



A resident (left) asks the resident district commissioner (right) questions during a public meeting in Kamuli district recently. Photo by Tom Gwebayanga

Residents pin officials over shoddy work

KAMULI

By Tom Gwebayanga

The residents of Kamuli district have accused the district leaders and technocrats of superintending over the sloppy work done by contractors, resulting into the collapse of buildings immediately after construction.

Expressing their views during a *baraza* (public meeting) in Kamuli, the residents tasked the technocrats with explaining why they constructed three pit-latrines at the same site in a period of two years, saying it is waste of taxpayers' money.

At Nawantale Livestock Market in Balawoli sub-county, they said, three pit-latrines have been constructed and destroyed shortly after commissioning. The district has had to allocate more funds to construct new ones.

So far, since December 2015, three pit-latrines, each valued at sh30m, have been built on the same site.

The *baraza*, which was organised by the Office of the Prime Minister at Balawoli Church of Uganda grounds on Monday, was led by commissioners Hadad Arinaitwe and Ibrahim Wandera.

Also in attendance were district technocrats, civil servants, religious leaders, MP Moses Kizige (Bugabula North) also the state minister for Karamoja and Hajati Rehema Watongola (Kamuli Municipality MP).

Isaac Kaluuba, a youth leader in Kasoigo, Kamuli municipality, said: "It is absurd that our leaders can connive with technocrats to waste taxpayers' money. How can three pit-latrines be constructed in two years, at the same site?"

WHAT THEY SAY



Victoria Apili, district councillor

The health department should allocate funds for the construction of staff quarters for the medics of Bugulumbya Health Center III.



Ronnie Mingori, Kamuli town

It is disturbing that thieves break into our shops after Police patrol at night. Something must be done to secure our property.

Christine Owagage, the district councillor for Namasagali sub-county, said: "At Kasozi Primary School, the contractor built a four-stance pit-latrine, with a depth of only 9ft, instead of 30 feet, at sh18.3m."

The parents demonstrated over the

matter, but the Kamuli Police dispersed them with teargas.

Earlier, the residents had pooled sh56m among themselves and built a latrine.

"Who awards tenders? Do the district leadership, the procurement department and technical team connive?" Owagage, asked.

The LC5 chairman, Thomas Kategere, said they are aware of the Kasozi pit-latrine, adding that investigations into the circumstances that led to the awarding of the tender and the certificate of completion are on.

The residents also complained that Operation Wealth Creation was giving heifers to well-to-do people, including the LC5 chairperson, district councillors, MPs and campaigners of political bigwigs, sidelining the rest of the people at the grassroots.

The Rev. Canon James Katalo, Kamuli's retired archdeacon, wanted to know who had sold off Namayira rock in Balawoli town council to the investors who visited the hill recently and threatened the residents with eviction.

The meeting became heated when the residents shut up the district health officer, Moses Gangu, who failed to explain his expenditure for the years 2015-2017.

"If you do not know the figures, take your seat please," roared the angry residents.

On the education sector, a female councillor from Nabulezi parish asked how long headteachers take to get transfers, despite being perpetual absentees, arrogant and non-performers.

The district education officer, Muzaham Kyuka, responded that the minimum was five years.