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MUSEVENI HALTS PAYMENT OF SH20B TO VICTIMS OF NAKIVUBO FLOODS

By Eddie Ssejjoba

President Yoweri Museveni has halted payment of sh20b to 737 traders who lost merchandise to floods in downtown Kampala last year after it emerged that some names were missing on the list.

The payment was supposed to be finalised this week, but Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja said she had received complaints that some of the affected people were missing from the list. "We had prepared to pay them after our meeting on Thursday, but I received information that some people had been left out. I consulted the President, who told me to halt the payment and first listen to them," Nabbanja told journalists in her office on Friday. The meeting was also attended by the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Hillary Onek.

Nabbanja said the President still insisted that if there were any genuine concerns, they should be addressed.

"Because the varying lists had so many claimants, we had to find a means of harmonising these lists, so we forwarded them to the Internal Security Organisation (ISO) to verify them. I also appointed a number of technical people from Kampala CCA and from my office in the disaster preparedness department," Nabbanja explained.

Nabbanja said the President had pledged the sh20b after she toured the affected areas and briefed him about the extent of the damage.

MEETINGS, VARYING LISTS

To date, Nabbanja said she had convened seven separate meetings, during which time she received varying lists of the affected traders. Uganda Revenue Authority submitted a list of 360 beneficiaries, while the Kampala Capital City Authority had 480 and Kampala Capital City Traders Association had 420.

The Arcade Owners' Association list had 354 beneficiaries, while that of the Federation of Uganda Traders Associations had 2,050 people.


Prime Minister Nabbanja

GHOST NAMES

Nabbanja said some of the lists contained names of ghost traders. "When our technical teams called some of the phone contacts of people on some lists, they were found to be in Kakumiro, Masaka and other places. Others were vendors who did not even know about the floods," she said. Some of the buildings that were affected by the October 2025 floods in Kampala include: Pentagon City Plaza, Sekaziga Arcade, Nabukeera Plaza, Total Business Centre, Qualicell Bus Terminal, Jamboree Arcade and Juba Plaza. The others were Capital Centre, French Plaza, Freedom Centre, Nana Arcade, Premier Centre, Bogere House, Luswa House, Peter House, Winnie House and Fatuma House, plus St Balikuddembe Market.

On March 17, the President cleared her to go ahead and pay the verified victims, but during the Thursday meeting last week, other lists were brought in. "The complainants claimed that some traders, especially in Owino [St Balikuddembe] market, were not visited by the technical teams. When I told the President about the new development, he said 'yes you can give them some time," she explained.

She directed her team to display lists of verified names at her office, starting Saturday.

"We also intend to put the lists in the *New Vision* and other papers to be as transparent as possible," she explained.

Nabbanja assured the traders that harmonisation of the lists will be completed by tomorrow or Wednesday, followed by payment of the beneficiaries through banks.

She dismissed reports that the Government has spent the compensation money.

REPEAT

As the Government finalised compensation, fresh ones swept through the same area last week, damaging vehicles and goods worth billions of shillings. Environmentalists continue to blame the floods on the construction of structures on top of Nakivubo Channel.

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