

NSSF sacks deputy boss

Performance. The board reportedly did not renew Ms Geraldine Ssali's contract on grounds that her performance was unsatisfactory.

BY ANTHONY WESAKA
awesaka@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. The deputy managing director of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Ms Geraldine Ssali, has been fired, *Daily Monitor* has learnt.

Last evening, sources told this newspaper that the Fund's board chairman, Mr Patrick Byabakama Kaberenge, decided not to renew Ms Ssali's three-year contract that is expiring at the end of this month.

Sources said the justification for Mr Kaberenge not to renew Ms Ssali's contract was on grounds that her performance for the last three years did not impress the board.

In the same development at the Fund, this newspaper understands that there was a proposal to have the term of contracts of the three top officials at the Fund extended from three to five years.

To that effect, the contract of the managing director, Mr Richard Byarugaba, and that of the corporation secretary, Mr Richard Wabwire, were renewed and extended for a five-year period on grounds that they performed well in the previous years.

NSSF in a statement last night said they are aware that the board has made recommendations to the line minister in regard to the top three officials of the Fund, including that of Ms Ssali.

"The board has a mandate to make performance-based recommendations on the renewal and or non-renewal of contracts of the three statutory appointees (managing director, deputy managing director and corporation secretary)," the statement released last evening by Barbra Teddy Arimi, the Fund's head of marketing and communication.

"We are aware that the board has made a recommendation to the minister in regard to the contracts of the three statutory appointees but at the moment we are not privy to this information," the statement further reads.

The Fund further said the decision to renew or not renew a contract of a statutory appointee rests with the Finance minister.

When *Daily Monitor* contacted line minister Matia Kasaija about the firing of Ms Ssali, he wondered where this newspaper had got the story from.

Minister's reaction

"Where did you get this information from? I am not aware of it..," Mr Kasaija said by telephone, adding: "I am away in Washington, USA. Ask the sources that tipped you [off] about this development."

Efforts to reach Ms Ssali were futile. She said she was speaking on another line and that she would call back but in vain.

Ms Ssali, who was appointed as NSSF deputy managing director in 2011, has had a rocky tenure at the Fund.

At one time, the Fund's board suspended her for alleged



Fired: Ms Geraldine Ssali Busuulwa. FILE PHOTO

insubordination and misconduct and undermining the managing director Mr Byarugaba.

But Ms Ssali ran to the High Court to block the suspension after she sued board chairman Kaberenge seeking judicial review after the latter forced her to take leave to reportedly pave way for an inquiry into her conduct.

The board accused Ms Ssali of insubordination, misconduct and undermining Mr Byarugaba's position.

However, the Fund later went against the court orders, frustrated the court order and blocked Ms Ssali from accessing her office.

Mr Byarugaba, Mr Kaberenge and Mr Kasaija allegedly held a

meeting and resolved that Ms Ssali would only be reinstated on condition that she withdraws all the cases that were against NSSF before the court.

Being frustrated by the actions of the board, Ms Ssali ran back to court and filed an application challenging their demands.

Presiding judge Stephen Musota ordered NSSF to compensate her with Shs200m for contempt of court.

Ms Ssali had a long fight with her superior, Mr Byarugaba following search and recruitment process to fill up two top positions in 2014, which recruitment process was preceded with an investigation by the IGG.