

Buganda to reclaim Mulungu site



Facing eviction. A side view of Mulungu Landing Site in Munyoyo. PHOTO BY JAMS KABENGWA

Protest. The site dwellers are however protesting the move saying it is aimed at stripping them of their rights as tenants.

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WAKISO. Buganda Land Board (BLB) is planning to repossess land at Mulungu Fishing Village, *Daily Monitor* has established.

The disputed land measuring 4.5 acres is currently managed by Munyonyo Fish Forkers Limited, but owned by BLB.

Vendors under Munyonyo Fish Forkers Limited, a private company occupied the area after relocating from Gaba Landing Site in 2001. At least 5,000 people owning lockups are operating at the landing site.

A source privy to a plan by BLB to reclaim the land intimated to *Daily Monitor* on Wednesday that the board is capitalising on the poor hygiene conditions at the landing site to kick out the current occupants ostensibly using officials from Kampala

Capital City Authority (KCCA)'s department of public health and environment.

On April 9, 2018, the KCCA's medical officer, Dr Daniel Okello Aye, issued a notice to Mulungu Landing Site managers citing inadequate sanitary facilities and generally labelling the landing site a "nuisance" area.

Management was ordered to check the deteriorating hygiene and undertake general renovations at the landing site in 28 days, failure of which they could be evicted from the area.

After receiving the KCCA notice, Ms Dizzy Mukasa, the chairperson of Mulungu Landing Site, said they swiftly started implementing what was lacking.

"But ridiculously, as soon as we started on the works, KCCA enforcement team arrived and stopped us, threatening to detain all our workers. We were left puzzled. This is when we started to question the intentions of KCCA," Ms Mukasa said.

Through their lawyers; Kavuma & Kabenge Advocates, the occupants of the landing site had earlier on April 20, written

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS

In 2003, KCC, the precursor to KCCA attempted to close the landing site, but an intervention from State House saved the sitting tenants. In 2006, the then Katikkiro of Buganda, Mr Dan Muliika, stopped a controversial meeting by some kingdom officials who were plotting to evict vendors at Mulungu landing site. Mr Matte Mukasa, who was the then acting Secretary BLB in 2001 granted permission to vendors uniting in Munyonyo Fish Forkers Ltd, but urged them to observe proper hygiene standards and to avoid criminal activities.

to KCCA asking for permission to renovate the landing site.

Four days later, they also wrote to BLB reminding them about their request to secure a lease.

"Our client applied to your

office for a lease at Mulungu Landing Site in 2013, but to date I have not got a response." the one-page letter reads in part.

"Our client was ordered by public health officers to renovate the above landing site. Our client is ready to comply with the orders of the public health; however, the said renovation cannot be done without permission from physical planning. We therefore humbly request you for a meeting," the letter adds.

However, none of the letters was reportedly replied to.

But Mr Dennis Bugaya, the legal manager and spokesperson of BLB in response, said: "Ask the management of the landing site to give you the documents they have in their possession, scrutinise them and write your story."

The current events have been described by managers of the landing site as a ploy by Mengo to deprive the common man of a recreation facility.

This has prompted the area MP Allan Ssewanyana to write to the KCCA Executive Director Ms Jennifer Musisi, on May 10, seeking her intervention.