

Layibi division protests sale of Gulu abattoir

GULU

By Arnest Tumwesige

Gulu municipal council has sold Gulu abattoir to Ke-hong Peyero Millers for over sh1b to repay money borrowed from the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development Programme (USMID) account.

Pauline Lukwayi, the deputy mayor, told *New Vision* that close to sh700m was borrowed from the USMID account to pay damages to Joseph Opolot, a former municipal treasurer, who was unlawfully dismissed from his job.

Lukwayi said the resolution to borrow the funds was approved during a council meeting.

However, the sale of the abattoir, which sits on two acres, has not been welcomed by Layibi division.

Alfred Oluba, the division chairperson, said the sale was inconsistent with the Local Government Act.

Oluba said according to the Act, a council cannot sell



MAYOR'S VIEW

George Labeja, the Gulu municipal mayor, said plans are underway to construct a modern abattoir in Techo parish with funding from USMID to the tune of sh5.2b. He said the construction of the abattoir would kick off in September.

The mayor also said as a temporary measure, an abattoir would be constructed in Pabwo parish, Bungatira sub-county.

divisions or if they do, they share the proceeds.

"We are entitled to half of the revenue because the property is on our land. I will challenge this," Oluba said.

The abattoir that was sold. Residents had been complaining about the waste that spilled from the abattoir into Gulu town. Photo by Arnest Tumwesige

However, George Labeja, the Gulu mayor, said the balance from the proceeds from the sale of the abattoir would be used to open the road leading to the new site in Techo parish and construction of a slab at the temporary site.

Kenedy Odong, a member

of Gulu Municipal Butchers Association, expressed worry that some butchers may decide to desert the new site.

"Some members are already thinking of starting to slaughter the animals from somewhere else due to the long distance to the new site," Odong said.