

# Owino market won't be demolished – Buzeki

By Simon Peter Tumwine  
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No one will evict vendors or demolish St Balikuddembe Market, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) executive director Sharifah Buzeki has stated.

The KCCA executive director made the assurance on Saturday while addressing leaders of St Balikuddembe Market vendors at Nakivubo Settlement Primary School in Kampala.

“It is not true that Owino [St Balikuddembe Market] will be demolished. KCCA is at the forefront of ensuring that all street vendors and hawkers start operating from markets. Why should we demolish an existing one?” she said.

Buzeki's assurance came days after a building on the boundary of the market was demolished by unknown people.

“As KCCA, we have never issued anyone with a demolition permit of Owino market. The demolition was illegal.

“Police arrested all those that took part in demolishing part of the market. They will be arraigned before the courts of law to explain on whose orders they were operating,” she said.

During the meeting, the



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KCCA executive director further revealed that her office is in possession of the land title for the market, adding that the vendors should, therefore, not worry.

## VENDORS SPEAK

During the meeting, the leaders raised concerns of constant threats from agents of a city tycoon, lack of toilets in the market, insecurity, as well as

poor information flow from KCCA to the traders, among others.

However, Buzeki assured the market leaders that official communication from KCCA to the traders is always through the leaders, who are commonly known as market masters.

## COMPENSATION

Meanwhile, KCCA started registering vendors who were affected by the recent demolitions yesterday.

This followed a directive from Buzeki during her Saturday visit to the demolished part of the market, where she ordered that the vendors be registered for compensation.

She also ordered for the demolition of the remaining part of the affected building, saying it was dangerous for the vendors to work under a structure that is partly demolished.

The KCCA executive director said the demolition will be done by KCCA under the protection of the Police.

Emmanuel Kasule, the spokesperson of the market vendors, expressed worry over the possibility of the wrong people being compensated.

Kasule said it would be prudent for the team handling the registration to go to the ground and work with the leaders of the affected vendors.