupils would excel in the schools they were admitted for secondary studies. Let us be useful to our students and participate in what I would call moral rearmament of our society. We should not wait for only government to intervene."



POLICY/PRACTICE ESSENTIALS AND ALTERNATIVE IDEAS

Kigezi High School alumni to restore school's past glory

Kigezi High School alumni under their umbrella body Kigezi High School Old students Association (KHOSA) have embarked on a roadmap to help the school reclaim its past glory through mentorship and career guidance programmes.

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There is a growing concern about "limping" former academic giants in the country. A recent *Daily Monitor* survey revealed that most former top schools had not surfaced in the top 100 best performing schools in the last four years. And Kigezi High School (KHS), formerly an academic giant in Kabale District, is one of them.

However, this might soon change as the school's alumni have embarked on a journey to restore the school's past glory. And in the next five years when the school celebrates 100 years of existence, the alumni hope it will be among the top 10 performing schools in the country.

Addressing the school's alumni body during their dinner recently, Prof Mondo Kagonyera, an old boy of the school, says the school needs support from alumni to become great again.

"We need to go back and spend some time with teachers and students, discuss the problems affecting the school and find what contributions we can make to make the school great again," Prof Kagonyera who studied at the school from 1953 to 1957 said.

Giving support
Alfred Kabuchu, the chairman steering committee rooting for various infrastructure projects at the school, says old students have been involved in face-lifting of the school.

"The support is immense and the passion to get the school back the top 10 schools by 2022 is alive. We got support for the centenary project and for various repairs on dormitories," he said, adding that the \$1 million (about Shs3.6 billion) centenary building will house a library, assembly hall and computer laboratory.

Kabuchu says the old students are supporting various projects to create a better learning environment such as renovating and equipping of the biology and physics laboratories to ensure that students excel in science subjects.



Kigezi High School students study during private time. The school's alumni will each mentor at least five students to revive the school's academic standards.
COURTESY PHOTOS

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME
Kabuchu said the alumni body had adopted a multi-disciplinary mentorship approach to promote discipline and raise the academic standard. Here, every old student will be required to identify about two current students to mentor for academic excellence and good morals. "The ultimate test to this will be when as old students we will be proud to take all our children to study from the school," he says. To achieve this Kabuchu says the alumni body has setup a liaison office in Kampala to trace the more than 5,000 former students of the school.

Dealing with indiscipline
But more than projects aimed at face-lifting physical school structures, Kabuchu says the KHOSA will establish a mentorship and career guidance programme for students as a means of ensuring academic excellence and discipline.

The school head teacher, Steven Mugume, says the strike that happened last month should not happen again since the old girls and boys have expressed commitment to ensuring career guidance and mentorship. The strike saw more than 500 students suspended due to indiscipline.

Col Henry Masiko, who joined the school in 1974, said discipline was at the forefront of everything during their time. "Aside from discipline, the welfare system at KHS was of high standards.

500

THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT WERE RECENTLY SUSPENDED FROM KIGEZI HIGH SCHOOL FOLLOWING A STRIKE

There was a bakery near the dining hall that used to make bread for students and a photo studio," he said. Today, the school is grappling with financial challenges, poor administration, constant strikes and dilapidated infrastructure, among other challenges.

WHAT OLD STUDENTS SAY>



"Holding motivational and inspirational one-on-one talks with students will help them focus on their future aspirations. Also enforcing discipline and having an independent counselling office will help keep the students in line."

BRIGHT NTAKKY, OLD BOY (1992 TO 2004)



"As a mentor, I will encourage students to value their lives and also be one another's mentors. When people value their lives, they do not entertain indiscipline and laziness."

MARTHA MIMA NIWEAGABA, OLD GIRL (1997 TO 1998)