



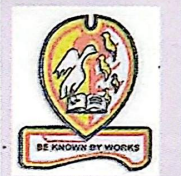
College School raises billions for teachers' houses

Govt funding was not enough p19-21

The new Makerere College School (MACOS) campus is constructing buildings using sh1.2b generated internally. **Conan Businge** spoke to the management on how they have achieved this feat

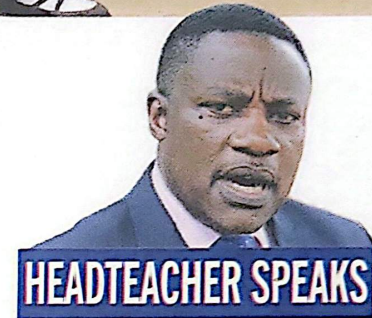
On the outskirts of Kampala in Mulawa village, by the new Makerere College School (MACOS) campus stands a block of flats, outside the school's perimeter fence. There is also a massive building within the school premises. The flats are the MACOS teachers' quarters and the massive building is a multi-purpose hall. These two buildings are being constructed

with funds generated by the school. The teachers' quarters will house eight teachers and the multipurpose hall is expected to accommodate about 600 students at a go; according to the school's headteacher Martin Muyingo. Unlike so many public secondary schools which do not have long-term projects from internally-generated funds, Makerere College has been



1945 Makerere College was established in 1945 by Makerere University as a demonstration school.

2015 The Mulawa campus was opened in 2015 having started construction in 2013.



HEADTEACHER SPEAKS

Martin Muyingo, the headteacher of MACOS says the school started saving for this project in 2014 before he joined. "I resolved to work with the management to ensure that these projects are established right away.

instrumental in saving and investing the tuition fees from its students in infrastructural development.

As schools prepare for the start of the

term and year, the question is how frugal they can be with their expenditures. The other concern is whether they can use their internally-generated funds well and stop depending entirely on the Government.

This campus is part of Makerere College. The main campus stands on Makerere hill, in Kampala. The new campus houses A' level students; leaving the old campus for only O'level students.

The Mulawa campus was opened in 2015. Its construction started in 2013. Makerere College was, however, established in 1945 by Makerere University as a demonstration school, for education students to practise supervised teaching.

Makerere College School was one of the 42 schools which were selected in 2011 as centres of excellence to be rehabilitated and expanded under the Government's Post Primary Education and Training Expansion and Improvement Project - IV.

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MACOS didn't wait for govt funds

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The scope of works for the school included construction nine classrooms with two science laboratories, two storeyed dormitories and external works including fencing and walkways. Construction works took place between 2013 and by 2014.

The education ministry, with the support of the African Development Bank (ADB), covered the constructions' cost of sh1.47b. However, the school missed out on having a multipurpose hall, unlike other schools who benefited from the same funding.

A year later, using the savings accumulated over three years, MACOS management resolved to build a multipurpose hall and teachers' quarters valued at sh1.2b. This amount is almost equal to what the Government and ADB project spent on its revamp.

The campus, which sits on 12 acres, plans to move for the second phase of constructions in 2018. This phase will include eight more units for teachers and a modern playground.



The multipurpose hall at MACOS' Mulawa campus in Kiira Municipality, Wakiso district. Photos by Abou Kisige

Getting funds

The school charges about sh650,000 for day scholars and about sh1,035,000 for those in the boarding section per term. Part of the tuition fees, amounting to sh69,000 of each student's termly payments, is saved for this project, according to Muyingo.

There are other plans to construct another classroom block in 2020.

"Twelve more classrooms will be constructed," Muyingo explains. At the time of the visit to the school, tents had been erected to accommodate the swelling number of students. The tents are used as classrooms and as a dining area.

The inspiration

Muyingo says the school started saving for this project in 2014, a year before he took over.

"When I joined the school, I resolved to work with management to ensure that these projects are established right away," he explains.

"This was the idea of the new board members of the school," he says, adding that the project has been supported massively by the Parent, Teacher Association.

The new board for the school

sh1.47b

The education ministry, with the support of ADB, covered the initial construction cost of sh1.47b to revamp the school.

sh69,000

Part of the tuition fees, amounting to sh69,000 of each student's termly payments, is saved for the development project.

2020

Muyingo says 12 more classrooms will be constructed in 2020.

took office in 2015. It is chaired by Betty Ezati Akullo, who is the dean of the school of education at Makerere University.

Other members of the board include Prof. Godfrey Kirumira, the principal of the college of humanities and social sciences at Makerere University, Dr Josephine Nabukenya, a senior lecturer and researcher of information systems and dean of the school of computing and informatics technology and Dr Lovincer Ajuna.

Muyingo hopes that after the second phase, at least most of



Muyingo says the school parents at MACOS are supportive when it comes to development projects

the teachers who are renting in the trading centre will now be housed by the school. The school has 15 teachers; who pay about sh650,000 per month

for decent accommodation in Kiira town or far away from the school, towards the city centre. The board members say this move was meant to step up the

TEACHERS

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standard of the school.

Dr Ezati, who is the board chairman, says: "Having got a new campus, we wanted to make sure that we had all the facilities that would make our children learn well."

"We saw that the Government had supported the school with new buildings, but some facilities were still missing, yet they are essential to our children's learning. We decided to work together with the parents, who are very positive, to support the school," she adds.

Prof. Kirumira, who is behind the construction work since he is the chair of the board's finance and planning committee, says: "We have taken advantage of the support given by Government and ADB; to show parents that if we have received this support, we can supplement it for the betterment of our children's education."

He adds: "The parents and the school are embracing this initiative seriously. Some people think such initiatives are expensive but once you start, you will be inspired. In fact"



One of the projects at the campus is the grading of a football pitch