

is accused of colluding with other government officials in an attempt to cheat tax payers.

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**KAMPALA.** A senior government official has been arrested in connection with compensation claims for land that was earmarked to pave way for the construction of Isimba Dam in Kayunga District.

The Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters yesterday handed over Mr Charles Magumba, the town clerk of Entebbe Municipality, to detectives to make an additional statement in regard to his claim for Shs44 billion.

"You have more information to give us and I will ask my investigators to take you and record an additional statement because you have to tell us the truth," ordered Justice Catherine Bamugemereire who chairs the land probe.

Mr Magumba is one of the 13 people seeking for compensation for sand and rock underground of their former land measuring approximately 28.5 acres which has since been transferred to government.

#### Allegations

Mr Magumba, who was quizzed over Shs132 billion and alleges he is jointly seeking compensation with former Ntenjeru County MP Tom Kazibwe, testified that they sued government for compensation in a case slated for hearing on June 11. The case is before the High Court in Mukono.

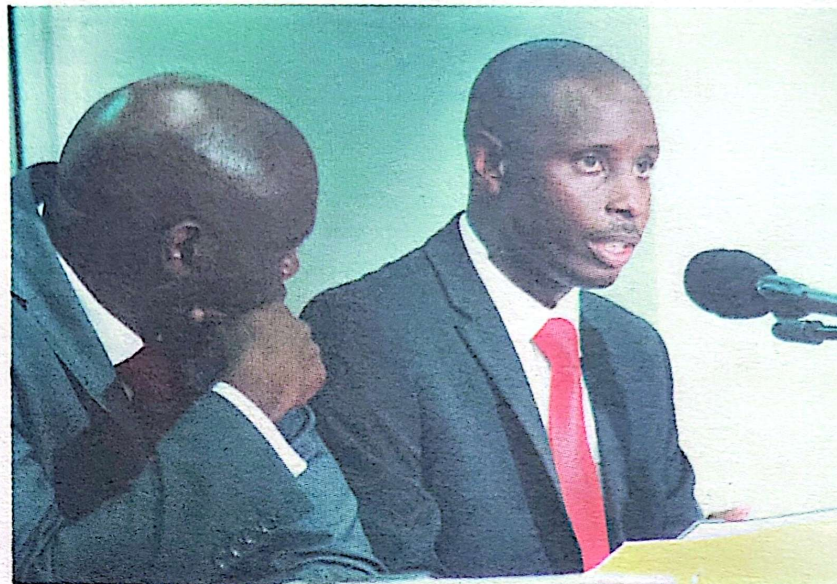
He testified that the case resulted from failure of government officials in the ministry of Energy to respond to their claims.

Mr Magumba denied accusations of collusions saying the valuations of Shs132 billion were determined by the government valuer basing on a survey report presented by the department of Geology in the Energy ministry.

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**KAKUMIRO.** Tension has gripped

# Govt official arrested over Isimba dam land claims



## BACKGROUND

### His view.

Mr Magumba says they sued government for compensation in a case slated for hearing on June 11. The case is before the High Court in Mukono.

**Quizzed.** Mr Charles Magumba (left) while appearing before the Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

It is alleged that former principal government valuer, Mr Moses Magara, requested for the survey of the disputed rock and sand reserves to make the valuations.

#### Exorbitant costs

"I was paid Shs200 million for the land and developments therein which included a forest but my

claim for the rock is because I am being deprived of my future interest in the land," said Mr Magumba.

Last week the chairperson of Project Steering Committee of Karuma and Isimba dams, Mr Badru Kigundu, described the costs as exorbitant, saying the claimants are seeking additional payments after they were fully compensated in 2014

for their customary interests.

"These people were already compensated for the value set by government and signed release of land to government in 2014. Then they just came back later for additional payment for the land below. Most of them were *Bibanja* holders and the amounts of money being requested are constraining the execution of our project and they have led to securing an order of court," Mr Kigundu testified.

Mr Robert Kasande, the acting Permanent Secretary in the Energy ministry, testified that the claims by the project affected persons, if approved by government, will skyrocket the cost of constructing the dam which would worsen the electricity tariffs in the country.

## COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Government is currently embroiled in a dispute with project-affected persons over claims for compensation for rocks and sand in both Kayunga and Kiryandongo districts.

Mr Kasande yesterday said the compensation claims for rock and sand for Isimba Dam stands at Shs500 billion and Shs12 billion for Karuma Dam.

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# Panic as second victim dies of COVID-19