



Hygiene. Members of Mukono Corporates club clean major streets in the town recently. PHOTO BY JESSICA SABANO

Residents choke on garbage

Funding. Leaders say they are limited by funds to ensure proper garbage collection.

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MUKONO. Mukono Municipality leaders are grappling with garbage collection amid limited resources to keep the town clean.

Huge piles of uncollected garbage have been left littered on various streets as some areas in the town are covered by a filthy stench.

Daily Monitor has reliably learnt that the town has only three garbage trucks which authorities say are not enough to collect all the garbage generated in the municipality.

Available statistics indicate that the municipal authorities can only collect 46.7 per cent of 150 tonnes of garbage generated in the town every day. This implies that 80 tonnes (53.3 per

cent) remain uncollected.

Mr Fred George Kagimu, the Mukono Municipality mayor, said due to limited funds, they can only collect garbage in Mukono and Seeta towns.

"We still have a big problem in as far as garbage collection is concerned. Apart from the town centre and parts of Seeta Town where our trucks reach, garbage generated in other areas such as Jogo, Bukerere and Njerere is not collected at all," Mr Kagimu said.

According to Kagimu, two of the three garbage trucks are attached to central division while the other operates in Goma Division which covers Seeta Town.

"These trucks have served for more than 20 years and regularly break down. If we had funds, we could have replaced them long time ago, they can no longer compress the garbage" he said.

Mr Kagimu said the issue of garbage in Mukono has been exacerbated by the rapidly growing population.

"We need to come up with strategies to involve private garbage collectors to tackle this problem before it is too late," he said.

The municipal deputy mayor, Mr Kajoba Jamada, said they need to purchase two more garbage trucks to ease the process of garbage collection.

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According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics, by 2002, Mukono Municipality's population stood at 46,506 people and it jumped to 161,996 twelve years later.

Currently, 200,000 people are estimated to be residents in the municipality and this number is expected to double in the next 10 years.

Mr Kajoba revealed that they

currently spend Shs9 million per month on garbage collection, of which Shs5m Goma Division alone.

He appealed to the public to sort garbage and separate empty plastic bottles from decomposing material, saying it will help reduce the cost of collecting garbage by 50 per cent.

"We also need to sensitise people on how best they can manage their garbage even before we come to collect it," he said.

Ms Bitamisi Muteresa, a council or for Ggulu Ward, said local leaders ought to encourage residents to pack garbage in sacks to make it easy for collection.

"I have personally started this campaign in my area and several residents have already started packing garbage in sacks," she said.

Mr Ben Muwonge, a businessman in Mukono Town says although garbage collection has improved compared to previous years, a lot still needs to be done to keep the town clean.