

Mudslides: One dead, 10 missing

Catastrophe. About 200 residents have also been left homeless in Bududa following the mudslides.

BY FRED WAMBEDE
& LEONARD MUKOOLI
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

BUDUDA. One person has been reported dead and 10 missing after a mudslide hit Sironko District in the Mt Elgon region.

The district chairman, Mr Herbert Mulekwa, said the landslide happened in Bulubsabe village of Masaba Sub-county at about 5pm yesterday.

News of the mudslides followed a landslide a day earlier that displaced an estimated 200 people in Bulucheke and Bumayoka sub-counties of the neighbouring Bududa District.

The Bududa landslide was triggered by a heavy downpour last Sunday evening, residents and government officials said. The affected villages are Marobo and Shikhuyu in Bulucheke and Nabutsasi in Bumayoka.

Ms Marion Namono, the district environment officer, said the affected families have sought refuge at Bunamubi, Bulucheke and Kushu trading centres while others have been accommodated by relatives.

"More than 40 houses have been

washed away and there are many other people still living in the proximity of the crack, which has widened," Ms Namono said.

She said they have urged residents in the prone areas to relocate to safer areas, adding that the district has communicated to relevant authorities to assist the victims.

Ms Juliet Wolayo, one of the victims, said she has nowhere to live. "This is hardest moment in my life. I have nowhere to go with my children," she said.

A mapping survey carried out in 2015 found that a fresh 40km-crack on the slopes of Mt Elgon had developed and warned of looming landslides.

Mr John Nambeshe, the Member of Parliament for Majiwa County, said the disaster was impending.

State Minister for Environment Gorreti Kitutu blamed the occurrence on the destruction of environment.

STILL WAITING

In 2010, the government acquired about 2,800 acres of land in Bulambuli District to resettle landslide victims, but the plan has not yet materialised.