Lukwago protests KCCA budget cut

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BY SHABIBAH NAKIRIGYA

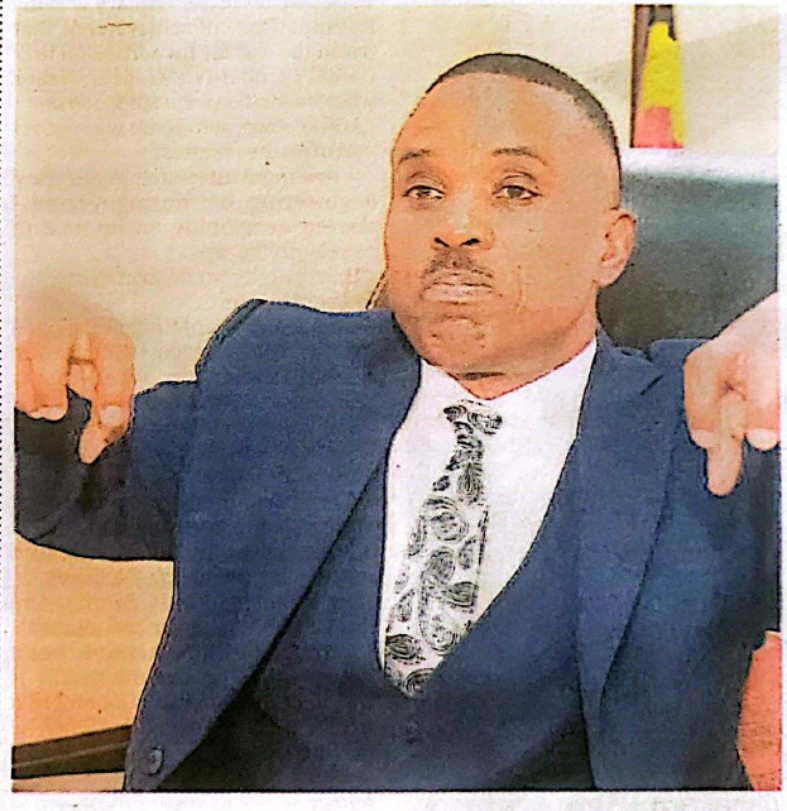
The political leadership of Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has warned that it may not submit its proposed budget for the 2026/2027 financial year to Parliament following a sharp reduction in the authority's funding allocation.

Mr Erias Lukwago, the outgoing Lord Mayor of Kampala City, said the decision was reached by the City Executive Committee (CEC) after reviewing the budget ceiling allocated to the authority under the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework during a meeting on March 3.

Mr Lukwago said the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development set KCCA's budget ceiling for the 2026/2027 financial year at Shs718.3b, down from Shs916.38b allocated in the current 2025/2026 financial year.

"The City Executive Committee resolved that we cannot meaningfully prepare and submit a budget when most of the authority's key priorities remain unfunded," Mr Lukwago told journalists in Kampala on Monday.

The development follows a February 27 directive from the Office of the Prime Minister instructing all ministries, departments and agencies to submit their Ministerial Policy Statements to Parliament by March 12, while presentation of draft budget estimates is scheduled between March 26 and April 1.



Outgoing Kampala Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago addresses journalists in Kampala on Monday. PHOTO/IBRAHIM KAVUMA

OPM REACTS

In response to the Lord Mayor's remarks, Mr Francis Jingo, the media relations advisor at the Office of the Prime Minister, said the comments were political, and clarified that preparation of draft budgets is handled by technical teams within government institutions.

He added that in the case of KCCA, the draft budget is expected to be presented by the executive director together with her technical team rather than political leaders.

Mr Lukwago said the CEC agreed to raise the issue before the Authority Council. "The continuous budget cuts undermine the implementation of the city's development agenda and the broader goal of transforming Kampala into a modern and functional capital."

Mr Lukwago added that the authority recently launched a five-year strategic plan covering the period 2025/2026 to 2029/2030, which requires Shs11.9 trillion to implement major infrastructure and social development programmes across the city.

"According to the plan, the authority requires about Shs2.4 trillion annually to finance key projects aimed at improving urban infrastructure and service delivery," he said.

Among the priority projects listed in the plan are the expansion of the city road network to ease traffic congestion, the implementation of the Kampala drainage master plan to address flooding, the closure of the Kiteezi landfill, and the construction of a modern waste treatment facility at Buyala.

Mr Lukwago said the city leadership has repeatedly appealed to the central government to allocate at least three percent of the national budget to Kampala, arguing that the capital contributes more than 65 percent of Uganda's Gross Domestic Product.

However, KCCA spokesperson Daniel NuweAbine said the authority is currently working within the limits of the Budget Call Circular despite the reduction in funding.

"If the budget is cut, the needs of the city remain many, and such a reduction puts pressure on planned activities because the majority will be left unattended to," he said. He added: "However, the budget process is not yet over. We are still engaging the Ministry of Finance and the central government to enhance the allocation because the challenges in the city are real."

Mr NuweAbine expressed optimism that the government will consider the authority's request in order to support effective service delivery in the capital.

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