

KCCA SECURES OVER 2,500 WORKSPACES FOR VENDORS

By Juliet Waiswa

The Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has secured more than 2,520 workspaces in its markets as part of efforts to restore order in the city.

The KCCA executive director, Sharifah Buzeki, while addressing journalists at KCCA headquarters in Kampala on Friday, said the authority will not hesitate to impound goods, arrest offenders and prosecute anyone found operating in illegal spaces after February 19.

"KCCA is ready to implement trader orders in the city. KCCA has sensitised vendors and hawkers and is ready to implement the directive by the Minister for Kampala and Metropolitan Affairs, Minsa Kabanda," she said.

On February 5, Kabanda directed all vendors, hawkers, bodaboda riders and commuter taxi drivers operating in illegal spaces to vacate the streets within two weeks.

She cited growing public concern over the increasing number of vendors and the disorder in the city.

Buzeki said KCCA has created space in 17 of its markets and that vendors were allowed to register.

"KCCA has also provided information on the 69 private markets where vendors and

ALLOCATION OF SPACE

In the 17 markets managed by Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), spaces are allocated free of charge on a first-come-first-served basis. Vendors seeking space in the 69 private markets must pay.

Among the available spaces are: Busega 500; Nateete Market 20 (Rubaga division); Luzira 100; Nakawa Market 100; New Ntinda 100 (Nakawa division); Wandegeya Market

250; City Abattoir 250; Usafi 1000; and Kamwokya 200 (Kampala Central).

"If a trader fails to secure a space in Busoga, Wandegeya or Usafi, they will go to private markets like Kalerwe. If they fail in those markets, KCCA has liaised with municipalities' town clerks whose markets have spaces and are willing to provide it," Buzeki said.

hawkers can get space at a fee," she said.

Buzeki said KCCA has already begun clearing election posters and other materials as part of efforts to create a cleaner and more orderly city.

"We are going to implement a trader order starting on February 19, 2026. The Government observed that there is laxity in observing trade orders and, as such, KCCA management is going to start enforcing," she said.

KCCA will work with agencies such as the Uganda Police and the Military Police to support its enforcement teams. However, she urged traders to vacate the streets voluntarily.

"You have ears and I know

BETWEEN THE LINES

○ Buzeki warned that on the enforcement day, any vendor found in ungazetted areas will have their goods impounded and face prosecution.

you have heard, we don't want to impound your goods and arrest you, we encourage you to take on other market spaces," she said.

Buzeki noted that formal business operators have complained that vendors block shop entrances despite not paying taxes.

"We have traders renting spaces and paying taxes to the



PHOTO BY ERIA LUYIMBAZI

Vendors operating on Kampala streets yesterday. The KCCA executive director, Buzeki, said the authority will not hesitate to impound goods and arrest offenders found operating in illegal spaces after February 19

Government, and they cannot sell because the frontages are already encroached on by vendors who are not paying taxes," she said.

Buzeki added that many vendors place goods in unhygienic conditions.

"Vendors are placing products in every space, including laying mangoes on walkways, which has impacted the beauty of the city," she said.

Buzeki added that KCCA aims to protect city infrastructure, including drainage channels, drainage banks, street furniture and green spaces, which have been encroached upon by hawkers and vendors.

"We need to restore our city by ensuring that vendors operate

in gazetted spaces," she said, emphasising that organised business environments are essential for profitability and ease of movement.

Enforcing trader order, she added, will allow residents to move freely and access quality products.

Buzeki said KCCA began sensitising vendors three months ago about designated trading areas.

She warned that on the enforcement day, any vendor found in ungazetted areas will have their goods impounded and face prosecution.

Regarding bodaboda riders and commuter taxis operating in illegal spaces, Buzeki said each sector will be handled separately under a detailed

enforcement programme.

However, Nansana municipality town clerk Festo Tandeka said his municipality also lacks market space and is awaiting markets to be constructed under the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (GKMA) project.

The commercial officer of Kira municipality, who preferred anonymity, said Kireka Market is the only government market in the area and is fully occupied, adding that they too are waiting for the GKMA project to deliver new markets.

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