

By Vision Reporters

The race to succeed the outgoing King's College Budo headteacher, John Fred Kazibwe, is heating up as the alumni and parents back different camps ahead of the transition scheduled for next month.

POTENTIAL NOMINEES

Education sector sources say the contest has narrowed to David Senkungu, the current headteacher of Ndejje Senior Secondary School; Peter Hormisdas Ssenyimba, who heads Luzira Secondary School; and the school's deputy headteacher, Godfrey Kasamba.

The succession has sparked intense lobbying, with old boys, church leaders and parents pushing for a candidate they believe can restore the school's academic performance, discipline and cultural traditions.

The government-aided school was founded by the Anglican Church, whose interests are managed through Namirembe Diocese.

PROFILES

Ssenyimba, a former student of the century-old institution, appears to be attracting strong support from sections of the alumni.

He previously served as the deputy headteacher of the school during the

King's College Budo headteacher race hots up

NOT THE FIRST TIME

Although King's College Budo is a government-aided school, the Namirembe Diocese holds considerable influence over its management.

In an earlier letter (July 18, 2024), a group of alumni and parents wrote to the Bishop of Namirembe over multiple issues that included crowding the school through admission of many students, deteriorating infrastructure and mismanagement of major construction projects.

Originally designed to

house 900 students, the school currently accommodates over 2,000 learners, placing immense strain on infrastructure.

The alumni say that crowding has led to a decline in academic performance, poor hygiene and disruption of school schedules due to phased meal plans.

"There's been no proportional expansion of dormitories or learning facilities despite the sharp rise in student intake.

Six years ago, Senior One admissions stood at 200; today, they exceed 500," the petition read.



King's College Budo headteacher, Kazibwe, 59, is set to retire

tenure of Patrick Bakka Male, who passed away in 2021 at Mulago Hospital, where he was admitted after suffering a stroke.

The pro-Ssenyimba camp describe him as an experienced administrator with integrity and a deep understanding of the school's ethos.

However, Senkungu is also being

considered because of his experience in managing big secondary schools. Some alumni, though, have expressed reservations about his candidacy, citing alleged past

controversies.

Kasamba, the current headteacher, is seen by some stakeholders as a continuity candidate given his familiarity with the school's operations.

PETITION TO BISHOP

The contest intensified after a section of Budonians and parents petitioned the Bishop of Namirembe, Moses Banja, saying the next headteacher must be a former student so that he maintains the school's legacy, academic excellence, discipline and ethos.

BETWEEN THE LINES

○ The January 22, 2026 petition thanked Kazibwe for stabilising the institution, but pointed to concerns over over-enrolment, infrastructure strain and a student strike in October last year that led to destruction of property.

Kazibwe, 59, is set to retire upon clocking the mandatory age of 60.

With weeks to the transition, observers say the final decision is expected to test the balance between church tradition, alumni influence and government oversight.