

TRADERS PLAN TO STOP PAYING LICENCE FEES BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT MAKING PROFITS

KABALE

By Job Namanya

Traders operating on Garage Street Market in Kabale municipality have expressed concern over the appalling state of the market.

The market, commonly known as Owino, operates daily with several merchandise, including clothes, shoes, fresh, dry foods and charcoal. The traders say the market's roof is old and leaks whenever it rains. As a result, they lose their fresh produce which they leave on the stalls.

The say whenever it rains, the whole area floods, barring customers from accessing it. The traders accuse the Kabale municipal council of turning a deaf ear to the problem.

According to Molly Tusingwire, one of the traders dealing in fresh foods, the recent flooding has blocked most of the buyers from accessing the market.

Tusingwire says due to low or no returns, she has been unable to provide for her family because she primarily depends on the market business.

"There is nothing hard like conducting business during the rainy season. At times a day ends without earning as little as sh5,000. How shall we survive in such conditions? Tusingwire asked.

Vanansio Mbabazi, another trader who deals in clothes, says last year, the municipal council increased annual licence fees from sh64,000 to sh84,000 with promises that the market would be upgraded.

Mbabazi, however, says the municipal council has never bothered to pour even a single wheelbarrow of murram to prevent flooding. He says

Kabale traders worried over flooded market



Kabale traders make losses whenever it rains because floods destroy their merchandise

the traders plan to stop paying licence fees since they are also not making any profit after buyers abandoned the market due to floods.

Evelyn Byamukama, one of customers, says she had to brave the floods to buy

clothes for her children. "I find it hard to buy from this market lately. If nothing is done, I may not return," she says.

When contacted, the Kabale municipality mayor, Emmanuel Sentaro Byamugisha, referred the reporter to the

central division principal assistant town clerk, James Twinamasiko, saying it is the division's responsibility to rehabilitate the market. However, Twinamasiko said he would comment on the matter at a later date.