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KIRYANDONGO ROLLS OUT SHS 1.54 BILLION SCHOOL PROJECTS AMID RISING ENROLMENT PRESSURE

Kiryandongo District Local Government has launched education infrastructure projects worth Shs1.54 billion aimed at easing classroom congestion, improving sanitation and strengthening learning conditions in public primary schools.

The projects include classroom blocks at Kigumba COU, Namilyango and Nyama primary schools, staff houses at Kinyara and Wakisanyi primary schools, renovation of two classrooms at Gwara Primary School, and five-stance lined pit latrines at seven schools.

The sanitation facilities will be constructed at Nyakabaale, Diika, Kizibu Junior, Jeeja, Kihuura, Diima and Kiryandongo COU primary schools.

Among the major interventions is the construction of five classrooms at Kigumba COU Primary School at a cost of Shs282.8 million, funded by the Embassy of Japan in Uganda under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP).

The project is expected to ease pressure on the school, which has an enrolment of 2,155 learners but only 16 classrooms.



Jonathan Akweteireho Deputy RDC (C) raises a pick axe during the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of 5 classrooms at Kigumba COU Primary school with funding from Embassy of Japan

Head teacher Alex Sabiiti Baguma said congestion has increasingly undermined the quality of teaching and learning, affecting pupils' sitting posture, handwriting and teachers' ability to closely monitor learners.

"Congestion in classes has greatly affected education service delivery at my school," Baguma said, adding that the school's good performance in previous Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) results had attracted more learners.

The school is also grappling with a staffing shortage, with only 23 teachers on the government payroll against an estimated requirement of 40.

Baguma said the school has recruited 20 additional teachers through Parent-Teacher Association contributions to help bridge the gap.

He welcomed the classroom project, saying it would improve the learning environment and support the school's growing enrolment.

Francis Byaruhanga, chairperson of the School Management Committee, appealed to district authorities to deploy more teachers, while pledging to mobilise parents to support school development initiatives.

District Engineer Emmanuel Niyonzima said the district would provide technical supervision to ensure the projects meet the required construction standards.

He cautioned contractors against proceeding to subsequent construction stages without approval from the District Engineer and urged school management committees to closely monitor works.

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Jonathan Akweteireho also asked the contractor to provide the School Management Committee with the Bills of Quantities and architectural drawings to strengthen community oversight.

"This government school is doing wonders and this is threatening private schools," Akweteireho said, commending the school management for sustaining good academic performance.

Chief Administrative Officer Anselm Kyaligonza said the investments reflect the district's commitment to improving education infrastructure, commending the Government of Uganda for creating an enabling environment for development partners to support local development.

He also praised the district council for equitably allocating resources to school infrastructure across the district.

Kyaligonza, however, pointed to gaps in access to public education, noting that Ward -A in Kigumba Town Council does not have a government primary school, a situation he said could be contributing to rising enrolment at Kigumba COU Primary School.

He urged town council leaders to initiate plans for establishing a public primary school in the ward to expand access to education.

District Chairperson Nelson Osaga pledged political support to ensure the projects are completed on time and to the required standards.

The projects are part of broader efforts by the district to address infrastructure deficits in public schools, with supervision, community monitoring and timely completion expected to remain central to delivery.