

Students tipped on accommodation

Security. A hostel that has no security gives leeway to rapists, thieves and terrorists.

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Being a fresher at university where there is a lot of freedom, guidance is critical, especially when someone is looking for accommodation.

Before deciding whether to stay in a hall, hostel or a rental, there are factors that must be considered by both the parents and students.

Student's behaviour

"Joining the university and living on my own, drafting my own rules had me feel like an independent woman who had gotten to the world I always wanted to be, little did I know that my parents were going to dictate on the place I would live in," says Martha Acham, a university student.

Her mother Evelyn Acham, says she know the kind of person her daughter was and that is the reason why she decided to choose for her where to stay while at the university.

"Knowing that my daughter was stubborn, I decided to take her to Uganda Christian University where I was sure she would be tamed and I made sure she finds accommodation in one of the school halls until she finished her degree," Ms Acham says.

University, as an open environment welcomes students from all walks of life but knowing what to take up and what to leave should be key when choosing accommodation," says Ali Male, a counsellor at A-Z Counselling Centre.

Safety

Mr Abdul Mazinga, a caretaker of rentals in Kikoni, Makerere, says many people are afraid of living in rentals but sometimes they are safer than the other residential.

"The main determinant of safety in a place is usually the surrounding environment and the people residing in the neighbourhood because safety begins from the occupants around," he says.

Surveying a place before you settle in is something that Mazinga says students should consider first.

He says it is very dangerous to deal with brokers who are not honest because all they need is someone to occupy a room so that they can be paid their commission.

Convenience

He says safety comes with the convenience of the place and accessibility because a place that is hidden usually harbours criminals who may cause harm to the students.

"The accommodation should also



A student walks past a hostel in Makerere recently. Students are advised to first assess the environment where a hostel is located before making a decision on where to stay. PHOTO FILE

be near the university so that a student is saved from incurring more costs and reaching the university premises late for lectures," Mr Acham says.

Mr Stuart Oyesigye, a lecturer at Kyambogo University, says for students who study in the evening it is important for them to live within the university preferably the university halls so that they are sure of safety.

According to Mr Oyesigye, students who live in university halls have more focus in studies than those who live outside the school premises because

they do not have things destructing them, they can easily access libraries, classes and have discussions at any time without worrying of getting home.

Hostel rules

Mr Axam Kayiwa, who works at Lavante Hostel, Kikoni Makerere says every hostel should have rules and regulations that govern students. With rules in place, students get to know how they should behave in a given hostel.

"Most students prefer staying in hostels with no strict rules because they are free to do whatever they want," Mr Kayiwa says.

Number of room occupants

Mr Kayiwa advises freshers to always consider the number of people occupying a given room. He says staying in a room which has many occupants has many challenge as people come from different backgrounds. Keziah Namubiru, a student at Cavendish University, says sanitation and hygiene is paramount when it comes to looking for accommodation.

ENVIRONMENT

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