

The crackdown forms part of a wider city enforcement campaign launched in February 2026 under the Kampala Capital City Authority Act to restore order in trade and public spaces.

BY SHABIBAH NAKIRIGYA

The Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has intensified operations against street begging involving sick people and children, citing growing public health concerns and exploitation of vulnerable groups in the city.

Speaking at the Uganda Media Centre on Wednesday, the KCCA Executive Director, Ms Sharifah Buzeki, said the authority is increasingly alarmed by cases where caregivers allegedly remove visibly ill patients from hospitals and place them along busy city streets to solicit money from the public.

"We are seeing people turned into what can only be described as 'medical beggars'. Patients who should be receiving care in proper health facilities are instead being exposed to harsh conditions on the streets," Ms Buzeki said.

She warned that the practice endangers the lives of vulnerable people, especially children and the sick, while undermining ongoing public health and social protection programmes in Kampala.

According to Ms Buzeki, KCCA has already started removing affected individuals from the streets and transferring them to government health centres for treatment and support.

She added that caregivers who continue exposing children and sick persons to such conditions risk arrest and prosecution.

"We urge the public to stop giving money directly to street beggars, particularly children, because the practice

KCCA cracks down on street medical begging



Children and adults begging on the street remains a challenge in Kampala and other cities. PHOTO/FILE

fuels a cycle of exploitation and keeps children out of school," she said.

Ms Buzeki noted that while many city residents may believe they are helping by offering money on the streets, the donations instead sustain unsafe and exploitative conditions.

"When you give money on the street, you may feel you are helping, but in reality, you are sustaining a harmful cycle.

These children's education, health and safety are being compromised," she said.

Ms Buzeki encouraged members of the public to support vulnerable groups through recognised rehabilitation centres such as Masulita Rehabilitation Centre, where rescued individuals are provided with shelter, food, healthcare, and access to education.

According to the KCCA boss, some res-

cued children have already been reintegrated into schools through rehabilitation programmes.

The crackdown forms part of a wider city enforcement campaign launched in February 2026 under the Kampala Capital City Authority Act to restore order in trade and public spaces.

"Following the directive to organise the city in terms of trade, we com-

Detrimental practice. When you give money on the street, you may feel you are helping, but in reality, you are sustaining a harmful cycle. These children's education, health and safety are being compromised," KCCA Executive Director Sharifah Buzeki.

menced enforcement on February 19, 2026. Since then, we have taken deliberate steps to decongest the city and improve its overall functionality," Ms Buzeki said.

She said the operation has resulted in the removal of illegal vendors and other obstructions from major streets in Kampala's central business district, including Luwum Street, Namirembe Road, Ben Kiwanuka Street, Nakasero Road and Allen Road.

The enforcement exercise has also been extended to major trading centres in Kawempe, Makindye, Rubaga and Nakawa divisions, improving access to roads, pedestrian walkways and public spaces.

Ms Buzeki further revealed that KCCA has undertaken road marking and repainting, drainage desilting, restoration of streetlights, as well as upgrading of green spaces as part of efforts to improve safety, mobility, and the appearance of the city.

"The results of orderly trade are visible. We encourage the public and business community to embrace these efforts so that we can formalise businesses and build a vibrant, attractive and sustainable city," she said.