

HEAVY RAINS

When foods cut off roads

Floods caused by heavy rains earlier this week cut off Masanafu Bulenga Road, leaving many road users stranded. PHOTO BY JOSEPH KIGGUNDU

City car owners pay through the nose to access parking

Limited space. There are about 45,000 parking slots on city streets but these cannot accommodate the huge number of cars that flock the city daily.

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KAMPALA. As the purchase of private vehicles in the city soars, the demand for parking space has also drastically increased.

This has affected both the planning authorities and car owners who throng the city for work on a daily basis.

The situation has been made worse by owners of commercial buildings who failed to implement a directive by the Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) to provide parking space..

Of late, car owners have resorted to other means of transport such as commuter taxis and boda bodas.

Although Ugandan businessmen had not embraced private car parking business, the influx of cars in the city has compelled them to start setting up facilities.

According to KCCA, there are about 45,000 parking slots on city streets and roads.

When contacted about the number of vehicles in Kampala, KCCA promised to get back to us but had not done so by press time.

Instead the city authorities have effective September 1 resorted to increasing the street parking fees to deal with the congestion and illegal parking.

According to the KCCA acting executive director, Mr Jacob Byamukama, city parking fees have been increased from Shs400 to Shs1,000 per hour, which only applies to the first two hours of uninterrupted parking in the same slot and Shs1,600 if they park for an extra hour.

NEW FEES

According to the new city parking fees structure, one will pay Shs 1,000 per hour for the first two hours and Shs1, 600 if they park for two uninterrupted hours. Car owners who park for four hours will be charged Shs5,200 that is Shs2,000 for the first two hours and Shs3,200 for the extra two hours.

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"We realised that many people permanently park on streets forcing others to occupy illegal spaces. With increased parking fees we believe congestion in the city will reduce because many car owners will no longer park for long," Mr Byamukama said.

Mr Byamukama also revealed that the city authority is working with private partners to create more parking spaces in the city.

He said KCCA has finalised plans to construct a three level parking facility at the new taxi park, an initiative he says will reduce conges-

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briefly

Council in staff deficit

WAKISO. Wakiso Town Council is operating without 25 of the 56 staff approved in the recruiting structure, according to the 2016/2017 Auditor General's report . According to the report, the finance department has five vacant slots, works department is missing nine staff, production and internal audit sector need two members each while the community and health section requires one staff respectively. Council leaders have since appealed to the district chief administrative officer, Mr Luke Lukodo, and the district service commission to advertise the jobs. [James Kabengwa]

Masuliita faulted over title

WAKISO. The Auditor General has faulted Masuliita Town Council over lack of a title for its 6.2 acres of land. In the 2016/2017 financial year report, the Auditor General stated : "In the absence of ownership, council land is at risk of encroachment. Likewise in absence of log books, movable assets are at risk of being misused." The Auditor General also faults council over failure to take on the recommendations to have legal ownership of its assets as stated in the previous report. [James Kabengwa]

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