

UNRA closes broken Mbale-Tirinyi road

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BUDAKA. The Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) has temporarily closed the Mbale-Tirinyi road after floods washed away a section of the road, including a bridge near Lupada Trading Centre in Budaka District on Tuesday night.

Motorists plying the route are now using the Nakalama-Tororo-Mbale road and the Nakalama-Tirinyi-Pallisa road to access Mbale and Kumi districts respectively.

When *Daily Monitor* visited the affected section on Tuesday, some vehicles were stuck in the mud while others were stranded at Nandusi Bridge.

Taxi and bus operators have increased transport fares, saying they are spending more on fuel while using the alternative routes.

Transport fares increased

Transport fare from Kampala to Mbale has been increased from Shs15,000 to Shs25,000.

"The alternative routes are too long. We cannot maintain the same price when the route we are taking is longer," Mr John Okoth, one of the taxi drivers argued.

The affected road is being rehabilitated by Dott Services. It stretches from Nakalama Town Council in Busoga sub-region to Mbale District.

Its rehabilitation started in 2014 but stalled after UNRA terminated Dott Services contract over failure by the company to comply with the contractual obligations. The reconstruction resumed recently following the intervention of President Museveni, who ordered UNRA to reinstate Dott Services.

The Budaka LC5 chairman, Mr Sam Mulomi, described the situation as despicable and urged UNRA and the contractor to speed up the rehabilitation work.

"It's unfortunate that transport has been paralysed. Travellers have got stranded. Our appeal is that the road should be fixed faster," he said.

The UNRA spokesperson, Mr Mark Ssali, said: "Our team and contractor are on the ground, working to see that the road is restored to motorable condition," he said.

RAMADHAN TIP
BY AL-MAHDI SSENKABIRWA

Doing physical exercise is good during Ramadhan

You should take about five to 10 minutes to do this. Try taking care (sunrise). This is