

pledges and other promises from around the country, yet my budget allocation is still the same. However, we shall be fulfilling them as and when we get the funding," Museveni said,

the extreme cases that need urgent attention," he said.

Nakyobe later toured the health centre accompanied by Gen. Nalweyiso and the

(PHC) wages of sh291.4b, PHC non-wage of sh39.92b, PHC development of sh11.9b and medicines budget of sh168.3b.

his co-accused sought and received... from Hamid to quash a sexual assault case against him (Hamid).

## Kawanda-Karuma power line construction storage facility closed

By Geoffrey Mutegeki

The storage facility for the firm constructing the Kawanda-Karuma transmission power line has been closed over environmental concerns.

On Monday, a multi-sectoral committee on the Karuma power dam project closed a storage facility for Kalpa-Taru Power Transmission Company over non-compliance with environmental requirements.

Kalpa-Taru is the company responsible for the construction of the Kawanda-Karuma power line, but has been abusing some environmental requirements set out by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA).

The sectoral committee, led by Leila Akello, closed the storage facility located at Jejja village in Kigumba, in Kiryandongo district until the defaults are addressed.

"The certificate we gave you was to strictly run a storage yard. You are running storage for used oil and others illegal activities, which to us are outside the NEMA requirements. So, we have decided to close the facility until those issues are rectified," Akello said.

During the inspection, it was found that the facility had insufficient sanitation facilities, was storing used oil at the site, accommodating staff on site, releasing waste into the neighbour's land and doing motor vehicle servicing, among others.

### *The storage yard houses equipment like transmission wires and pillars*

Asked if the closure of the sight would not affect the progress of the works on the transmission line, Akello said respect for the environment should be key. The storage yard houses equipment like transmission wires, pillars, cables, trucks and cranes among others.

Responding to the closure of the

facility, Kalpa-Taru's health safety and environmental manager, Soumen Mandal, revealed that they would fix the problems soon. Although the storage facility was closed, the company was credited for being compliant in the areas, where the erection of towers is being done.

By the end of the project, the company is expected to erect up to 638 power towers along the 248km distance from Karuma to Kawanda where a sub-station will be constructed. About 600 towers have so far been erected and by December, the other half is also expected to be complete according to George Lubega an environment officer with Uganda Electricity Transmission Company

Limited. "They have been compliant, but we expect more from them, especially on issues of safety and first aid for workers," Lubega said.

Some of the towers have been constructed in wetlands and forest reserves, but there has been total compliance, according to NEMA officials.

The Karuma hydro plant is located at Karuma Falls on the Victoria Nile and is designed with a peaking capability of 600MW. NEMA's spokesperson Naome Karekaho said they have successfully guided the contractor on sustainable methods of mitigating the adverse environmental threats that the dam's construction posed to the ecosystem.