Minister seeks police support to evict defiant street vendors

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KAMPALA. The Ministry of Works and Transport has sought the support of the Police to evict defiant car dealers and street vendors who have continued to operate within road reserves and pedestrian walkways in Kampala despite repeated eviction notices.

In a letter addressed to the Inspector General of Police, State minister for Works Musa Ecweru said the ministry had held several engagements with car dealers operating along major roads in the Kampala Metropolitan Area, but many had defied directives to vacate protected road spaces.

"Despite numerous engagements and issuance of vacation notices, these car dealers have continued to disregard the directives, thereby compromising road safety and motorability," Mr Ecweru said in the March 2 letter.

The affected areas include stretches along Jinja Highway in Nakawa, Banda, Kireka, and Bweyogerere, as well as parts of Nasser Road, Lumumba Avenue, and Nakasero Road, where traders have reportedly encroached on road reserves and pedestrian walkways.

Mr Ecweru said the ministry issued vacation notices in line with the Roads Act, 2019, but the traders have continued operating illegally, undermining road safety and traffic flow.

The ministry is now planning a joint enforcement operation and has requested police deployment to ensure compliance and maintain order during the exercise.

The Department of National Roads will coordinate the clearance operations, which are expected to commence this week, with police providing operational support to guarantee orderly enforcement. Encroachment on road reserves has long been cited by authorities as a major contributor to traffic congestion, pedestrian accidents, and deterioration of road infrastructure in Kampala.

Last week, Kampala Capital City Authority officials commenced a crackdown on to get vendors off the streets, with the aim of restoring designated road corridors, improving motorability, and enhancing safety for motorists and pedestrians within the city.

The ministry said further coordination details will be handled by Assistant Commissioner for Road Infrastructure Protection Bennice Kiganda.

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