

CITY DRAINAGE

Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) has identified 68 flooding hotspots across all five city divisions and has called for urgent intervention during the rainy seasons, write **Juliet Waiswa and Gerald Tenywa.**

Margret Semukutu, a resident of Central zone in Nalukolongo, Rubaga division in Kampala, is torn between two worlds. During the dry season, it is hot and dusty, but in the rainy season, floods take over. The rainy season always comes with the fear of drowning and diseases.

Semukutu is also hopeful that Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) will honour their promise and fix Nalukolongo drainage channel that always directs water into their houses.

Semukutu is one of the thousands suffering as the rainy season comes with riotous water, which causes floods in the low-lying areas of Kampala. The water comes from the leafy suburbs on the hills and encounters road blocks or barriers in the roads with silted drainage channels. The drainage channels are sometimes too small to allow passage of water. In some cases, they are clogged with solid waste, such as plastics.

This is what happened when rains pounded Kampala two weeks ago.

“When the city was hit by floods two weeks ago, there was pandemonium. Due to the clogged drainage channel, water is diverted into our houses and our property gets destroyed,” Semukutu told *New Vision*.

The floods also ended the lives of eight people in Greater Kampala and destroyed property worth millions of shillings.

For example, they displaced pupils of Nateete Muslim Primary School from their classrooms.

INTERVENTIONS

It is against this background that KCCA has come up to list 68 flooding hotspots that the city dwellers should be mindful of during this rainy season.

The hotspots in all the five divisions of Kampala affect

KCCA NAMES 68 FLOOD HOTSPOTS IN KAMPALA



Lord Mayor Lukwago



Rubaga mayor Mberaze

schools, homes, factories, hotels, health facilities and supermarkets, among others.

While presenting a status report on the challenges of the Kampala drainage system at City Hall, the executive secretary of planning and civil works at KCCA, John Mary Ssebuwufu, said 68 flood spots need urgent attention.

The hotspots include Lugogo Bypass, Family Loaf Nateete (Rubaga), Mukwano Road (Kampala Central), Soya Buunga (Makindye), Ntinda factory close (Nakawa), Golf Course (Nakivubo) and Northern Bypass.

There have been several attempts to address the flooding problems in Kampala.

“In 2016, KCCA, with support from the World Bank, developed the Kampala Drainage Master Plan (KDMP) that highlighted key priorities for short, medium and long term drainage improvement, but up to now, this has not been implemented,” Ssebuwufu said during his presentation.

He explained that one year to the end of the implementation period of 10 years, KDMP has continuously been clustered under the unfunded priorities in the national budget.

Kampala floods hotspots

CENTRAL	
1	Station Approach Uganda Railway Corporation area
2	Katwe Road around Usafi
3	Sebaana Road at Total Energies and Container Village
4	Kyagwe road at Mukwano Mall
5	Kampala Road along Simba Telecom
6	Baguma restaurant road behind the French Embassy
7	Kamwokya along Kira road near Kamwokya Market
8	Owino Market
9	Jinja road traffic lights
10	Kitante channel /Golf course box culvert
11	Old Kira road crossing
12	Nsoona channel
13	Tertiary and road side channels
KAWEMPE	
14	Nakamiro crossing along Nabweru road
15	Kawaala Link road crossing along Kiwuunya
16	Northern Bypass along Kiwuunya channel
17	Passover section along Nsooba channel
18	Kisingiri road crossing along Nsooba channel
19	Kubiri road along Katanga channel
20	Bombo road Kavule along Katanga channel
21	Mutebi road crossing along Katanga
22	Mambule road section along Lubigi channel

23	Kalerwe section along Lubigi channel
24	Bwaise section along Lubigi Channel
25	Seroma Crossing along Lubigi channel
26	Kawaala road flyover crossing along Lubigi
27	Lumansi road crossing along Kiyanja secondary channel
28	Tertiary and road side channels
RUBAGA	
29	Natate Muslim, Family Loaf, Natete Park, Natete Police
30	Nafuka Zone Kajunbi Central A
31	Kosovo trading centre, Vanguard - dana road along Liberty bridge
32	Biyem Hotel crossing Nsibambi road
33	Tertiary and road side Channels
34	Elina Junior School, NWSC offices along Masaka road
35	Kasubi Namungoona
36	Ndeeba Butaala crossing, Diniya
MAKINDYE	
37	Soya Bunga along Kansanga channel
38	Kanyogoga Nakivubo channel
39	Kitalanga downstream to Heritage
40	Nabutitib section to Kirombe Soweto
41	Kabalagala Johnrich along Kasanha channel
42	Water pump section along Kansanga channel
43	Kirombe crossing along Kansanga channel
44	Ggaba Mission/ Basimwa Fred along Kasansanga

45	Nkere channel/ Hanlon road crossing
46	Kibulli Police crossing along Kayunga channel
47	Namuwongo Behind Mantrac and Monitor
48	Namuwongo go down
49	Mukwano road
50	Kosovo
51	St. Ponsiano
52	Kabuuma section
53	Bukejje
54	Cape Villas road, Munyonyo Road Auto Spa
55	Tertiary and road side channels
NAKAWA	
56	Lugogo Bypass / signal intersection
57	Nagulu Link road/ Shoprite
58	Jinja road at Oxgas
59	Jinja road at Banda Moil opposite Yoshino
60	Ntinda 1 Drainage / Spear Motors Jinja road
61	Jinja road at Fabrication Systems
62	Bukoto Health Centre drainage
63	Kinawataka road Washing bay Katoogo junction
64	Mutungo Zone 12, Nyakana channel
65	Ntinda Factory Close, Gentex at Kyambogo
66	Canaan and Palm Village along Kinawataka
67	Mulwana road/ UBC channel
68	Tertiary and road side channels

sh827b
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Ssebuwufu said the Government has not provided any funds towards the construction of the eight

primary drainage channels.

The World Bank, under the Kampala Institutional and Infrastructure Development Projects 2017, funded the construction of Lubigi Channel at sh62b and Nakamiro secondary channel at sh20b. There was concern that shoddy work was done on the Lubigi drainage channel.

LORD MAYOR'S CONCERNS

During a meeting on Thursday, Kampala Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago told journalists that most of the flood-prone areas were drainage channels and wetlands that have been encroached on by city tycoons.

He said construction near Nakivubo Channel has worsened floods at St

Balikuddembe market and Kafumbe Mukasa Road.

Other areas encroached on by tycoons, Lukwago said, include Shoprite (Garden City), Munyonyo and Soya Bunga.

“One of the major challenges facing the drainage system in Kampala is the rampant encroachment of the drainage channels and wetlands, largely by city tycoons,” Lukwago said.

He said the implementation of the KDMP requires sh83.6b, which the Government is yet to provide.

Lukwago said the money provided by the Government is not enough to cater for the maintenance of the existing drainage channels, save for

this current financial year, where sh27b was allocated to drainage improvements.

He said the allocation to KCCA in the next financial year (2025/26) is sh827b and nothing has been set aside for the construction of any primary drainage channel in Kampala.

KAMPALA'S PRIMARY CHANNELS

Kampala has eight primary channels: Nalukolongo (Rubaga), Nakivubo (Kampala Central), Lubigi (Kawempe), Kansanga (Makindye), Mayanja Kaliddubi (Makindye), Nalubaga (Nakawa), Kinawataka (Nakawa) and Walufumbe (Nakawa).

INTERVENTIONS

At the beginning of last month, KCCA sealed off the box culvert at Family Loaf in Nateete, Rubaga division to have part of the channel widened.

At Nalukolongo, water from parts of Rubaga, Ndeeba and Entebbe Road drains into the Lubigi wetland system.

To mitigate persistent flooding in Nateete on Old Masaka Road in Rubaga division, KCCA began construction of a box culvert at Family Loaf on the Nalukolongo main drainage channel.

The project will involve widening the channel and, authorities say, the road will be closed, which will significantly affect traffic flow in Nateete and surrounding areas.

Nippon Constructors company and KCCA engineers are undertaking the works, Rubaga division mayor Zacchy Mberaze said.

He said this has been long overdue and he wants the works near Family Loaf, which are expected to take three months, to be expedited.

KCCA has, however, proposed deploying in-house teams, contractors and city youth savings groups to desilt all the 68 drainage channels during the rainy season.

ASSESSMENT NEEDED

Richard Kimbowa, the Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development executive director, said in Kampala there is a relationship between the city's hilly terrain and the downstream areas such as wetlands and lakes where water is stored after rains.

He said a social and environment impact assessment study should be conducted before work starts.

Kimbowa said Nakivubo Channel, which was widened two decades ago as a solution to end flooding, ended up causing floods in Namuwongo and Murchison Bay.

“The Nakivubo Channel has become an eyesore as it carries solid waste and effluent to the lake,” Kimbowa said.