



Residents ponder their next move at a flooded point on Kaliro-Ivukula road. Photo by George Bitu

Kaliro-Namutumba road users worried as floods take charge

KALIRO
By George Bitu

The swampy sections of the road linking Kaliro town to Ivukula trading centre in Namutumba district have flooded, disrupting normal traffic flow. When *New Vision* visited the area on Friday, partially submerged concrete culverts were visible above the rising flood waters on the murrum route. According to Henry Naabye, the Namutumba district planner, heavy rains are responsible for the floods that have since forced road users to opt for alternative, but longer routes. "This road is barely 20km. However, because of the floods,

WHAT RESIDENTS SAY ABOUT FLOODED ROAD



Catherine Kilge, resident of Kaliro town
The concerned authorities should come to our aid. This is an important route but it is now impassable.



Hatibu Kapata, farmer from Kibaale village,
This road floods most times when it rains and has caused us more expenditure while transporting farm produce to the market.

motorists have to travel an extra 30km or so through Nambaale trading centre," Naabye said. Moses Kaigwa, a farmer in Kibaale village, said the cut off route was effective in the transportation of

perishable farm produce such as tomatoes, milk and water melon to markets in Kaliro town. "The ever-rising water levels threaten road users. The entire road section needs to be refurbished,"

Kaigwa said as he also advised road users to avoid the floods. **Environmental degradation** Paul Dyobo, the Kaliro district environment officer, observed that widespread destruction of wetlands is partly the cause of the flooding. "Swamps naturally slow down the moving waters, hence checking on flooding. However, if there is no more wetland vegetation to do this, flooding takes place," Dyobo argued. Wycliff Ibanda, the Kaliro district chairman, promised that the Kaliro section of the road would be worked on since it was already budgeted for in the current financial year. Rains are expected to continue until December.