Two arrested over illegal Owino market demolition

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Two people have been arrested in connection with the alleged illegal demolition at St Balikuddembe (Owino) Market on Saturday night.

According to a statement from Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), the two, who were arrested by police, were operators of the two bulldozers that were used to carry out the demolition.

"Investigations into the matter have since commenced," KCCA said.

KCCA said the demolition was carried out in the early hours of Sunday morning by unidentified perpetrators.

"At approximately 10:00pm on the night of March 7, unidentified individuals descended on a structure forming part of St. Balikuddembe market, located along Nakivubo Channel on Ssebaana Road, and demolished it without authorisation," the statement said.

BETWEEN THE LINES

KCCA said the demolition was carried out in the early hours of Sunday morning by unidentified perpetrators.

According to KCCA, the demolition was carried out in a reckless manner and in blatant disregard of the law. KCCA said it is working with other agencies to ensure that the remaining structures are preserved.

"In collaboration with sister agencies, we are actively working to salvage what remains of the structure and ensure that those responsible for the destruction of this public property are brought to book," the statement said.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

If a person or entity destroys a building without legal justification, for example during a forced eviction, they may be charged under the Penal Code Act. The law provides for imprisonment upon conviction, which can extend to several years, depending on the value of the property destroyed and circumstances of the offence.