

## Regional News

# Trade Order leaves poultry dealers in misery

Keeping unsold chickens means more money spent on feeds and care.

BY MONITOR TEAM

Uganda's poultry industry is facing a tough time following the ongoing implementation of the Trade Order.

The Trade Order, issued by the Ministry of Local Government on March 10, 2020, directs local authorities to restore order in urban areas by relocating traders operating on streets, pavements, verandas and other undesignated spaces to formal, gazetted markets. Objectives include cleaner streets, better food systems, fairer competition and stronger local revenue bases.

The policy is legally anchored in Section 27 of the Markets Act, Cap 94, and Section 95 of the Local Governments Act, Cap 243, which empowers authorities to designate trading areas, licence vendors and prohibit street trade that obstructs traffic or sanitation.

The enforcement began in Kampala and spread to other major towns, targeting roadside vendors, informal traders, and structures in road reserves.



A man sells chicken on Sir Samuel Baker Road in Gulu City. PHOTO/ TOBBIAS JOLLY OWINY

However, the recent eviction of roadside vendors has disrupted the market, leaving poultry farmers particularly struggling to find buyers for their eggs and chicken, according to a survey by this publication.

The impact of the Trade Order is being felt across the country. In Jinja, for instance, farmers and traders say the directive, while aimed at streamlining urban trade and improving city order, has inadvertently disrupted their primary market channels.

"We used to sell many trays of

eggs every morning to roadside vendors, but now you can spend two to three days without a single bulk buyer," says Mr James Kirya, a poultry farmer in Jinja City. "The market is no longer reliable, yet the birds must be fed daily."

Mr Paul Ngobi, another farmer, says the disruption caused by the Trade Order has increased operational costs.

"Keeping unsold chickens means more money spent on chicken feeds and care. We are incurring losses every day. Some of us are now forced to sell off our chickens cheaply just to avoid total losses," he says.

Ms Joan Nabirye, a trader in Mafubira in Jinja City who previously operated on the roadsides also expressed frustration following the directive.

"We understand the need for order in the city, but removing us without a clear alternative has affected everyone in the supply chain," she says. "Customers knew where to find us and farmers depended on us."

Ms Nabirye urges city authorities to adopt more inclusive approaches, emphasising that the solution lies not in eliminating vendors but in organising them.

"Roadside traders play a vital role in the local economy and should be supported through structured systems," she says.

In Gulu City, poultry dealers who previously operated on the roadside along Acholi Road, Cemetery Road and Gulu Avenue near Cerelenu market were forced to relocate to alternative places following their eviction recently.

While others moved to Layibi Central Market, some two kilometres away from the city centre along Gulu-Kampala highway, others relocated to Olayo and Lator markets in Bardege-Layibi Division.

"Our structures were demolished and people are scattered. Others have moved to Layibi market, some people moved to Gulu Main Market and others to Lator. The city council did not gazette

to earn at least Sh500,000 weekly from the sale of her broiler chicken to roadside vendors at Edito Trading Centre.

This all changed when the vendors were sent away from the streets following the implementation of the Trade Order.

"I have chickens but they are not being bought as they used to be," she said.

In Mukono, the situation is the same. Poultry dealers in the district are feeling the pinch too following the enforcement of the Trade Order that resulted in the eviction of many traders.

Ms Sarah Nansuba, a poultry farmer in Mukono, says the evictions have significantly affected her market.

"The number of clients has reduced. I decided to get people to help me look for markets in the trading centres, but still business is not moving well," she says.

Mr Okello, a roadside vendor near Stanbic Bank in Mukono Town, says his business has also been disrupted.

Mr Okello, who was once a large-scale buyer of live birds, says the evictions that came with the Trade Order have forced him to change his working hours.

"Before, I would start working at 3pm and sell until late in the night, serving many customers. But now, I wait until it gets dark at around 8pm to start selling the roasted chicken," he says.

In Masindi, the Trade Order has forced chicken traders to think outside the box.

Some have shifted their businesses to the main market, while others have turned their homes into workplaces. Ms Margaret Mugasa, who previously sold chicken from a temporary wooden structure near Masindi Town centre, relocated to the main market after local authorities warned traders against operating on verandas.

"I had no option but to shift because the enforcement became strict," she says.

Mr Jackson Ashaba, another trader in Masindi, opted to shift the business to his home after failing to secure affordable space in the market.

"Rent and market dues are expensive. So, I now sell chicken from home," he says.

Mr Fred Mukasa, another trader in Masindi, believes the directive has helped improve sanitation and order in town, although it has reduced customer numbers for his business.

"The changes have brought some order, but it's been tough for us traders," he says.

The government crackdown on roadside vendors has disrupted the poultry industry, leaving many farmers and traders struggling to find alternative markets. As the industry adjusts to the new normal, traders are exploring innovative ways to stay afloat.

Compiled by Bill Oketch, Tausi Nakato, Tobias Jolly Owiny, Felix Warom Okello, Clement Aluma, Al Mahdi Ssenkabiwa, Jessica Sabajo & Isma Bategeka

### TOUGH SAILING

The government crackdown on roadside vendors has disrupted the poultry industry, leaving many farmers and traders struggling to find alternative markets. As the industry adjusts to the new normal, traders are exploring innovative ways to stay afloat.

any specific spot for us," says Mr Richard Okok, a poultry dealer.

To get along, he recently acquired a pick-up vehicle to carry out mobile poultry sales.

"Now I load chicken on it every day to look for buyers because I don't have a permanent station anymore. Some of my fellow traders load chicken on motorcycles and ride around town or trace their clients from their restaurants and hotels," Mr Okok says.

In Lira City, most street vendors who roast and sell chicken, now only do so in late evenings.

In Soroti, chapati bakers and egg sellers are equally decrying the consequences of the Trade Order.

Mr Habib Okello, who makes chapati on Jamabhai Road, says the egg suppliers are literally out of business because their supply chain was badly hit by the prompt displacements.

In Arua City, chicken and eggs dealers are suffering too.

Ms Jennifer Adiru, who sells chicken and chips, says she used to earn a profit of Sh20,000 a day but her business has since declined following the displacement that came with the Trade Order.

"I may be forced to send my son to a vocational school because I may not afford school fees for A-Level. My income has been disrupted and I haven't got a better place to relocate to. My customers have gone," she says.

Ms Bridget Etyoraru, another trader in Arua City, says she used

NTV 20

THE SHOWS THAT  
KICK START YOUR  
MORNING

MORNING AT NTV

MON TO FRI 6 TO 9AM

WITH PRISCILLA  
R. NALWOGA



MON TO FRI 9 AM TO 10AM

WITH  
STELLA NANTE

FOR INQUIRIES, CONTACT US ON  
Email: customercare@ug.nationmedia.com  
or call 0312 301296

YGO MTN Stream Live On The YOTVAPP