

TRADE ORDER ENFORCEMENT GROWS KCCA LICENCES

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By Nelson Mandela

Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has reported a sharp rise in business formalisation and revenue collections following the enforcement of a new trade order regime two months ago. Presenting an update to journalists on Wednesday at Uganda Media Centre, KCCA executive director Sharifah Buzeki said the ongoing enforcement between February 19 and April 27, the authority registered 22,909 new business licences worth sh5.07b, compared to 15,628 licences valued at sh3.9b recorded in the preceding period ending December 2025.

The increase represents a 146% surge, signalling what Buzeki described as a "direct outcome of formalising previously unregulated business operations."

Buzeki said the figures demonstrate how structured trade order enforcement is bringing more businesses into the formal economy.

She noted that the initiative stems from a government directive issued on February 5, 2026, followed by the roll-out of enforcement measures on February 19, targeting illegal street vending, congestion, and unregulated commercial activity.

Under the exercise, KCCA has cleared major business corridors in the Central Business District, including Luwum Street, Namirembe Road, Ben Kiwanuka Street, Nakivubo Road and Allen Road, restoring pedestrian walkways and easing access to roads.

Similar operations have been conducted across divisions such as Kawempe, Makindye, Lubaga and Nakawa, where trading centres including Kalerwe, Bwaise, Kibuye, Kansanga, Natete and Ntinda have been reorganised to eliminate illegal obstructions.

"Compliance with local revenue contributions has markedly improved. The authority expects further gains as enforcement continues," Buzeki said.



Sharifah Buzeki

KCCA REVENUE PERFORMANCE

KCCA's overall revenue performance currently stands at sh127b, representing 106% of its target. However, Buzeki said there is still significant untapped potential, particularly in property rates, where arrears are estimated at sh200b. To address the gap, she said KCCA has deployed a dedicated team to pursue defaulters.

TRADE ORDER NON-NEGOTIABLE

Kabanda said the decision to continue operations was reached during a Cabinet meeting on April 27, where leaders reviewed the policy's implementation and resolved that the gains already registered should not be rolled back.

Ministers of Kampala Aisha Kabanda and local government Raphael Magyezi, told journalists recently that trade order operations must continue as planned.

PLANS FOR AFFECTED TRADERS

Traders have been instructed to operate strictly within designated markets and trading zones, with the Authority warning that any return to street vending will be dealt with firmly. KCCA said it has created structured alternatives for affected traders in markets.

Of the 2,520 spaces announced in late 2025, 1,663 have already been occupied, leaving 857 still available.

However, minister Magyezi, said new measures would be introduced to ensure a more consultative and humane approach.

He announced plans to establish a multi-stakeholder task force involving traders, vendors and religious leaders.

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