

**Press Statement:**

February 2, 2022

NEMA stops illegal activity at Mpala-Katabi on Nambigirwa wetland

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has stopped a private developer from encroaching on part of Nambigirwa wetland at Mpala Cell-Kitala Ward, Katabi Town, Wakiso District. The intervention follows public outcry from residents who had complained of noise and dust caused by trucks moving to and from the site.

Environment inspectors dispatched to the site on February 1, 2022, inspected the site and discovered that the developer had not undertaken Environment and Social Impact Assessment, contrary to provisions of the National Environment Act, No 5 2019.

The works have been stopped and arrests have been made of those found on site. Two excavators have been impounded and preliminary investigations indicate that the site belongs to a one Dr. Cedric, who decided to clear the swamp in order to protect his residence from snakes and other reptiles that had become a threat to his family and cattle. These, however, are not grounds for anyone to destroy a wetland as prescribed by the law. Investigations into the matter, including fully identifying the owner of the site, continue.

The Nambigirwa wetland ecosystem is important for the health of Lake Victoria. Wetlands protect shores from wave action, reduce impacts of floods and improve water quality. They also provide a natural habitat for fish, plants and other forms of unique biodiversity.

On September 2, 2021 NEMA indefinitely suspended the receipt, issuance and consideration for all projects within wetlands. The suspension was undertaken to reduce pressure on wetlands and to enable Government build capacity to regulate developments in wetlands.


We thank the public for being vigilant and urge citizens to continue reporting environmental breaches within our communities. Together, we shall ensure sustainable socio-economic transformation of our nation.

Ends

For more information:

National Environment Management Authority
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ANNEX 1: Letter from the area local government



MPALA CELL – KITALA WARD
KATABI TOWN COUNCIL
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P.O.BOX 36 ENTEBBE
WAKISO DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Your Ref:
Our Ref: MP/0076/22 Date: 25th/01/22

THE MAYOR,
KATABI TOWN COUNCIL
ENTEBBE

RE: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES BEING UNDERTAKEN AT NAMBIGIRWA SWAMP BY DR. CEDRIC AS ON 25/01/2022.

I first got the information on 22/01/2022 when one of the residents called me that a number of Sino-Trucks were continuously making a lot of noise for a number of days late evening and that the whole neighbor-hood of the route used by these trucks was very dusty.

I visited the scene the following day with the Defence Secretary to find out what was taking place, but unfortunately I was informed that the owner and his engineers were not present by then. I called the owner of the premises who accepted to meet me on 25/01/2022 at 9:00 a.m.


Now in a meeting with Dr. Cedric and his engineers I have been informed that:

- Ever since he bought that residence he has encountered and witnessed snakes killing his animals (cattle and goats) and also other dangerous reptiles a threat to his life and family. In so doing he has informed me that his act was not to destroy the environment, but after a careful research, to extend/push this habitat for dangerous reptiles by:
 - ❖ Clearing away the swamp surrounding his residence some metres away;
 - ❖ Further remove all that possible waste beneath that patch of water now exposed;
 - ❖ Intends to fetch sand from another source and dump it in that patch of water now created thus creating a new habitat for fish.
 - ❖ That at the extreme end now bordering the swamp, he intends to fill it with hard core stones to prevent possible regrowth of swamp in this treated patch.
 - ❖ That his intention is not to destroy the existing ecosystem but to protect his life and that of his family and animals but at the same time create a conducive environment next to the swamp.
 - ❖ That in final stages of this venture he intends to plant trees and flowers at the entire perimeter of his residence.
 - ❖ That whatever is being done is in a well-planned manner and will ensure there is constant watering of the routes being used by trucks to avoid excessive dust against the community.

I concluded this one-hour meeting with this resident and his engineers who were receptive and promised to work hand in hand with other relevant authorities.

ALBERT MUGAMBWA
Chairman-Mpala Cell

C.C Environment officer Katabi IC
C.C Kitala Ward.


LC1 CHAIRPERSON
MPALA CELL
KITALA WARD
KATABI TOWN COUNCIL
WAKISO DISTRICT
Date: 25th/01/22 Mugambwa /man

For Sustainable Services in the Village of Mpala