

# Green-Top School seeks to lay strong foundations for learners



The Directors Mr. Kawesa Karim (2nd left) and Mrs. Nsimire Hannifa (right) lead the chief guest Hon. Justine Kasule Lumumba, Minister (General Duties) in the Office of the Prime Minister.

About 24 kilometres from Kampala city centre atop the Nanziga-Maya hill, Kyengeru town council in Wakiso district sits the newly opened Green-Top school.

Green-Top School is an early learning academy focused on social-emotional development and early literacy and numeracy with the major aim of making pupils 'walk out with the character and confidence to make their mark in the world, equipped with the knowledge and real-world skills that take them way ahead in the industry they may serve'.

"Green-Top School offers supportive and inspirational environments for young enquiring minds to learn and grow. Our passion for learning means we achieve more than outstanding results. We strive to build confident and creative thinkers and aim at delivering an education that is truly relevant to their future," says Karim Kawesa, the proprietor and director of the school.

The school officially opened its doors to the world on Sunday amidst joy and celebrations from the guests. The opening ceremony was officiated by Justine Kasule Lumumba, the minister for general duties in the Office of the Prime Minister with representation from Buganda Kingdom, and Wakiso district local government.

The Director Mr. Kawesa Karim explained the idea of starting the

school was inspired by his rocky and peasant childhood that saw him raised by a single mother after the father passed away when he was still young.

"Personally, I can't even explain how I made it here but all the credit goes to the fact that I was able to go to school and get an education. We grew up in a grass-thatched house but my mother struggled to pay for my school fees up to O' level and that was all she could manage," Kawesa said.

He added that he was subsequently offered a scholarship to study Advanced level because of his football talent but this could not take him any higher than that. Since then, he says he struggled and educated himself.

"Whatever I have done now is because of the education and firm foundation I got. I'm a Masters' degree holder but it's a journey that has taken over twenty years of struggles to reach that level. I have for a long time dreamt of setting up a school this is because through education, everyone regardless of status can achieve much" he stated.

"We have started with a primary school because we believe this is the most important stage for learners to get to know things. We want to ensure that children between 3-13 years get a firm foundation, moral values and

understand how the world moves. Though amidst struggles, I got a firm foundation and I have been able to educate myself," he added.

Kawesa, a real estate entrepreneur and proprietor of Bakaima Real Estate Agents, says the new school offers him the chance to give back to the community.

"We shall ensure that the pupils get what's best and desired in a school," he said, further explaining that they have set up the necessary infrastructure and amenities that give pupils an ample learning environment. "We have gardens to teach them about agriculture because you very

well know that it's this country's backbone, they will be learning international languages like French, German, Arabic, Kiswahili and Chinese to fit into today's interconnected world.

We are seeing many of our youth leave the country for greener pastures but some end up struggling due to language barrier. We want our pupils to be multi-linguistic," Kawesa explained.

"Green-Top School aims at offering all pupils a broad and balanced curriculum that provides rewarding and stimulating activities to prepare them for the best social and cultural life, bringing them from GREEN to TOP minds that will shape the world in a gentler way" he further stated.

Lumumba hailed Kawesa for not letting his poor background define his destiny but using it to propel himself in life.

"Whatever your background that you think is humble is the foundation for you to do everything with determination and progress. Personally, I wouldn't have known Kawesa because he is not into politics, doesn't have a good family background but I have known him because of his work," Lumumba said. She urged parents to instil discipline in their children and take them to school with good moral standing in the community.

She cited the enactment of laws like the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 as one of the ways through which the government is rectifying the effects of raising gullible children who easily adopt new ways that could be harmful to them.

"As parents, we haven't dedicated enough time to raise them as God-fearing and this is why they are gullible and can adopt anything new. They are so money-minded yet don't want to work. It's us failing as parents, religious and cultural leaders on issues to do with parenting. Because our children don't have the religious and cultural virtues, they go with whatever storm comes; they are even willing to eat money whose source they don't know about and end up getting problems," Lumumba said.



The Hon. Minister plants a memorial tree at the school compound

**Learn Today, lead Tomorrow"**

She urged the school administration to inculcate practical life skills like farming and bakery in children at an early childhood if they are to grow into self-sustaining all-round citizens of the country.

**The international feel**

Florence Agondeze the Headteacher explains that on top of the compulsory learning, they will be emphasising practical training of the learners in different skills like computer skills, chess, scrabble, music, dance and drama. Though it's uncommon to teach early childhood learners skills like ICT, she explained that they have decided to start teaching these skills to the learners at an early age.

"We would like to start teaching them from an early age so that they can perfect it as they grow," Agondeze said. Key among the major issues that are expected to be emphasised at the school is the early identification, nurturing and development of talent among learners. She explains that this is expected to be achieved through different co-curricular and extracurricular activities like music, dance and drama, games like football, basketball, netball, chess and others. "We are going to take MDD to another level beyond the usual associated entertainment. We would like our pupils to sing, compose and think for themselves and create sentences which are going to become stanzas and later songs," she explained. "We are going to do our things practically. If they are going to be learning about something, either engineering or whatever, they are going to be going into the practical part where they are going to be seeing things physically.

**Child-centred approach**

Agondeze explained they will adopt the child-centred system in learning that is used mainly by international schools where pupils take lead in learning as the teacher facilitates the process. This, she explained, is different from the teacher-based approach where the teacher takes the lead in disseminating information to the learners. "The child-centred approach gives learners an opportunity to think



Staff of Green-Top School March during the Launch



From Left The Head Teacher Ms. Florence Agondeze leads the Chief Guest and Owek. Coltilda Nakate, Minister for education in Buganda Gov't who represented the Katikiro of Buganda as they arrive for the official launch of the School



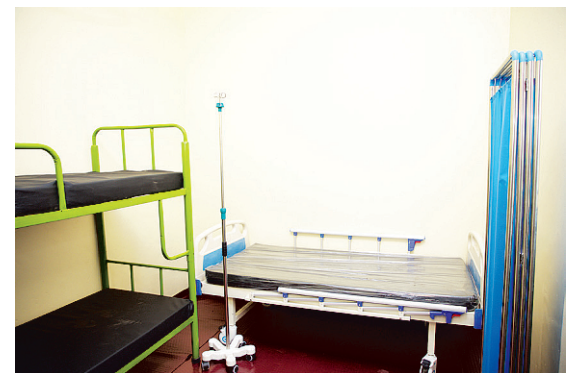
Children play area at Green-Top School (GTS)



Computer learning center at Green-Top School



One of the classes at Green-Top School



Sickbay at the School

outside the box, participate in the process. With this system, the pupils end up enjoying the learning and building their thinking and participatory skills. This gives the teacher the opportunity to assess the learner by what they have done," she explained.

Agondeze who has experience in administering international curriculum said they are keen to adopt the international style of teaching that, among other advantages, identifies talents in a child at a younger age through how they interact with the different available amenities at the school. "This is because of the facilitation of learners at school. You may find that a learner is always playing and assembling toys and it is easy for the teacher to assess and establish that such a child could turn out to be an engineer," she said. She explained that this gives the school the opportunity to nurture and develop the talents that have been identified in the learners at an early stage, something that is not common in local schools.



Green-Top School

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