

# NCHE gets multi-billion shillings home

By Owen Wagabaza

**A**fter 13 years of renting a small four-room house at Kyambogo University, the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) recently entered their new home in Ntinda, a Kampala suburb.

The imposing multibillion building no doubt befits the status of NCHE, whose major role is to regulate higher education in the country.

"We did not have the moral authority to ask for certain standards of infrastructure from the institutions that we supervise when we ourselves do not meet those standards. But now, we can talk without fear, because we are exemplary," Prof. Opuda Asibo, the

executive director of NCHE, says.

"Coming here is not for luxury; we had to move for effective service delivery. Prior to coming here, we did not have space for our staff, our boardroom was in a tent outside and our canteen was under a mango tree, the building was not befitting of an institution of our stature, but never the less, we carried on our duties well because we were committed to our work," Opuda adds.

The complex cost the higher education regulator sh5.3b to set up and the construction was done by China Nanjing Uganda Limited.

"The complex was entirely built using locally sourced funds mobilised by the NCHE, but we have asked the Government to come to our aid in completing the construction, with sh2b," Opuda says.

The complex has spacious

offices, a council room, boardroom and conference hall, which can accommodate up to 100 people. It also has modern lavatories, kitchen, canteen and a perimeter wall.

According to Opuda, the new offices will greatly improve service delivery. "We expect to accomplish a lot because of a conducive environment; we are also installing a computerised data centre which will have information about all the higher institutions of learning in the country," Opuda says.

The new offices will enable the Council to meet its mission of setting standards and regulations to ensure that all public and private tertiary education institutions in Uganda create, sustain and provide relevant and quality higher education for all qualified Ugandans and to meet the local, national and global higher education challenges of the future.



The multi-billion complex has so far cost the higher education regulator sh5b



The old NCHE headquarters at Kyambogo University



The computerised data centre which is still under construction, will house information on higher institutions of learning



Above, the state of the art boardroom which NCHE is shifting to from a makeshift boardroom the was housed in a tent as seen on the right. Photos by Tony Rujuta

