

DAILY MONITOR

TRUTH EVERY DAY

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 National

Six vie for NSSF job



Mr Francis Byaruhanga



Mr Simon Ruteega



Mr James Arinaitwe



Dr Julius Kakuru

By Sheila Naturinda ([email the author](#))

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Kampala

The National Social Security Fund board has interviewed six candidates for the post of managing director, a senior official has said. The post has been vacant for the last two years.

According to the official familiar with the search process, the six candidates are Mr Simon Ruteega, the Chief Executive Officer of the Uganda Securities Exchange, Dr Julius Kakuru, the former deputy principal Makerere University Business School, Mr Francis Byaruhanga, formerly the Executive Director of the Road Agency Formation Unit (RAFU), Mr James Arinaitwe, the managing director Posta Uganda, Mr Richard Byarugaba of Global Trust Bank and the NSSF acting MD Grace Isabirye. The first interviews were conducted by a consultant firm ERNST & Young and the board's staff and administration committee chaired by Mr Christopher Kahirita, a workers representative on the board.

Interviews continue

In a telephone interview yesterday, Mr Kahirita acknowledged chairing the committee but said he was not at liberty to discuss the matter with the press. He, however, said the final interviews would be done tomorrow. Sources said after tomorrow's interviews, some will be knocked off and a few final names will be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, and later to President Museveni for political acceptance. The pension fund has over the years been synonymous with controversies, financial improprieties and investment scandals affecting its top managers, with some leaving prematurely.

Mr David Chandi Jamwa was the fourth consecutive NSSF Managing Director to leave amid allegations of financial impropriety. His predecessor, Mr Leonard Mpuuma's contract was terminated prematurely in December 2004 over accusations of financial impropriety in the joint venture housing deal between the Fund and Mugoya Construction Company.

The contracts of Mr Jamwa and his deputy, now Vice Chancellor Makerere University Prof. Mondo Kagonyera, both suspended in December 2008 to pave way for investigations into the alleged mismanagement of the Fund, were due to expire in February 2009 when the new board decided not to renew them.

An audit report commissioned by the Auditor General following alleged irregularities in the purchase of 460 acres of land in Temangalo from Security Minister Amama Mbabazi at Shs11 billion, said Mr Jamwa and Prof. Kagonyera irregularly allocated themselves huge housing and salary advances that would have required deductions for years from their monthly salaries to recover.

According to the report currently before Parliament, Mr Jamwa and Prof. Kagonvera had outstanding advances of

Shs244m and Shs111m respectively at the time of the audit among other accusations of financial impropriety. The appointment of a new MD could probably pave way for fresh rejuvenation of the Fund, which has lost public goodwill due to the numerous scandals.