

of goods and/or services.

URA says it has already recovered Shs60 billion from VAT tax fraudsters of that nature and says it is set to commence criminal investigations

companies is mixed, with some having local directors (by virtue of having indigenous names), while others have both local and foreign registered owners.

Evading VAT in this way is esti-

These companies have set up shop in Uganda and are involved in different types of businesses, ranging from retail trade to handling major construction projects.

China is also one of Uganda's largest sources of imports, with goods

annually.

The tax body's list has also raised questions on the capacity of some individuals and companies regarded as foreign investors, who President Museveni and his government have been keen to woo for decades.

fraud could further aggravate the debate on their operations in the country. Sections of foreigners, among them many Chinese, have been involved in petty trade, leading to confrontations with the local business community players.



Disaster. A police fire brigade truck arrives at Makerere University to put out fire that gutted the university's Mary Stuart Hall yesterday. COURTESY PHOTO

Makerere's Mary Stuart Hall catches fire

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KAMPALA. An early morning fire engulfed the ground floor of Makerere University's Mary Stuart Hall yesterday, causing serious damage to the 14-storey female hall known as "Box" due to its physical structure.

Makerere University students are currently on holiday and few of the hall residents ["Boxers"], who stayed back, were caught up in the incident, although no fatality was registered. Investigators were still combing the scene and are expected to produce a report about the cause of the fire.

However, preliminary reports indicated the massive fire started in a canteen on the ground floor.

Casualties

Earlier reports indicated that three students sustained injuries as they escaped the fire, but a statement by the university management posted on their official twitter page indicated that only two were injured and are undergoing treatment at the university hospital.

ABOUT THE HALL

Construction. Mary Stuart Hall was completed in 1953 and named after Bishop Stuart's wife, who had worked hard for the betterment of women education during her time in Uganda. An extension to the hall was completed in 1959.



One of the injured students was identified as Rosette Kyokunzire, a Third-Year medical student, who suffered injuries on the head sustained from jumping off one of the building floors as she escaped from the fire. The other is Charity Amoiti, a Third-Year Law student. Students also on recess from the nearby Lumumba Hall responded immediately and helped to contain the fire before the police arrived and stopped it.

A statement by police spokesperson Emilian Kayima indicates that police's fire brigade and rescue services was informed on time and seven fire fighting trucks were dispatched to contain the fire.

Several officials, including Kampala Lord Mayor Elias Lukwago, visited the scene, toured the affected area and spoke to some of the affected students.

Questions will be asked about the safety measures Makerere University has in place for its more than 40,000 students who live on and off campus after it was reported that there were no fire protection systems in the buildings like fire extinguishers.

Tomorrow in