MV Kalangala to resume operations tomorrow

BY DAVID SEKAYINGA

KALANGALA. MV Kalangala, the only public passenger and cargo vessel plying the Entebbe–Kalangala route, is set to resume full operations tomorrow, after nearly two-and-half months of suspension.

Mr Sadala Musoke, the Executive Director of Nation Oil Distributors Company Limited (NODL), the firm managing the vessel, said test runs are currently underway ahead of the official resumption.

"Currently, we are doing test runs as our vessel plies the route each day with no passengers on board. We expect to officially resume normal operations next week on March 3," Musoke said during a Friday interview.

The vessel has been grounded since December 15, 2025, after one of its engines broke down while on a return trip to Kalangala. At the time, the vessel had just spent only three months in service following repairs in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Bujumba County MP-elect, Willy Lugoloobi, questioned the maintenance procedures undertaken by the operators.

"It is senseless that after just weeks after returning from Mwanza for its annual mandatory maintenance, the vessel broke down. We need a value -for -money audit into the operations of that public vessel," he said.

In response, Musoke clarified that the repairs done in Mwanza were limited to hull inspection and structural assessment, not engine overhaul.

"We had taken it for dry docking to inspect its body, shifters and frame, not the engines since the recommended overhaul hours had not yet been reached." he explained.

According to Musoke, engine overhauls are conducted after every 10,000 service hours of sailing.

Kalangala District chairperson-elect Agnes Lunkuse, said both local leaders and the business community in Kalangala were left in the dark when MV Kalangala suspended operations.

Lunkuse noted that the absence of MV Kalangala has caused a spike in commodity prices in the island district.

That is coupled with revenue loss as the tourism sector was disrupted.

Even the substitute was often late by more than two hours.

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