

# Centenary Park traders build over sewer line

By Juliet Waiswa

National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) has expressed concern over the reconstructed structures sprouting on top of the newly completed sewer line in Centenary Park.

The management of Nalongo Estates that manages the park has had a protracted battle with NWSC, UMEME and the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA). JICA is expected to carry out construction works of the Kampala flyover project within the park.

For almost two months, they blocked government projects, demanding to be compensated by Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), as they said the land was leased to them.

With the intervention of President Yoweri Museveni, the parties recently arrived at a consensus, allowing NWSC to demolish some of the buildings, to pave the way for the construction of the sewer lines.

During a tour of the project by board members of NWSC, led by the

chairman of the board, Christopher Ebal, site engineer Alex Gisagara explained to the team that works are almost complete, adding that by January next year, sewage from Kololo, Naguru and major hotels in the city, such as Imperial Royale, Kampala Serena Hotel and Sheraton Kampala Hotel will be connected to the sewer line. He said so far, works for fixing the NWSC pipes, which runs from Centenary Park, through Airtel to the new station in Bugolobi, have been completed.

At the site during the tour, some of the restaurant owners in the park had started reclaiming their parking areas atop the sewer lines, while others were putting back their temporary structures.

The concerns by NWSC are contained in a letter dated August 11 and signed by John Amayo for the managing director, addressed to the Kampala minister, Beti Kamya and copied to the KCCA executive director, Jennifer Musisi.

"We have observed that structures that were illegally constructed atop



The Nyama Choma Place that has been constructed on top of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation sewer line in Centenary Park. Photo by Ramadhan Abbey

## IN THE LETTER

■ The concerns of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation are contained in a letter dated August 11, addressed to the Kampala minister, Beti Kamya and copied to the KCCA executive director, Jennifer Musisi.

■ The letter reads in part: "The illegal structures impede access and pose a threat to the timely completion of the project, while at the same time, they endanger property and life."

our infrastructure and had prior, impeded timely execution of the project, have began sprouting out on top of the complete section of the sewer line," the letter reads in part.

NWSC also states that the structures, being illegal, contravene the physical planning laws and regulations. The corporation states that the structures are contrary to the provisions of the Water Act, Section 152 and the guidance given by President Yoweri Museveni in a meeting held recently in Entebbe, where he directed that no structures be built atop the sewer line.

According to NWSC, the Water Act Section 110 provides for a buffer of four metres on either side of

NWSC infrastructure, in which no development should be made.

The letter states: "The project still remains within the defect liability period, which, among others, entails and may include remedial repairs that may necessitate the need for access."

"The illegal structures impede access and pose a threat to the timely completion of the project, while at the same time, they endanger property and life," the letter reads.

Amayo in the letter brings to the attention of KCCA the continuing threats and illegalities and seeks their indulgence in the enforcement and maintenance of the agreed position by the relevant parties.