



Protest. Residents carry placards as they demonstrate against delayed compensation for their land and property on Mukono-Katosi road. PHOTO BY JESSICA SABANO

Katosi road: UNRA to carry out fresh verification of claimants

Complaint. Affected residents say they have been pushing for compensation through Unra since 2011 but nothing has been done.

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MUKONO. Uganda National Roads Authority (Unra) has deployed its in-house land acquisition team to carry out fresh verification of residents whose property was destroyed to pave way for the construction of the Mukono-Katosi road.

According to Mr Mark Ssali, the head of public and corporate affairs at Unra, the previous verification and compensation exercise was messed up by the consultant, which resulted into some land owners missing out on compensation.

"The compensation process on that project (Mukono-Katosi road) was

mismanaged by the previous consultant. He was paying in isolation, which made it impossible to acquire continuous right of way," Mr Ssali said during an interview on Wednesday.

However, Mr Ssali declined to name the consultant who messed up the verification exercise.

"Now, the Unra management deployed its in-house land acquisition team to do a sweep-up exercise from start to the end, kilometre by kilometre identifying all legitimate land owners to be paid so that no one is left out," he added.

Residents who own property along the road have in the past staged numerous peaceful demonstrations protesting the delayed compensation by government, but police have on several occasions blocked them saying they didn't seek permission to hold demonstrations.

Mr Ronald Lubwama, the chairperson of Mululwe-Namayiba Village

KEY ISSUE

According to Mr Mark Ssali, the head public & corporate affairs at Unra, the previous verification and compensation exercise was messed up by the consultant, which resulted into some land owners missing out on compensation.

and one of the affected residents, said they have been pushing for compensation through Unra since 2011, when the road was being surveyed, but nothing is forthcoming.

"Since 2011, we have been waiting for compensation, but in vain. We cannot do anything on the land because it is reserved for the road works, but nothing is going on," Mr Lubwama said.

Mr Lubwama said a total of 38 residents in his village have not been compensated.

Ms Rose Nabwire, a resident of the same village, said they were asked to open bank accounts and get Tax Identification Numbers, which they did, but no money has been deposited on their accounts.

"Unra officials have never shown seriousness because they first surveyed our land and prom-

briefly

Group gets new machine

MUKONO. Persons living with disabilities (PWDs) in Ntengeru Sub-county, Mukono District under their association Agalyawamu Farmers Group, have received an electric maize threshing machine. The Shs2.5m machine was donated to group by Sasakawa Africa Association, an international agricultural development non-governmental organisation that supports rural farmers to improve their household incomes. According to Sasakawa Africa Association, the machine will help ease the work of the group. Initially, the PWDs were threshing maize using their hands. Fred Muzaale]

Mayiga calls for action

KAMPALA. Buganda Kingdom premier Charles Peter Mayiga has asked government to put stringent measures against cults to avoid events similar to March 17, 2000 when Ugandan cult leader, Joseph Kibwetere master minded a tragic inferno that killed 1,000 people. Mr Mayiga was responding to a question from a reporter at Bulange on Tuesday about his thoughts on the death of Joseph Mugonza, the founder of Sserulanda Spiritual Foundation in Kabira village in Masaka. [James Kabengwa]

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