

Since its establishment in 1936, the school had not been renovated

Indian Women give Kasubi school sh250m facelift

By Gloria Nakajubi

For the past 80 years since its inception, Kasubi (Church of Uganda) Primary School located a few metres out of the city centre, had hardly undergone any refurbishment.

The school that was established in 1936 had dilapidated structures, which were a threat to the safety of pupils.

However, looking at the school today, the old girls and boys might not recognise it. It is now a stark contrast of its former rusty roofed structures with dirty walls that had seen many a little hands and minds.

Its rather sorry state is what attracted the attention of the Indian Women Association.

The chairperson of the association, Suman Venkatesh, explains: "We carried out a survey on the different primary schools under Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and this turned out to be the worst. It is why we zeroed in on it."

Six blocks housing 17 classrooms have a new roof, fresh paint and are well-aerated. The renovation project that kicked off early this year, in partnership with KCCA has since been completed.

Through fundraising drives, the women collected sh250m, which was used to renovate the school.

According to Venkatesh, the move was part of their objective of creating a conducive environment for women and children, especially in health and education.

"This is our way of giving back to the community that has become home to us. Our lives have been made here and the best we can do is to support those who are vulnerable," she says.



Pupils of Kasubi Primary School with members of the Indian Women Association and Musisi (centre) at the school

The classroom environment, according to a study by Salford University, can boost learning by over 25%. The study put into consideration such factors as classroom orientation, natural light and noise, temperature and air quality, space, storage facilities and organisation, as well as use of colour.

The association's interest in education has also stretched to offering scholarships to the needy

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pupils. Venkatesh says sh90m is disbursed every year through tuition fees and scholastic materials for their beneficiaries at the different levels of learning.

Their beneficiaries are vetted on potential and not necessarily results. This, Venkatesh says, is because most needy students even when bright are usually unable to perform well because of their circumstances.

During the launch of the refurbished buildings early this

month, the executive director of KCCA, Jennifer Musisi, applauded the Indian Women Association for being instrumental in the city's education and health sectors.

The association is also behind the construction of the cancer ward at the China-Uganda Friendship Hospital in Naguru.

Venkatesh revealed that the association has a number of projects in the pipeline, focusing on women and children.



Musisi launching the refurbished structures at Kasubi Primary School



Musisi plants a tree to commemorate the school's renovation