

# Kampala Extra

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Mr Edward Mukibi, the vice president of Slow Food International, has asked government to increase investment in agriculture as a way of fighting poverty in Uganda. Addressing agriculture students and farmers at Kyambongo University on Wednesday, Mr Mukibi said the budget allocated to the agriculture sector is small and cannot boost the sector. [Jessica Sabano]



Destroyed. Some of the vandalised street lights on Kampala Road. Many street lights have been stolen hardly a year after their installation. FILE PHOTO

## Street solar lights vandalised

**Claim.** Thugs are believed to be behind the vice since it is claimed that the bulbs are being sold cheaply downtown, Kampala.

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**KAMPALA.** Unknown people have started vandalising street solar lights in Kampala City barely a year after their installation.

*Daily Monitor* visited Mukwano Road and found out that the solar lights have been vandalised, leaving Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) counting losses.

The vandalised solar lights have left the road in the dark again.

Reliable sources told this newspaper that thugs steal bulbs and sell them cheaply downtown, Kampala.

Ms Juliet Bukirwa Muwanguzi, the KCCA acting public and corporate affairs manager, confirmed the development.

She said the contractor, Zhenjiang Holley International, should take responsibility.

"It is true the newly installed solar lights such as those on Mukwano Road are being vandalised by un-

hasn't been handed over to us because the installation in the city is still ongoing and this means that the contracted company will still foot the bills to replace the stolen lights," Ms Bukirwa said.

She said KCCA plans to light up the entire city using solar lights because they are more durable and sustainable compared to LED bulbs that are deemed expensive.

The contract to install city street solar lights was awarded to Zhenjiang Holley International, a Chinese company, after the cancellation of Phillips East Africa Ltd's contract in June last year over performance.

The Shs7b project will see at least 906 street solar lights installed in the Central Business District (CBD) and the other four divisions of the city: Makindye, Rubaga, Nakawa and Kawempe.

She said the solar poles will also be fitted with CCTV cameras to mitigate crime in the city.

*Daily Monitor* understands that KCCA is currently racing against time to complete the stalled installation of street solar lights whose funding from government was released in 2015 ahead of the Pope's visit to

### STREET LIGHTS

The installation of street lights is being done in line with the newly constructed city roads under the Kampala Infrastructural Institutional Project (KIIP-2), a five-year project funded by the World Bank.

The vandalised solar lights pose a threat to the security of city residents and motorists, especially at night.

An official from Zhenjiang Holley International, who declined to be named because he isn't authorised to speak to the press, said although they anticipated to handover the project to KCCA in the next two years, the project could stall if more vandals continue.

### Extra cost

He is also worried that the vandalised solar lights could cost them extra money, which isn't in their budget.

"We want to do a decent job and KCCA contracted us because of our quality services. However, the vandalised solar lights threaten the progress of the whole exercise yet we really want to deliver on time. However, we have beefed up security in the hot spots to curb down such vandals," he said.

The installation is being done in line with the newly constructed city roads under the Kampala Infrastructural Institutional Project

### briefly

#### Health workers advised

**MUKONO.** The Lugazi Diocese vicar general, Msgr Richard Kayondo, has warned nurses working in Catholic Church owned health facilities to desist from charging caregivers before patients get better. "Stop going for work because of money. A right health officer attends to a patient and money will come as a result of thanksgiving after getting cured," Msgr Kayondo said. He was addressing health workers from different Church-run health facilities at Namungunga Parish during the Lugazi Diocesan Health Assembly on Wednesday. He also asked health workers to always give good care to patients. [Jessica Sabano]

#### Activists want Sharia law

**KAMPALA.** Activists under the Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL) have asked Parliament to expedite the passing of the Khadi Courts Bill into law. Speaking at a workshop on access to justice in Kampala on Wednesday, Mr Jaffer Sseganda, the MCJL president, said many Muslims are comfortable having their cases handled in Khadi courts instead of the 'secular' ones. "Establishing Khadi courts will benefit the Muslim community and also relieve the current judicial structure of the current cases. [Shabibah Nakiriqya]

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## Kampala street solar lights vandalised

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### Voices

"It is true the newly installed solar lights such as those on Mukwano Road are being vandalised by unknown people,"

JULIET BUKIRWA  
MUWANGUZI, KCCA  
ACTING PUBLIC AND  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
MANAGER



"I would like to caution city landlords against creating parking spaces on pavements because it's where we install poles for solar lights,"

JENNIFER MUSISI KCCA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"We have beefed up security in the hotspots to curb down such vandals. We want to do a decent job and KCCA contracted us because of our quality services,"

ZHENJIANG HOLLEY  
INTERNATIONAL  
OFFICIAL

(KIIDP-2), a five-year project funded by the World Bank.

Dr Steven Jeremy Ntambi, the KCCA operations manager in the directorate of engineering and technical services, told *Daily Monitor* recently that the installed solar lights have a capacity to light a distance of 30 metres.

"We are currently at the installation stage and after that, we shall go to the testing stage and finish up with the commissioning stage. Although some are already lit, we haven't officially commissioned them," he said.

He noted that when charged, the new street solar panels have the capacity to provide light for three days.

## Shs7b

THE SHS7B PROJECT WILL SEE AT LEAST 906 STREET SOLAR LIGHTS INSTALLED IN KAMPALA CITY

However, he said one of their challenges is the developers, who build in road reserves where the solar lights are supposed to be installed.

### Installed lights

While inspecting the ongoing works of the project recently, KCCA executive director, Ms Jennifer Musisi, expressed shock that some landlords have illegally used up the spaces meant for the installation of the street solar lights.

"I would like to caution city landlords against creating parking spaces on pavements because it's where we install poles for solar lights, and also used by pedestrians. We shall not hesitate to prosecute any landlord, who blocks this exercises because we want to have it completed," Ms Musisi said.

Some of the roads with installed street solar lights include: Bombo, Kyagwe, Kampala, Speak, the Constitution Square, Nakasero, Lumumba Avenue, Kintu and parts of Makerere Hill.

**briefly**

Minister compli-