

Mukono traders face setbacks in new site



Traders at the new market location in Mukono Municipality. PHOTO/JESCA SABANO

While some traders welcomed the move to the new location, citing increased space and the potential to attract more customers, others expressed frustration over its state.

BY JESCA SABANO

Traders in Mukono Municipality have raised concerns over poor conditions at the newly designated market site following their recent eviction from Kame Valley Market. The relocation comes after a two-day

enforcement operation last week in which municipal authorities cleared traders from the streets to restore order in the town.

On Tuesday, officials directed the affected traders to relocate to a new site on Mulyanti and Nakawolole roads in Mukono Central Division.

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LESS CUSTOMERS

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move, citing increased space and the potential to attract more customers, others expressed frustration over the state of the new location.

Several traders complained about

muddy grounds and impassable roads, arguing that the municipality should have first improved the infrastructure before resettling them.

"We are working in mud because the roads are in a bad state," said Alice Namazzi, a trader, adding that the conditions are negatively affecting business operations.

Traders also raised concerns about the lack of essential facilities at the site, particularly toilets. Many reported having to walk about half a kilometre to Mukono Taxi Park to access sanitation services.

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Rosete Kobumujuni, a trader, urged the municipality to intensify public awareness campaigns to help customers locate the new market.

Tensions have also surfaced among traders, with disputes emerging over space allocation at the site.

Ivan Semanda, the market's security chief, attributed the conflicts to the lack of clear demarcation, adding that traders are competing for limited space.

Meanwhile, mechanics operating near the area have raised concerns that the market is blocking access to their garages, as stalls have been set up along the roadside.

In response, Mukono Municipal Town Clerk Francis Byabagambi, acknowledged the challenges, saying the municipality is engaging landlords to secure more suitable space for the traders.

He added that efforts are underway to improve conditions and ensure traders operate in a more organised and conducive environment.

The trader relocation is part of the ongoing new trade order across the country. Under the operations to clear congested areas on streets, road reserves and ungazetted trade areas, authorities in Mukono conducted forceful evictions for businesses to create orderliness in the municipality.