

BLOOD SHORTAGE HITS FORT PORTAL REGIONAL BLOOD BANK.

A lady donates blood at Borna grounds in Fort Portal town on Tuesday. Blood shortage has hit Fort Portal town, putting the lives of patients at risk. The director of Fort Portal regional blood bank, Dr James Ngobi, said this was a result of high demand and fewer blood donations. He said they need at least 2,000 units per month but that they collect only 800 units. [Scovia Atuhaire]



Busy. Engineers lay concrete on Mbaguta Street Road on Tuesday. The project is funded by the World Bank (WB) Uganda Support to Municipalities Infrastructure Development (USMID) Batch II. PHOTO BY FELIX AINEBYOONA

Shoddy. The leaders claim the contractor is doing substandard work under the watch of the technocrats. They also claim the procurement process was not done according to the law.

Councillors want probe into ongoing roadworks

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MBARARA. A section of councillors at Mbarara Municipal Council have alleged poor roadworks in the ongoing reconstruction of Bucunku, Mbaguta and Bishop Wills road. They want government to investigate the execution of the project.

The project is funded by the World Bank (WB) Uganda Support to Municipalities Infrastructure Development (USMID) Batch II.

The councillors claim the contractor is doing substandard work under the watch of the technocrats. The roads are in the town centre and cover 1.8 kilometres.

They also want investigations into the procurement process and award of contract, which they claim was done in contravention of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) Act.

They say Abubakar Technical Ser-

vices was given the contract at Shs15.7 billion yet Second Chinese Construction Company Ltd had offered to do the work at Shs13.8 billion.

Mr Shaffiq Kagiiko, the LC4 councillor for Katete Ward, on January 2 wrote to the mayor over the alleged shoddy work.

"The ongoing works by Abubakar Technical Services Ltd is quite superficial, making many of us worried and suspicious of its quality assurance," Mr Kagiiko's letter reads in part.

The letter is copied to, among others, the Office of the Prime Minister, the area MP, LC5 chairman, Resident District Commissioner and Inspector General of Government.

The scope of the ongoing reconstruction is expected to include drainage works, earth works, natural gravel sub-base, crushed stone base, premix asphalt wearing course, construction of sidewalks, and auxiliary roadworks including street lights.

"However, the scale of excavation and numerous layers done previously

PROJECT

Under USMID Batch I, the municipality received Shs19.8 billion that reconstructed four roads. These included Akiiki Nyabongo, MC Allster & Constantino Lobo and Buremba, covering 3.4 kilometres. Abubakar Technical Services Ltd started the work in March 2016 and was completed in July 2017.

in Batch I is today absent or done quite slightly in sideways whereas old road tarmac portions are merely covered up with murrum soil to have the dilapidated road maintained in quite cosmetic manner," Mr Kagiiko says.

He reminds the mayor, Mr Robert Mugabe Kakyebi, that they have in the past written to him letters about the process of contract awards and bids for USMID Batch II which was "flawed, defective and quite inconsistent with the laws of the contracts and PPDA Act."

"Although negotiation was recommended by the Contracts Committee due to the contractor being very expensive at Shs15.7 billion compared to the reserve price of Shs13.7 billion, this was ignored by unscrupulous municipal council official. Their focus was on kickbacks from the entire resource envelop of more than Shs18 billion. They called it a blessing in disguise as government scrapped the

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briefly

Residents appeal to govt

RUKIGA. Leaders in Rukiga District have appealed to the Ministry of Health to consider upgrading Mparo Health Centre IV to a district hospital so that residents can access better health services. The district vice chairman, Mr Jackson Muganizi, said on Tuesday that last year the district council passed a resolution recommending the upgrading of the centre and that they are waiting for a response from the line ministry. Muhanga Town councillor Brenda Ainebabazi said the hospital will save the residents from travelling to Kabale and Kisizi hospitals which are far. [Robert Muhereza]

Retired clergy recalled

RUKUNGIRI. The North Kigezi Diocese Bishop Benon Magezi has reshuffled 29 church leaders and recalled others from retirement. Those recalled from retirement are Rev Elly Akankwatsa, who now heads Canon Ndimbirwe Bible College and Rev Mwesigwa Julius, who has been made the Inspector of church founded schools. Bishop Magezi told diocesan council sitting at St Emmanu Cathedral Kinyasano on Tuesday that the changes are meant to strengthen and improve mission work and evangelism in the diocese. [Edson Kinene]