

Inside plans to address Nansana garbage crisis

This comes as indiscriminate disposal of domestic and commercial waste blocks drainage channels and worsens flooding.

BY NOELINE NABUKENYA

Nansana Municipal Council has drafted a new waste management by-law aimed at strengthening enforcement of environmental regulations and addressing the growing challenge of poor garbage disposal in the municipality.

The proposed law, titled Nansana Municipal Council Waste Management By-law 2024, comes amid mounting concerns over indiscriminate disposal of domestic and commercial waste, which authorities say has blocked drainage channels and worsened flooding in several parts of the municipality.

Municipal officials say the by-law is expected to become operational before the close of the 2025/2026 financial year.

"We have seen most of our roads flooded and drainage channels clogged with plastics. Some residents illegally dump waste while others refuse to pay for garbage collection despite generating waste," Ms Stella Nalumansi, a senior environment officer at the municipality, said in an interview last week.

Under Section 4 of the proposed law, every resident or business owner will be held responsible for the solid waste generated at their premises until it is collected by the council or licensed waste handlers. The law also requires waste to be sorted according to type and stored in designated coded containers.

"No person shall bury, dump or cause



Kira Municipality staff at the launch of the three-bin system on May 7. PHOTO/NOELINE NABUKENYA

to be buried or deposited on any road, street, alley, premises, pit latrine or open pit waste of any kind," the draft law states.

Municipal authorities say violators will face heavy penalties intended to discourage poor waste disposal practices.

Among the proposed penalties is a Shs500,000 fine for littering. Residents who fail to pay garbage collection fees risk paying Shs100,000 in fines, while households and businesses that fail to separate waste at source could face fines of up to Shs200,000.

Residents found opening sewerage channels during rainfall to release waste into the environment face a Shs500,000 fine.

According to Section 25 of the by-law, all garbage collection vehicles must have metallic bodies that are easy to clean and must be regularly decontaminated.

The law further requires waste transporters to use enclosed trucks or vehicles securely covered to prevent garbage from spilling or being blown onto roads during transportation.

Mr Hassan Zimula, the principal health inspector, said the municipality intends to treat solid waste as a resource rather than a burden. Authorities are planning to establish a recycling plant that will add value to collected waste.

KEY FINES

- Littering: Shs500,000 fine
- Failure to pay garbage fees: Shs100,000 fine
- Failure to sort waste: Shs200,000 fine
- Opening sewerage channels during rain: Shs500,000 fine

Nansana and neighbouring Kira Municipality have jointly acquired 35 acres of land in Menvu Village, Busukuma Division, where the recycling facility is expected to be established.

Ms Diana Sem, a legal officer at the National Environment Management Authority (Nema), commended the municipality for taking steps to address poor waste management.

However, she advised the municipality to ensure the by-law remains consistent with national environmental laws and policies.

Meanwhile, neighbouring Kira Municipality has rolled out a waste management initiative known as the three-bin system. The pilot project aims to improve waste sorting at household level.

According to Kira Municipal Town Clerk Benon Yiga, more than 300 sets of bins will be distributed to households during the four-month pilot phase funded by the World Bank.