

Mityana market vendors lack toilets

Dire. More than 1,000 vendors at Mityana Central Market have been operating without toilet facilities for the last 18 years.

BY BARBRA NALWAYISO
& MOSES MUWULYA
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

MITYANA. Ms Aisha Nakazibwe, a vendor at Mityana Central Market in Mityana District, braves a downpour to visit a toilet, half a kilometre away from her stall.

She has had to endure this ordeal for nearly two decades since the market lacks toilets.

“My baby disappeared as I had visited the toilet one day. No one noticed that she was missing until the local council leaders recovered her,” she said last week.

Ms Nakazibwe’s experience is shared by more than 1,000 vendors, who operate at the market.

Mityana Central Market, which is the biggest and busiest market in the town, last had toilet facilities in 2000, when Mityana Municipal Council leaders pulled it down.

Mr Isaiah Wadilibo, the Mityana Municipality health inspector, said the facility had been built in a ‘wrong location.’

“The council, together with all stakeholders, decided to put up a toilet in the taxi park for both market vendors and taxi operators as we



Not suited. A public toilet at Mityana Taxi Park in Mityana District. PHOTO BY JESSICA NABUKENYA

look for a better place to construct a modern toilet for the vendors,” Mr. Wadilibo said in an interview last Friday.

Inconvenient

But Ms Angella Nakazibwe, the leader of women vendors in the market, said many vendors find it challenging to use the facility, which is 500 metres away from the market.

“This distance is long for a person who is badly-off. Some of our colleagues are suffering from seri-

ous diseases such as diabetes while others are in advanced age which makes it difficult for them to move such a distance to ease themselves,” Ms Nakazibwe said.

While some vendors use the taxi park toilets during the day, Mr Dan Ssewaali, a vendor, said many of them use polythene bags, which they throw away in drainage channels at night.

“Imagine what happens when it rains. We risk catching diseases such as cholera, which has already hit some parts of the country,” Mr

Ssewaali said. He wondered why the market leaders have remained indifferent to their plight yet “they are aware of what we go through.”

Concerned

Mr Abasi Kazibwe, a Central Ward councillor, said he is equally worried about the poor sanitation standards at the market.

However, Ms Esther Ndyanabo, the Mityana municipality mayor, explained that plans are underway to build a public toilet for vendors as well as expanding the market.

“

In our plan, we have to demolish some structures around that market so that we build permanent buildings and a modern public toilet.”

ESTHER NDYANABO,
MITYANA
MUNICIPALITY MAYOR

Resident
farms o

KYENJOJO.
ership of sev
Ganyinayo i
taken a new
Last weel-
of a promin-
cent Mugi-
bing their
Ms Joy
dent of C
District, i
resident
evicting
“Mug
husbar
could
dren
Octo
since
don
Kab
mis-
rec

ug
N
e
j