



At risk. Pupils play at Nakivubo Blue, one of the primary schools under the jurisdiction of Kampala Capital City Authority. PHOTO BY JAMES KABENGIWA

50 govt-aided schools face eviction

Report. The revelation is contained in the KCCA Public Accounts Committee (Pac) report dated December 1.

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KAMPALA. At least 57 out of 79 government-aided primary schools under the jurisdiction of Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) risk being evicted because they lack land titles, *Daily Monitor* has learnt.

The lack of land titles partly explains the endless land wrangles faced by Kampala city schools according to experts. The revelation is contained in the KCCA Public Accounts Committee (Pac) report dated December 1.

The report was compiled between February and September this year.

The five-man committee headed by Mr Bob Kabaziguruka was appointed by Kampala Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago in February. It is also the first Pac report to be released since the establishment of KCCA in 2011.

Of the 79 schools, only four schools sit on land owned by KCCA, 18 schools have so far received lease offers from the various controlling authorities while 57 are sitting on temporary land, and could soon be displaced by the owners of the land.

Of the lease offers to the 18 schools, the report adds, 13 were given by the Uganda Land Commission (ULC), four were from the Buganda Land Board (BLB) while one was given by Kampala District Land Board (KDLB).

However, the report states that the lease offers from ULC and KDLB were offered on terms and conditions, while the lease offers from BLB are subject to payment of close to Shs900m in lease fees, but documents show that KCCA has so far paid Shs200m to BLB.

"...the other 57 government-aided primary schools sit on land controlled by faith based institutions, other government and non-governmental agen-

cies and private agencies. KCCA has no control on the land on which these schools sit, and they don't have titles nor lease offers for these schools," the report reads in part.

Mr Peter Kauju, the KCCA spokesperson, acknowledges the fact that majority of city schools do not have land titles, but he notes that they are engaging relevant bodies to protect schools' land from land grabbers.

"We are really concerned about this problem but KCCA has made mileage as far as acquiring lease offers for some schools is concerned. Our target is to ensure that all schools under our jurisdiction get land titles and we are working on it," he says.

However, Mr Kauju did not give the timeline when the 57 schools could secure lease offers.

Previously, city schools have been demolished under controversial circumstances, raising eyebrows among the public on how well connected people and investors are grabbing schools' land in the city.

It is also reported that some schools struggle to get lease offers but even those who already have, had their land claimed by land grabbers.

For instance, in 2004, part of Nakasero Primary School land, which comprises the school playground, was leased to M/S Prestigious Apartments by the ULC.

Although the school's management committee, KCCA and Ministry of Education asked ULC to revoke the titles, M/S Prestigious Apartments has since taken Nakasero primary school management committee to court seeking vacant possession of the said land. The Attorney General, and KCCA legal team are representing the schools.

The report further shows that in 1995/96, Nakivubo-Primary School management committee entered a MoU with M/S Kasajja and Sons Studio to exchange part of school land with construction of a commercial building for the school.

According to the report, M/S Kasajja and Sons is now claiming ownership of the building handed over to

the school, and he has since dragged the school management committee to court.

The school is being represented in court by KCCA legal team.

Although Katwe Martyrs Primary School is government-aided, it sits on land belonging to the Namirembe Diocese.

THE LIST

Some of the schools at risk of being evicted

- Mengo Primary School
- Kasubi C.o.U Primary School
- Namirembe Infant School
- Kabowa C.o.U primary school
- Kawempe C.o.U Primary School
- St Pauls Kyebando Pri. School
- Ttula Primary School
- Mbuya C.o.U Primary School
- Luzira C.o.U Primary School
- Kibuye Primary School
- Katwe Matyres Primary School
- Mutundwe Primary School
- Mpererwe Primary School
- Mackay Memorial Pri School
- Munyonyo Primary School
- Kisugu Primary School
- Makerere Primary School
- St Peters Pri School, Nsambya
- St Joseph Girls School, Nsambya
- Ggaba Demonstration Pri School
- St Paul's Pri School, Nsambya
- St Ponsiano Pri School, Kyamula
- St James Pri School, Bbiina
- St Jude primary School Naguru
- St Pauls Primary School Banda
- St Lawrence Pri Sch, Kigoowa
- Kiwatule Primary School
- St Martin Pri School, Mulago

However, KCCA in April this year received a development application endorsed by the Diocese, which seeks to convert part of the school into a shopping mall. The plan has been put on halt.

While receiving renovated classroom blocks from the Indian Woman Association at Kasubi Church of Uganda Primary School last month, the KCCA executive director, Ms Jennifer Musisi, said the enrollment in all the 79 city schools under KCCA has increased but government's funding is not sufficient.

"From the budget we get every financial year as KCCA, only Shs450m is allocated to the city schools. However, this money isn't enough because it can only refurbish few schools yet we have 79 schools in the city which we are supposed to take care of hence some schools miss out," she says.

To improve the standards of the dilapidated city schools, Ms Musisi says KCCA is currently working with partners to offer support to the schools.

But she adds that she is courting government to increase KCCA budget which will see a raise in the budget for the education directorate to improve the standards of city schools.

Mr Lecoboam Ssesangi, the head teacher of Kasubi C.O.U Primary School, asks KCCA to process the land titles for the school to protect it from some people who are claiming its ownership.

KCCA's Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) allocation for 2018/19 is estimated at Shs458.33b.

The difference in figures from FY 2017/18 arises from the increased allocation for the Kampala Institutional Infrastructural Development Project (KIIP-2) from Shs 31b to Shs 158.88.

In the 2017/18 budget, KCCA was allocated only Shs 337b, leaving a huge funding gap.

If the Shs 458.33b budget estimate for KCCA is passed, the education and social services directorate will get a share of Shs 37b.

However, with the pending projects in city schools, this money is likely to be less.

CRIME WATCH

Two held over drugs

KAMPALA: Katwe police are holding two people suspected of supplying drugs on Salaama Road and other neighbourhoods. Ronald Oduna and Saphina Nakanwagi were arrested on Wednesday in an operation following continuous public outcry on youth smoking drugs in the area. Katwe police OC Ibrahim Hwagaba said many youth who engage in criminality are usually under the influence of drugs, adding that to reduce the problem, they have resorted to hunting suppliers.

Kidnappers arrested

KAMPALA: Police in Nakulabye have arrested two women over allegations of kidnaping a 2-year-old child. Joshua Mulika Dodo was allegedly kidnaped from his parents' home in Nabulagala Zone B. The officer-in-charge of Nakulabye, Mr Charles Bikorwomuhangi, said police tracked the phone calls the suspects made asking for money from the child's parents. They were arrested in Lusaze on Lugala-Masanafu Road in Rubaga Division on Wednesday.

Phone snatchers netted

KAMPALA: A total of 17 suspected phone snatchers are in police custody. Mr Ismail Ssenono, the operations officer at Old Kampala Police Division, credited the success of operation to the cooperation between the public and police. Mr Ssenono said the operation was conducted on Wednesday after several public outcries regarding property loss especially in rush hours. The suspects, according to police, are aged between 17 and 26 years.

Crime preventer killed

KAMPALA: Police have arrested two people suspected to have killed a crime preventer last month. The suspects allegedly knocked dead Godfrey Wafula, attached to Bulenga Police Station and sped off to an unknown destination. Police said on Wednesday, after causing the accident around Masanafu, the suspects took off. They later realised that they were being followed by police and responded by killing Wafula.

Fraudster detained

KAMPALA: Police in Kajjansi on Entebbe Road have arrested a man for conning a lady of Shs22m over an already sold piece of land. Solomon Mbazzi, aka, Francis Wanyama, was arrested after Janet Nagawa reported a case at Kajjansi Police Station accusing the suspect of selling her hot air. Police said the suspect had been on the run since July but his luck became slim on Wednesday. He is also suspected to have sold fake land to very many people in Kajjansi and other places on Entebbe Road.

All compiled by Joseph Kato