

## NEMA closes storage facility

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**KAMPALA.** The National Environment Management Authority (Nema) has shut down a storage facility operated by Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited, a company subcontracted by Sinohydro to construct a transmission line from Karuma Dam to Kawanda sub-station in Wakiso District.

According to the closure letter signed by Ms Leila Akello, a senior environmental assessment officer at Nema, the company "deviated" from the dictates of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate issued by Nema that only okayed storage of transmission equipment at the Kiryandongo-based facility.

The company is accused of operating a camp, storing dangerous oil waste at the site and servicing cars there, which has caused environmental degradation due to oil spillover.

"Work at Karuma shouldn't be at the compromise of the environment. As much as we want Karuma dam work, we don't want the project to leave us with a distorted environment," Ms Akello said.

Mr Soumen Mandal, the Kalpataru health and safety engineer said they were going to expeditiously rectify the mess within a week "because we do not want any delays in our operations."