



THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE



NEMA MAKES GIANT STEP AS SUSPECTS PLEAD GUILTY FOR DEGRADING LWAJJALI WETLAND

KAMPALA, 4th July, 2024: The Chief Magistrates Standards, Utilities & Wildlife Court in Makindye has remanded two suspects Kerim Ray and Eric Avunalo to Luzira Prison until July 15th.

The two are accused of violating the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) conditions given by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); and also depositing marram into Lwajjali Wetland. The two pleaded guilty to the offenses.

Kerim is the director for a Turkish company Yaman Construction Ltd; while Avunalo is manager Rockbuild Ltd, a contractor for site clearing. The two were, on 30th June, found backfilling Lwajjali Wetland in Gongobe Village, Goma Division, Sseeta Parish, Mukono Municipality in Mukono District.

Yaman Construction Ltd is a concrete products manufacturing factory that was issued an ESIA certificate number NEMA/EIA/18516 on 14th June, 2024 in accordance with the National Environment Act No.5 of 2019. The approval was meant for concrete manufacturing.

Backfilling a wetland is a crime under the Act, and a person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding thirty thousand currency points or imprisonment not exceeding twelve years or both.

Notes to the Editor

NEMA's achievements demonstrate the Authority's enhanced capacity to detect, investigate, and prosecute environmental offenses. This development is a powerful message that environmental protection is top priority for the Authority.

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For further information, please contact:

Corporate Communications Unit



+256-414-425-068



info@nema.go.ug



www.nema.go.ug



NEMA House, Plot 17/19/21 Jinja Road

