...ured extensive costs while | though oral contracts can be enforceable, they must be proved on a balance | claimed expenditures. Claims for legal fees, surveying costs, guarding services,

Kampala vendors vow not to leave streets

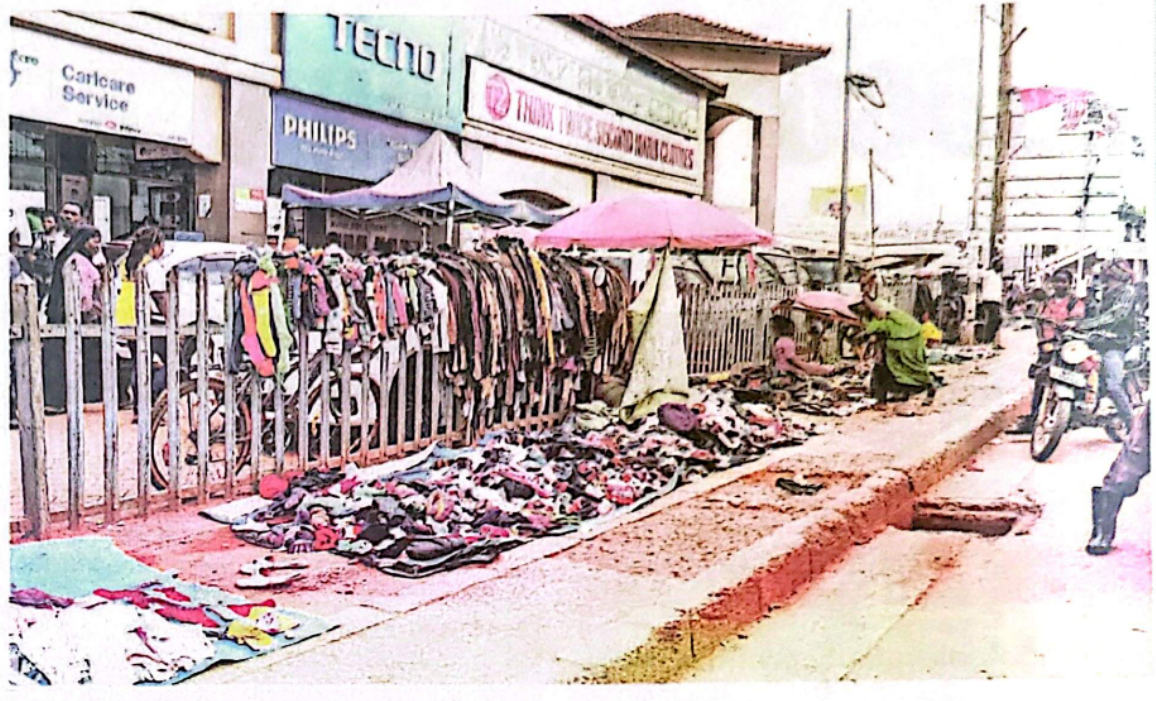
BY SYLVIA KATUSHABE

KAMPALA. Street vendors in Kampala have vowed not to leave the city streets as the deadline issued by the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) for them to vacate approaches, saying the move is unrealistic without a clear resettlement plan.

Speaking to *Daily Monitor* yesterday, Mr Kenneth Kazibwe, the chairperson for the street vendors in Kampala, said that they will only comply if the government fulfils its pledge to establish at least two markets in each city division to accommodate them.

"The President passed a directive that every division should have at least two markets, but this directive has never been fulfilled," he said.

Mr Kazibwe added: "The minister also promised evening open markets and Sunday markets, but there is still no clear plan. Instead of discussing important issues, they are busy discussing how they will arrest the vendors."



Clothes for sell displayed on streets of Kampala. PHOTO/IBRAHIM KAVUMA

Market space

KCCA manages 17 public markets in Kampala and 69 private ones with additional spaces in neighbouring districts like Nansana, Entebbe, Kira, and Mukono.

The KCCA's 2025 report on markets and trade orders shows that Busega Market was commissioned to take in more than 2,000 vendors, while construction is ongoing at Kisekka and Kitintale markets. 15 of the city's 17 public markets are now fully registered under a "one stall, one vendor" system.

St Balikuddembe market (Owino) accommodates about 50,000 traders, Usafi market (about 7,000), Busega (over 2,800), Wandegeya market (about 1,200), while Kasubi market hosts more than 1,400 vendors.

KCCA has allocated 2,520 stalls within its city markets, including spaces at Usafi, Wandegeya, Luzira new market, Ntinda market and Old Ntinda markets. Therefore, the city markets have a significant capacity to absorb the vendors.

The KCCA Executive Director, Ms Sharifah Buzeki, added that the Authority had secured 1,980 market spaces for the vendors outside Kampala, ahead of the February 19th deadline for them to vacate the streets.

While addressing the media on Saturday, Ms Buzeki urged the vendors to peacefully leave the streets and occupy the gazetted markets, warning that enforcement operations would begin after the deadline.

2,520

Market stalls allocated by KCCA within its city markets such as Usafi, Wandegeya, Luzira new Market, Ntinda and Old Ntinda. The authority says these are sufficient for the vendors.

"We have provided enough space for all vendors so that no one should claim there is nowhere to go," Buzeki said.

However, the vendors' leadership disputed the authority's claim, saying the spaces cited by the KCCA boss do not exist in the markets.

Mr Kazibwe criticised what he described as the criminalisation of informal work, saying that people trading on the street are daily income earners looking for survival and are not criminals.

"This is the only country where someone is arrested for trying to work for survival, while thieves remain free. Many of our colleagues are languish-

MARKET SPACE

The KCCA's 2025 re... markets and trade ... shows Owino (St Ba... dembe) market acco... about 50,000 trader... market (about 7,000)... (over 2,800), Wande... ket (about 1,200), wh... market hosts more t... vendors.

It also indicates that ... ga market was comm... to take in more than 2... dors, while construct... going at Kisekka and ... markets.

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He added, "The gover... have a proper plan for ... you force them in pla... can't make money a d... turn to the streets."

Ms Buzeki encourag... embrace online selli... they are unable to in... cure physical space, wi... to guide those unfamil... ital systems.

Enforcement will be ... ly with the police an... forcement officers, ide... blue uniforms with nu... cameras capturing wh... on the ground.

The authorities also ... viewing a proposal t... allowed to operate on ... on Sundays, although ... been reached.

For many years, KC... to remove vendors f... and road reserves in ... of plans to decongest ... prove public order. E... ment operations have ... with resistance from ... pend on the street t... vival.

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