

UPCOMING SUBURB

Buwambo is only 20km from the city centre

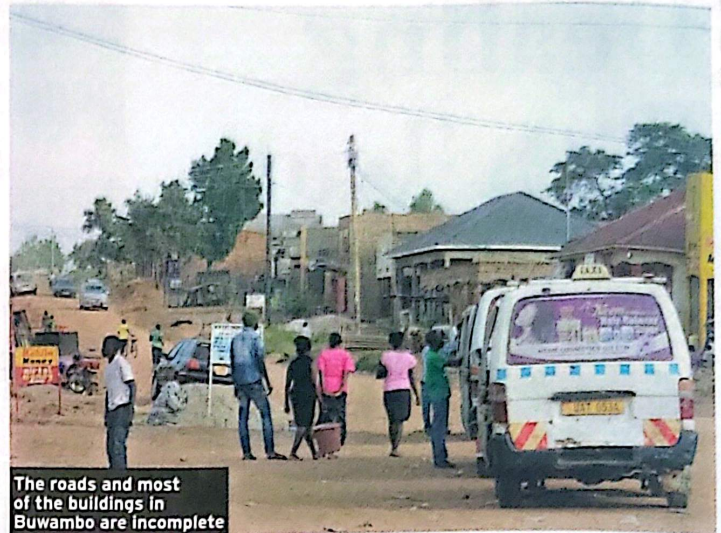
Poor roads keep Buwambo lagging behind

BY UMAR NSUBUGA

Buwambo has not changed much in eight years. This place has no decent roads, buildings or restaurants. The only visible businesses are carpentry, welding, retail shops and salons. It is a village largely inhabited by vegetable

farmers. Located in Wakiso district, about 20km from Kampala city after Mpererwe trading centre, one expects so much more. It has a clustered settlement pattern and consequently there is a lot of uninhabited bushy land. The roads are in such a poor state, they surely increase the cost of living. Getting goods to Buwambo must be expensive because of that.

According to 75-year-old Mesach Kigongo, who has lived there all his life, most people in Buwambo used to grow coffee. "There was a rich family, the Buwambo family, and they had a lot of money, a huge chunk of land and employed many people on their farm. Whenever a person was seen was carrying a hoe, it was assumed they were



The roads and most of the buildings in Buwambo are incomplete

heading to the Buwambo home. That is how the name came up," Kigongo says.

Way of life

Fuel, beef and transport are relatively expensive. However, fresh foods are cheap since most people grow their own crops. Abdul Kaluma, a native of the area and a shopkeeper, says they are in need of a hardware store and a good grocery store.

Aziz Matovu, a resident, says Buwambo has developed at a slow pace. Initially, the place was bushy before the construction of residential houses began.

However, the number of houses under construction are few. Some of the homes are really small, while others are grass-thatched.

Security

Most residents are happy with the security situation. They say the local leaders work with the Police and willing residents to foster safety. There is a Police post at the trading centre, which has helped curb crime.

Sanitation

Amina Namakula, a resident

IN NUMBERS

IV Buwambo has a few schools and the Buwambo Health Centre IV is the only government health facility in the area.

sh6.5m

A 50x100ft plot costs between sh5m and sh6.5m on the main road and without a land title since the land belongs to the Kabaka.

and worker in the area, says: "Our leaders have not done well in this area. There is garbage and *buveera* dumped everywhere. People use old structures and unoccupied buildings as their toilets, or throw *buveera* full of faeces on the streets."

Food

A good number of the population is engaged in subsistence farming and

supplement their harvest with fresh foods in the town, leaving food prices quite affordable even for the poor.

Schools

Buwambo has a few schools and the Buwambo Health Centre IV is the only government health facility in the area.

Real estate

According to Mukiibi, the area LC1 chairman, a 50x100ft plot costs between sh5m and sh6.5m by the main road and without a land title, since the land belongs to the Kabaka.

About a kilometre from the main road, a 50x100ft plot can go for between sh4m and sh4.5m.

Rent for a single room without power is sh30,000 and one with power costs sh40,000. A double-room goes for between sh50,000 and sh80,000. Space for business goes for sh80,000 to sh100,000.

Transport

From the New Taxi Park to Buwambo, one pays sh3,000. It costs sh2,500 from there back to Kampala.

GRAPHIC BY DAN NSEREKO

Location of Buwambo in Gombe Subcounty, Wakiso district

