

NSSF hands over sh130m to improve KCCA schools

By Lawrence Mulondo

Classroom blocks at 13 schools in Kampala are still roofed with the dangerous asbestos tiles, according to the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) executive director Jennifer Musisi.

Musisi says the children in these schools risk getting several health hazards such as lung cancer.

Asbestos is a term used to refer to natural occurring mineral products with a strong fiber, resistant to electricity, fire, chemical and thermal degradation.

The asbestos becomes a risk when its fibers are weakened and become airborne. This makes it easy for people accessing the rooms roofed with asbestos to breathe the fibers into the lungs.

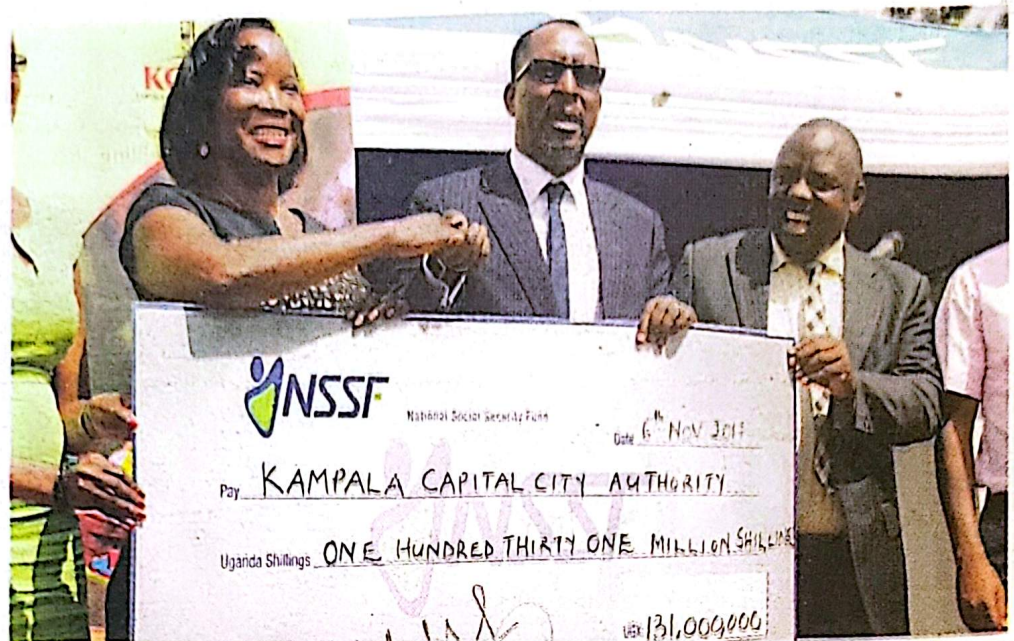
Musisi says: "Asbestos roofs have been globally banned. KCCA wants to eliminate them from all schools to save children and teachers the risk of getting cancer."

She made the remarks at Nakivubo Settlement Primary School yesterday while receiving a cheque for sh131m that was raised from the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) Seven Hills Hash Run.

The run is an annual event organised by NSSF in conjunction with KCCA, Hash House Harriers, Vision Group and others. The funds collected from the run are used to improve school infrastructure in the city.

Musisi stressed that the money would help to rebuild Summit View and Makerere University primary schools, which she said are in dire need of renovation and to change the asbestos roofs.

At the same event, NSSF



KCCA's Musisi (left) receiving a sh131m cheque from NSSF's Byarugaba and Kampala Hash House Harriers Hash master Paul Agaba. This was at Nakivubo Settlement Primary School on Monday. Photo by Lawrence Mulondo.

handed over a renovated classroom block at Nakivubo Settlement Primary School to KCCA and the school management. The renovation cost sh60m, which is part of the sh65m NSSF collected from the 2016 run. They used the balance of sh5m to buy a water tank at St Posiano School Kyamula.

KCCA has 76 primary schools in the city with about 80,000 pupils. Musisi says all the schools need support in terms of computers and renovation of classroom structures and teachers quarters.

NSSF managing director Richard Byarugaba said the run has raised sh200m since the first edition last year.

"The children are not in a very good condition and so are the schools. We cannot continue

"We cannot continue to complain about everything yet we have the means to change the situation."

Byarugaba

to complain about everything about our country yet we have all the means to change the

situation," he said.

Byarugaba hailed KCCA for the efforts put in to extend education services to the communities, adding that everyone should raise some fees to ensure that the underprivileged people in society live a comfortable life.

Nakivubo Settlement Primary School headteacher Miriam Aloikin appreciated the NSSF and KCCA for the support they extend to the school.

"The old classroom block was full of cracks, it was leaking, it was hot and inhabitable as one could not sit inside for more than three hours," she explained.

She said they now need to construct a perimeter wall around the school to curtail strangers accessing the premises, putting school property and children's lives at risk.