

# KCCA DECOMMISSIONS ILLEGAL MAKINDYE DUMPSITE

PHOTO BY RONNIE KIJAMBU

By Juliet Waiswa

Kampala's garbage problem has long been a thorny issue. Under the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) Act (2011), the authority is responsible for ensuring a clean, habitable and sustainable environment in the city.

However, according to KCCA, the city generates about 2,500 tonnes of garbage daily, yet only about 1,200 tonnes are collected by garbage trucks. The uncollected waste usually ends up in inappropriate locations, including drainage channels, compounding the city's sanitation issues.

In a move aimed at improving sanitation, KCCA has decommissioned an illegal dumpsite in the Makindye division-based Bukasa parish, Kasanvu zone. The authority said the over 20-year-old dumpsite was becoming a health threat to the community.

KCCA executive director Hajat Sharifah Buzeki, during the weekly *Weyonje* campaign in Makindye division, told a



Hajat Buzeki (right) speaking to the residents during the weekly 'Weyonje' campaign in Makindye, Kampala, on Saturday. KCCA collects only 1,200 tonnes of city garbage

property owner, the Uganda Railways Corporation (URC), to take charge of their land after the decommissioning of the site.

Buzeki told residents that the garbage heap would be no more within a fortnight and warned residents against

dumping at the site again. However, she urged URC officials, who were part of the cleaning exercise, to ensure that the place is guarded and fenced off to deter fresh dumping.

Buzeki also warned the community against dumping

garbage in the drainage channels and that they face arrest in case found doing so.

Makindye town clerk Thomas Ssentongo warned local leaders, saying soliciting money for garbage collection from residents is illegal. He said charging fees is the

## LEADERS SPEAK OUT

The Makindye mayor, Yasin Omar, said due to the limited budget, the city leadership cannot handle garbage alone and needs partners.

Omar said the decommissioning of the dumpsite might encourage residents to use drainage channels as an alternative.

C-Care Uganda chief executive officer Azhar Sundhoo said they partnered with KCCA two years ago to have garbage cleared in certain sections of the city.

The city authority has of recent undertaken the *Weyonje* campaign, where KCCA is promoting a shared responsibility model. Under this initiative, the authority provides waste collection services and enforces regulations, while residents are expected to maintain clean frontages and dispose of waste properly. KCCA officials say a lasting change will depend on consistent public co-operation.

preserve of KCCA.

The URC principal safety, health and environment officer, Richard Nkuna, said they are committed as they work on the railway line.

## WASTE COLLECTION RATE

The collection rate for solid waste in Kampala has greatly improved, rising from 35%

in 2016 to 59% in 2023, according to KCCA data. This progress has been largely attributed to partnerships with the private sector.

Residents have been urged to make use of designated collection points and avoid littering. Uncollected waste ends up blocking drainage channels in the city.