

PRESS STATEMENT

BY THE HON. MINISTER FOR KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS ON THE CONTINUATION OF TRADE ORDER ENFORCEMENT IN KAMPALA, 28TH APRIL 2026.

I wish to address the general public regarding the ongoing enforcement of Trade Order in Kampala Capital City and the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (GKMA) in relation to the pronouncements made in Parliament on 24th April 2026 on the same subject.

Following my earlier directive on restoring Trade Order in the city on 5th February 2026, the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) immediately undertook an exercise aimed at reorganizing the conduct of trade, decongesting the Central Business District, and ensuring that business operations are conducted in designated and lawful spaces.

This intervention has already yielded visible and measurable gains like improved sanitation, enhanced public safety, increased accessibility of roads and walkways, and a more orderly business environment as will be detailed by KCCA.

I am aware that the Ministry of Local Government adopted similar measures across the country. I am equally aware of concerns that have risen regarding the matter of implementation in some areas outside Kampala, leading to a directive to halt the exercise.

However, following the 24th April 2026 pronouncements by Hon. David Bahati, that government has suspended the

implementation of Trade Order, a lot of anxiety erupted threatening the gains achieved in the past two months.

This matter was brought to the attention of Cabinet on 27th April 2026 to seek further guidance on the matter. Cabinet pronounced that Trade Order is **nonnegotiable**.

Cabinet agreed that, Kampala is the Capital City of Uganda and the face of our nation. The standards we set here must reflect order, discipline, and structured economic activity. The progress made so far must not be reversed, otherwise we shall have lost the gains so far achieved with Trade Order.

Accordingly, I hereby direct as follows:

1. The enforcement of Trade Order in Kampala shall continue without interruption.
2. The Executive Director of KCCA is instructed to ensure that all gains achieved are firmly maintained and protected.
3. Enforcement teams must remain firm, consistent, and professional, ensuring that operations are conducted within the law and with respect for human dignity.
4. All traders are reminded to operate strictly within gazetted markets, arcades, and designated trading areas.
5. Any attempts to return to illegal street vending, road encroachment, or disorderly trade practices will be dealt with decisively.

As such Kampala Capital City will go on with the enforcement of Trade Order, and anyone who wishes to disrupt Trade order and its operations, shall be dealt with accordingly.

The Minister for Local Government shall provide further guidance to Local Governments across the country on the smooth implementation under the guidance of the Rt. Hon Prime Minister.

PROGRESS OF THE TRADE ORDER IN KAMPALA

On 19th February 2026, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) commenced the implementation of the Government directive to restore trade order in our city. Today, I am pleased to report significant progress achieved in this effort, thanks to the cooperation of traders, business associations, security agencies, and the general public.

1. Reduced congestion and obstructions:

Major business areas across all five divisions have been cleared of illegal vending and irregular road/walkway obstructions. The Central Business District - particularly Luwum Street, Namirembe Road, Ben Kiwanuka Street, Nakivubo Road, and Allen Road, is now orderly. Similar progress has been registered in trading centres of Kawempe (Kalerwe–Bwaise), Makindye (Kibuye, Kansanga, Kabalagala, Bunga, Munyonyo), Lubaga (Busega, Natete, Kabusu, Ndeeba), and Nakawa (Ntinda, Kiwatule, Luzira).

2. Re-greening and beautification:

Spaces once occupied by vendors have been restored and beautified. The Non-Motorized Transport corridor from Luwum Street to Namirembe Road has undergone a major greening, paving and painting uplift, enhancing the city's aesthetics and pedestrian experience.

3. Increased uptake of market spaces:

Of the 2,520 workspaces announced and prepared in KCCA markets in November 2025, 1,663 have already been taken up by new vendors with a balance of 857 spaces available. This demonstrates growing confidence in formalized trading and structured market systems. We have also started re-allocating workspaces that have not been utilized in the markets for over 90 days as provided under section 22 of the Markets Act 2023. This exercise started in Busega Market where 107 spaces had been unutilized. Vendors with legitimate reasons for abandoning workspaces can submit their appeal to the Allocation committees for the particular market. It is to the same committee that new applicants lodge their requests.

We are yet to establish the up take in the 69 private markets.

4. Business formalization and revenue growth

Compliance to local revenue contribution has improved markedly. In the period of February 19th 2026 to 27th April, 2026 KCCA registered **22,909 new business licenses worth UGX 5.07 billion**, compared to 15,628 licenses worth UGX 3.9 billion in the same period from December 2025 prior. This **146%** improvement is clear evidence of increased formalization and enhanced revenue mobilization for the city.

5. Infrastructure repair and maintenance

Walkways and roads previously obstructed by illegal vending have been repaired, improving mobility and safety for all road users.

6. Improved waste management and drainage

The removal of irresponsible street vending practices has reduced indiscriminate waste disposal. As a result, storm water runoff into the drainage systems has improved. Nakivubo Channel drainage performance has improved significantly, even during heavy rains averaging 30mm per downpour – as reported by Makerere University Department of Meteorology. The Average storm water retention period across the city during heavy downpours is now less than 15 minutes.

7. Public Transport Order

KCCA is in the final stages of engaging all stakeholders and putting in place the necessary structures to implement trade order within the public transport arena. This includes gazetting formal boda-boda stages and ensuring taxi operations comply fully with designated parks and terminals providing for bus transport.

We sincerely thank the Business Community, Business Association leaders, Security agencies (Uganda Police & UPDF), and the general public for their support and cooperation. These achievements are a collective success, reflecting our shared commitment to building a vibrant, attractive, livable, and sustainable Kampala.

At KCCA, we pledge not to backtrack. Enforcement will remain firm, consistent, and people-centered. Together, we shall continue to safeguard livelihoods, strengthen consumer protection, and uphold the dignity of our capital city.

**AVAILABLE SPACES IN KCCA MARKETS AS AT 27TH APRIL
2026**

| Sr | Market | Previously available spaces | Allocated Spaces | Available |
|-----------|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Nakawa | 100 | 100 | 0 |
| 2 | Luzira | 120 | 12 | 108 |
| 3 | Ntinda New | 100 | 20 | 80 |
| 4 | Usafi | 1,000 | 891 | 109 |
| 5 | City Abattoir | 200 | 65 | 135 |
| 6 | Kamwokya | 250 | 100 | 150 |
| 7 | Busega | 500 | 425 | 75 |
| 8 | Wandegeya | 250 | 50 | 200 |
| | | 2520 | 1663 | 857 |

For God and My Country

Hon. Minsa Kabanda

**MINISTER FOR KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AND METROPOLITAN
AFFAIRS**