

KCCA sets new latrine plans

By Juliet Waiswa

Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) is to come up with latrine standards for city dwellers, the acting director public health and environment, Dr Najjib Lukooya, has said.

Currently, without standards on how a latrine should look like, KCCA has been enforcing hygiene standards using the Public Health Act, which requires that any person found without a latrine should have his house locked up.

The standards, according to Lukooya, will require that for any resident intending to construct a house in the city, they should ensure that they build their latrines with bricks from the bottom or have a plastic container fitted below to avoid leakage of faecal matter.

He said most of the residents in the city use septic tanks and latrines which are below standard.

In the standards, KCCA's intention is to have ease of access to empty pits which have bricks or those which have a plastic septic tank below.

Four-stance toilets

Lukooya said those intending to construct houses should have a four-stance toilet for 10 rented rooms (*mizigo*).

He, however, did not reveal the size and depth of the latrines.

Lukooya was speaking during a press conference on Water Sanitation and Hygiene exhibition at City Hall. He said all landlords without latrines will be arrested, prosecuted or have their premises sealed off.

Last year, KCCA embarked on an exercise of sensitising communities which do not have latrines to do so before having tenants in their houses. The exercise started in the slums of Kamwookya and Kagugube, which were found to be having few latrines.

"KCCA has sensitised landlords

and served notices to some of them without latrines. If they fail to comply they will be arrested and prosecuted," he explained.

The move comes after KCCA discovered that most spring water in the city is contaminated. Lukooya said the city is not doing well in terms of hygiene, especially in the central business district.

"We are trying to come up with a solution. In the city, less than 10% of the sewer network is connected to that of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, while 90% use septic tanks and pit latrines," Lukooya said.

Challenges

Revealing plans to construct toilets in the markets, hospitals, schools and parks, Lukooya lamented that there



A public toilet in Nakawa. KCCA will close all structures without toilets. Photo by Wilfred Sanya

"We shall carry out census on toilets in the city. Households should ensure they own one." Serunjogi

are only 16 KCCA public toilets in the city due to land shortage.

This year's WASH week, which opened yesterday, will be celebrated under the theme: "Sanitation, a Viable Business in Kampala."

The events, including an exhibition,

are taking place at the KCCA Railway Grounds.

Survey

According to KCCA, the recent census revealed that about 2% of the city population does not have latrines, with over 90% of the households using pit latrines of inadequate standards. Approximately 1.8% have no access to toilets. Almost 45% of the pit latrines are abandoned after five years.

The central division mayor, Charles Serunjogi, recently said the rising city population does not match with the existing facilities.

He said his office will ensure that all households in the central business district have toilets, a requirement by law.