

Landlords seal off Kiyindi landing site

BUIKWE

By Emmanuel Balukusa

The Police in Lugazi are holding five suspects for causing chaos at Kiyindi landing site and ferry station.

Before the arrest, the suspects told the *New Vision* that they are the landlords of the three acres on which the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) has erected its establishment and that they even have land titles.

Fred Nekemiya Tenywa, one of the landlords, said they inherited the land from their late father, Charles Mukasa.

He added that in 1979, the Government started using their land in Kiyindi but it has failed to fulfil a promise to pay.

"We no longer want them here because we have tried to meet the senior officials but in vain," Tenywa said.

Tenywa led his relatives up to the UNRA staff quarters and started digging a foundation, after chasing away the UNRA officials.

However, all this was done without the consent of the security forces.



Tenywa being arrested by Police. Photo by E. Balukusa

They closed most of the quarters with new padlocks, including latrines, leaving the families of the UNRA employees stranded. Their action prompted Kiyindi Police officers led by the officer in charge of Kiyindi Police station, Afuswa Nikumba, to intervene.

Nikumba tried to calm the angry landlords but it was all in vain.

After chasing away the UNRA workers, the landlords continued to the ferry to stop it from working, claiming that even the docking area belongs

to them. However, they were stopped by the Police. They then started assaulting the law enforcers, prompting Nikumba to call for back-up from Ssezibwa regional Police. Four people were later arrested.

The others arrested are Stephen Kiyimba, Isaac Kaggwa, Lydia Nambi and another only identified as Shira. The Buike district Police commander, Samuel Madira, said. The suspects would be charged with attempted robbery as investigations continue.