



Closed city schools given one-day ultimatum to comply

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KAMPALA All the 48 city schools that were closed over poor education standards last month have only up to tomorrow to comply with standards if they are to reopen, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has said.

The revelation was made by Ms Juliet Namuddu Nambi, the KCCA director of education and social services during a press conference at City Hall yesterday.

“We have given the closed schools up to Friday to comply with the education standards which had earlier on forced us to close them down. Only those that will have met the standards, will be reopened,” she said.

Ms Namuddu noted that when KCCA closed the schools,

proprietors of the affected facilities were given a grace period to comply with the education standards which is this Friday.

Some of the required standards are good classrooms, well trained teachers, location of the school, ownership of land on which a school sits.

KCCA’s reminder comes barely four days to the start of the first term which begins on Monday.

The law

According to Section 36(4) of the education Act 2008, school authorities are required to comply with closure notice and shall not reopen the education institution without written permission from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of education, Chief Administrative officer or the clerk,

“If we find out that the closed

schools have really met the standards, we shall then reopen them through writing. However, we shall not tone down on the crackdown because we want better education facilities,” she said.

The closed schools, all of which are privately owned, are found in the five Kampala division urban councils of Kampala central, Kawempe, Rubaga, Makindye and Kawempe.

Asked why people keep on setting up schools that do not meet education standards, Ms Namuddu said that majority of them are defiant.

Daily Monitor did a spot check at some of the closed schools and found their business was going on normally.

For instance a guard at Kiiti Moslem Nursery Primary School, Kisenyi who declined to be named said the school is reg-

istering new pupils.

When reminded about KCCA’s directive, he said the school proprietors were sorting it out. However, he blocked us from visiting the school to ascertain the status.

Talks

Mr Edward Kirya, a teacher at Kaishoal Primary School, said that they are still receiving new students because they are currently in talks with KCCA to have the their school reopened.

“We have made some renovations of classes and we believe KCCA will reopen us before Monday,” he said.

At the same press conference, Ms Namuddu revealed that they are currently engaging relevant bodies to give lease titles to city government schools that could be evicted any time for occupying temporary land.