



KCCA enforcement officers carry items confiscated from vendors during their operation in Kampala yesterday. Photo by Lawrence Mulondo

KCCA, Police sweep vendors off city streets

By Lawrence Mulondo and Juliet Walswa

Law enforcement officers yesterday resumed operations on several streets in Kampala, in joint patrols to maintain law and order.

Dressed in their yellow shirt and black trouser uniforms, the teams were seen patrolling several city streets in the company of Field Force Unit Police officers.

The enforcement officers had abandoned the city streets after a public outrage following the death of 38-year-old Olive Basemera, a vendor who drowned in Nakivubo Channel, while fleeing the enforcers' operation last week.

Following the incident, several vendors had flocked to the streets, displaying and selling their merchandise on Luwum Street, Namirembe Road, Kafumbe Mukasa, Ben Kiwanuka, Kyaggwe Road, Market Street and others claiming they are mourning their fellow vendor Basemera.

On Monday, the Kampala minister, Beti Kamy, held a meeting with the enforcement officers and the Police at the President's office in Kampala, where they resolved that the enforcement officers return to streets with Police protection.

Kamy said nobody should block the law enforcement officers, while they are carrying out their duties.

"We have many vendors on the streets of Kampala, our enforcement officers have raised concerns that they, too,

ON THE GROUND

■ Sharon Nalumansi, a trader who owns a boutique in Qualicel Bus Terminal business centre, said the number of customers that visit her shop had started dropping as many of them were being pulled away from her shop entrance by vendors on verandahs.

are brutally handled, beaten and some have even lost some of their body parts," Kamy said during the meeting.

In the same meeting, Kampala Metropolitan Police boss Frank Mwesigwa explained that as soon as the enforcement team resumes their duties, they will be backed by police officers.

Unlike the previous days, where city streets were littered with vendors, yesterday, city walkways and arcade verandahs did not have vendors.

The move brought a smile to the faces of arcade tenants and some pedestrians who had started complaining about street vendors and hawkers being an inconvenience.

Sharon Nalumansi, a trader who owns a boutique in Qualicel Bus Terminal business centre, said the number of customers that visit her shop had started dropping as many of them were being pulled

away from the entrance of her shop by vendors on verandahs.

"Vendors have not been paying rent. This has been forcing them to sell goods similar to ours cheaply, which attracted our customers," Nalumansi said.

Yasin Nsereko, also a trader operating in Sky Light shopping arcade, said the city authority should offer free spaces to vendors in city markets, such as Usafi, so that they do not return to streets.

Christine Nazinda, a pedestrian *New Vision* met on Luwum Street, said in the previous days, one could hardly walk, as vendors were selling their goods on walkways.

"Vendors are likely to come back to the streets, if KCCA does not settle the problems prohibiting vendors operating from designated places, such as markets," she said.

The KCCA Act, 2010 has a provision where the city is supposed to have a Metropolitan Police. However, the provision in the Act has never been implemented.

According to Section 26 of the KCCA Act, there shall be a Metropolitan Police Force for the capital city. The Metropolitan Police Force shall comprise persons appointed under the Police Act and trained by the Uganda Police Force.

The minister may by statutory instrument, on the recommendation of the Police authority, make regulations for regulating the Metropolitan Police Force.