



Barugahara (back row, fifth-left), Old Kampala SS headteacher Kabanda (back row, fourth-left), in a group photo with students. This was after Barugahara visited the school to address a number of issues, including the land dispute last Saturday

OLD KAMPALA SS IN LAND DISPUTE, LEADERS CALL FOR UNITY

By Sarah Nabakooza

Old Kampala Secondary School has been urged to resolve internal divisions and focus on transparency and development amid a simmering dispute over the management and utilisation of its land, particularly the contested Plot 19 on Namirembe Road.

The land in question is part of a wider property portfolio owned by the school, which includes approximately seven hectares where the school sits, additional land at Sir Apollo Kaggwa used for staff accommodation,

BETWEEN THE LINES

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property near ŸŸ Bus Park, and the disputed Plot 19. The scale of these assets has intensified debate among stakeholders over how best they

should be utilised.

The state minister for youth and children affairs, Balaam Barugahara, weighed in on the matter, cautioning stakeholders against conflict and calling for a more strategic approach to the school's assets.

Addressing stakeholders on Saturday at the school premises, Barugahara said the ongoing wrangles risk derailing progress at the institution, noting that the dispute over land has overshadowed more pressing priorities such as academic performance and infrastructure development.

"Many of you quarrel, and you don't know what you are quarrelling for," he said.

Barugahara emphasised that the school's land, including the disputed plot, should be treated as an economic asset capable of generating revenue to support development. He said failure to utilise such property productively turns it into a liability rather than an advantage.

"Public assets should be held in a transparent way, with full accountability," Barugahara said.

He questioned the school's academic performance, asking why it

continues to lag behind comparable institutions despite having adequate facilities.

The minister argued that improved academic outcomes would naturally attract more students and resources, easing financial constraints.

On the specific land in question, the chairperson of the board of directors, Darlington Balojja, moved to clarify the status of Plot 19, dismissing claims that the school had leased it out or was planning to sell it. Balojja explained that when the current board took office in 2024, they found the lease on the Namirembe Road property,