



The Republic of Uganda

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
**MINISTRY OF KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

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**22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2022**

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **KCCARESCUES 194 CHILDREN FROM THE STREET**

On Wednesday April 20, 2022 Kampala Capital City Authority undertook an operation to rescue children from the streets of Kampala. During this operation 194 children mainly from Karamoja were picked from Wandegaya, Kabalagala and Jinja Road and transported to **Kobulin Youth Skills Center in Napak district** for counselling and rehabilitation. They will later be reunited with their families.

Kobulin is a Government Rehabilitation Centre overseen by the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development in Napak District. The objective of the Center is to provide skills and empower marginalized young people to improve on their livelihoods. The Centre mainly serves the Karamoja Sub Region in North Eastern Uganda.

This initiative by KCCA and its partners aim to save the children from abuse and child trafficking. It has been established that majority of these children are forced on the streets by traffickers who use them to beg for money.

It has been established that the mothers of these children give them up to be used as beggars on the streets and traffickers pay UGX 5000 per child per day.

There is cheap accommodation (makeshifts) in Katwe, Kisenyi or Makindye mainly operated by fellow Karimojong making it easy for children to stay in Kampala at minimal costs.

In July 2021 more than 170 children were rescued from the streets by KCCA and taken for rehabilitation. During the March 2020 lockdown, KCCA conducted a similar exercise rescuing over 85 children.

Child begging is controlled by treacherous cartels and mafias operating unchecked in different parts of the Country. At least 6 (six) of these traffickers have been arrested and prosecuted.

Government appeals to the public to stop giving money to street children in a bid to discourage them from returning to the street. According to accounts of the rescued children, they are given daily targets for their begging trips.

I urge all kind hearted Ugandans to think twice about giving money directly to the begging children. That coin or note you give is what keeps the child on the street, to the benefit of the trafficker who rides on your sympathy and to the detriment of the child!

Government and its partners continue to rescue children from the streets despite the complex nature of the cartels and mafias behind this act.

All children need to be protected from exploitation and abuse as statistics have shown that most street children often turn to criminality

as a way of survival hence ending up in prison as young adults.

Street children are vulnerable to exploitation and exposed to criminal activities such as theft, child labor, selling intoxicants or become agents of crime. Existence of street children has negative impact on both the children and public. Street children are major security risk to property and people.

In 2019, Kampala Capital City Authority passed the Kampala Child Protection Ordinance 2019, which criminalizes children loitering in public places, begging or soliciting, giving money (handouts) to street beggars, vending or hawking, and bans the sale of alcohol and drugs to children. The ordinance is yet to be gazzeted and we start implementing it.

As KCCA, we call upon everyone to play their part in making sure we get children off the street into safe spaces where they can thrive into gainful Ugandans and in turn achieve a *smart city*.

**For A Better City**



Hon. Kabuye Kyofa

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