

By Moses Kigongo

Business flood victims assured of compensation in three weeks

PHOTO BY MOSES KIGONGO

The Government has assured traders affected by floods in downtown Kampala that their long-awaited compensation will be released within the next three weeks.

The assurance was revealed by leaders of the Federation of Uganda Traders' Association (FUTA) during a press conference held on Monday afternoon. The briefing was convened to call off a planned strike that traders had scheduled for Wednesday in protest over delays in compensation.

"We met finance minister Matia Kasaija last Thursday at the ministry headquarters in Kampala and he promised that the Government would release compensation funds for flood victims within three weeks," John Kabanda, the FUTA chairperson, said.

Kabanda explained that the meeting was also attended by members of the Joint Intelligence Committee led by the Internal Security Organisation (ISO). The discussions focused on harmonising the list of affected traders and agreeing on the

BETWEEN THE LINES

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modalities for compensation.

He urged traders to remain calm and call off the strike, emphasising that the Government had demonstrated commitment to resolving the matter before the end of next month.

The Joint Intelligence Committee held another meeting with leaders of the flood victims on Saturday, where they finalised the processes required to release the funds. A report from the meeting was subsequently shared with key government institutions, including the



Kabanda (second-right) with other association members display a letter received from finance ministry on compensation of flood victims. This was during a press conference held on Monday

Office of the Prime Minister, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Kampala and Metropolitan Affairs.

However, when contacted, Apollo Munghinda, the

principal communications officer at the finance ministry, neither confirmed nor denied the reported commitment.

In earlier engagements, Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja had already assured traders that government would

compensate them for their losses. During her visit to the affected areas in downtown Kampala, she emphasised that beyond compensation, government would also address the root causes of flooding.

She pledged to work with KCCA engineers to improve the city's drainage system, particularly to ensure proper water flow and prevent future flooding incidents.

HOW CRISIS BEGAN

The compensation demands stem from heavy rains that recently triggered severe flooding across several parts of downtown Kampala, particularly in low-lying areas and basement shops.

The floods hit major business arcades including Totala, Qualicel, Nabukeera and Jesco.

Traders reported losing goods, such as baby clothes, shoes, mattresses and other household items, leaving a number of traders with significant financial losses.

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