

**Stakeholders.** The land is a centre of conflict between Buganda Land Board and the management of Kigo Prison Primary School.

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# Residents foil plan to fence off school land

**KAMPALA.** The controversy surrounding the redevelopment of part of Kigo Prison Primary School land has taken a new twist, with residents in the area blocking the fencing of the contested piece of land.

The unidentified developer, who visited the site early this week, survived an angry mob that was protesting the lease offered to him by the Buganda Land Board (BLB).

The presence of private security guards at the site and bulldozers, which had started grading the land did not deter the residents, including teachers, parents and pupils, from expressing their dissatisfaction with the planned giveaway of the school land.

The developer had also ferried concrete poles to fence off the playground, but the mob shared all the poles and marched towards the developer, forcing him to flee.

The contested piece of land measures approximately an acre and is adjacent to Lake Victoria Serena Resort on the shores of Lake Victoria.

For nearly five months, the school administration has been at logger heads with BLB officials which has on several occasions attempted to stop developments on school land. Recently, BLB ordered the school administration to halt construction of a Shs76m classroom block funded by the central government but they defied the order and went ahead with the project.

Efforts to speak to Buganda Kingdom information minister Noah Kiyimba were futile as he didn't pick repeated phone calls made to his known mobile telephone number.

But during the launch of *Ekyapa Mu Ngalo* programme (land title in your hands) in April, the Katikkiro, Mr Charles Peter Mayiga, indicated that individuals and public facilities that are facing eviction from kingdom land had failed to register with BLB. At the same event, BLB chief executive officer David Kyewalabye -Male announced that Kigo Prison Primary School would be relocated to Nakawuka Village, located about 20kms away after an agreement between the kingdom and the central government.

## Other claimants

The controversial land on Block 264 is also claimed by descendants of the late King Daudi Chwa II and there is a court case that challenges the kingdom for 'illegally' leasing out part of the land. Buganda claims after the restoration of the Kabakaship in 1993, they went into negotiations with the central government and agreed that the entire Kigo complex, which they say comprises Kigo Prisons Primary School, the prison facility and a shooting range, be returned to the kingdom and government accepted to relocate the facility.

But Makindye/ Ssabagabo Municipal education officer William Kayongo said the school simply adopted Kigo Prison Primary School name because of its location near the prisons facility, but is purely owned by the community and Buganda Kingdom has no mandate to giveaway its land

to the developer. "Ssekabaka Muteesa II donated 30 acres of land to the community and they constructed the school between 1959 and 1960. Initially, that school used to enroll pupils of between Primary One and Primary Three while another at Busabaala served pupils in Primary Four and Primary Five, but they were all under the same leadership. There is no way Mengo can claim this school," Mr Kayongo said.

He said the school under the prisons services is Kigo Inmates Prisons Primary School.

Kajjansi Division Police Commander Hillary Mukiza said the developer will not be allowed to access the site until BLB and municipality officials reach a consensus.

"We have had a meeting at Ndeje (the headquarters of Makindye/ Ssabagabo) with all the stakeholders and agreed that BLB meets municipi-

pal authorities to solve this matter amicably," Mr Mukiza said. The Makindye/ Ssabagabo deputy mayor, Mr Ben Kiwanuka, said he was shocked to learn that BLB has chosen to give away the school playground land without considering the interests of the parents.

"Even if the land belonged to BLB, the school is the bona fide occupant. You cannot just sell off school land without contacting the administrators, parents and local authorities," Mr Kiwanuka said.

Plans to give away the land come on the heels of reports that Kabaka Mutebi had halted new leases on land belonging to Mutungo Health Centre, whose part BLB reportedly parcelled out to developers claiming that the owners, Makindye/ Ssabagabo Municipality, had failed to participate in the mass registration of all people and institutions on Kabaka's land.

## STAKEHOLDERS

**Buganda Land Board.** BLB chief executive officer David Kyewalabye -Male says Kigo Prison Primary School is to be relocated to Nakawuka Village, located about 20kms away.

**Local government.** Makindye/ Ssabagabo Municipal education officer William Kayongo says the land is purely owned by the community and Buganda Kingdom has no mandate to giveaway its land to the developer.

**Police.** Kajjansi Division Police Commander Hillary Mukiza said the developer will not be allowed to access the site until BLB and municipality officials reach consensus.

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### MP tips residents

**BUYENDE.** Buyende District Woman Member of Parliament Veronica Kadogo has urged residents to put up investments and structures back home so that their heritage can be traced. Ms Kadogo made the call during the burial of Kampala Capital City Authority finance officer David Ntege in Nkondo Sub-county. She also cautioned youth against 'eroding their wealth in leisure' and delaying to produce. Mr Charles Galimaka, the Nkondo Sub-county chairperson, challenged the Badiopo to speak out and aggressively lobby for development programmes from government [Sam Opio Caleb]

### Shs500m invest

**GULU.** Gulu District Local Government has spent million to fund 109 sub-projects under phase three of Uganda Social Action Group. The funding is part of a billion loan secured from the World Bank to reduce the poverty gap in the region under the Peace and Development Plan. More than two million LRA insurgents have been recruited since 2009. Mapenzi, said he is confident the projects will succeed that they [James O]

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