

Residents riot over road

MAYUGE

By Betty Angatai

Local leaders and residents in Mayuge district have demonstrated over the poor state of Bwondha-Iganga road.

The protest was led by Iwuuba National Resistance Movement chairperson Dan Kayera. Residents say the road is in an appalling state and has turned into a death trap due to countless potholes.

The residents started the demonstration after one of the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) vehicles got stuck on the road at Mayuge town council. The residents say the 58km road is supposed to be rehabilitated by UNRA.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Tom Mugweri, a resident, said they had on several occasions supported the Government, but were disappointed that it had abandoned them.

They dug more potholes in the road and planted banana suckers as well as tree branches. In other areas, tyres were burnt on the road.

Kayera said the road was impassable and it was difficult to access some areas.

"We cannot go to Bwondha and Jaguzi Islands due to the sorry state of the road," he said.

The road connects Mayuge district to the largest landing site and Jaguzi Islands on Lake Victoria.

"We have on several occasions supported the Government, but we are disappointed that it has abandoned us," Tom Mugweri, a resident, said.

Muzamiru Tenywa Wante, the chairperson of Mayuge District Drivers and Taxi Operators Association, said sometimes, they spend long hours driving on the road because of its terrible state. He said sometimes their vehicles get stuck on the road.

The Police intervened but...



Residents using a partially flooded bridge in Doho parish, Butaleja. Photo by George Bitu

Butaleja district floods trigger cholera alert

BUTALEJA

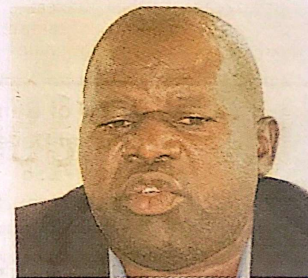
By George Bitu

Floods in Butaleja district could be a potential cause of another cholera outbreak, Richard Waya, the district chairman, has said.

Waya said floods have in the recent past been followed by loss of life due to the consequent outbreak of cholera. Boaz Munyole, the LC1 chairman of Buhehe village, said some residents still fetch water from open water sources such as wells for domestic use.

"When people find a long queue at the borehole, they rush to the wells, which are contaminated with unsafe floodwaters. This kind of behaviour has persisted in this society," Munyole said on Monday.

"Once everyone respects the guidelines pertaining to cleanliness, diseases will be eradicated," RDC



Richard Waya

"A total of 92 others received treatment at local health centres. Similarly, in June 2008, cholera claimed two lives here," Mukasa said.

Way forward

Wasege advised residents to ensure

"The storage containers should also be clean so as to ensure safety of the water. Just a single unsafe habit like drinking water using an unwashed mug transmits diseases," Wasege said.

Richard Gulume, the resident district commissioner, said the ongoing sensitisation of residents on good health practices could bear good results.

"Once everyone respects the guidelines pertaining to cleanliness, diseases will be eradicated. This could help locals save on what they spend on treatment," Gulume said.

Tom Wandera, the district environment officer, called for an end to encroachment on wetlands and deforestation, saying they are contributory factors to the flooding.

"The tree cover is gone and the swamps that could have stopped the