grown technology and innova- which should be accorded to all Ugandans.

URA extends ultimatum for Masaka taxpayers

BY GERTRUDE MUTYABA
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

MASAKA. Assistant commissioner service management at Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Mr James Odong, has assured traders in Masaka Town that their businesses will not be closed for now despite owing arrears to the tax body.

Previously, URA had served traders with tax arrears notices, giving them up to December 23 to pay, and failure to do so could lead to closure of their businesses.

"After listening to your complaints, we have decided not to close your businesses because we have realised that there might be a mistake in the approach used during the assessments," Mr Odong said.

Mr Odong made the remarks during a meeting with traders in Masaka Town last week.

Before his speech, traders had raised complaints about some URA officials at the Masaka branch who they described as 'heartless people'.

The traders claimed that some URA officials were not considerate while making business assessments in regard to the tax imposed on them.

"I was instructed to pay Shs200,000 as tax, which is half of my capital and on top of that, a little period was given to me to make the payment," Mr Jude Muleke, a trader in Masaka Town, said.

Mr Abdul Aziz Walakira, a car dealer in Masaka blamed URA, saying they made a mistake to collect taxes before sensitising the traders.

"We received a letter from URA alerting us on the deadline given to us to pay the taxes but we could not pay what we did not understand," Mr Walakira said.

Masaka Municipality Member of Parliament, Mr Mathias Mpuuga, faulted URA officials for failing to sensetise tax payers (traders) before making assessments.

"The law recommends that the tax payers must be informed of the nature, scope and the amount of tax payable and reason of payment but this wasn't done," Mr Mpuuga said, adding the traders are right to reject the set tax rates.

In reply to the traders grievances, Mr Odong said URA had resolved to extend the deadline for clearing tax arrears to January 2017 after carrying out a fair and transparent assessment exercise.

He advised traders to always seek information about taxes to avoid inconvenience.

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