

Rubanda residents petition Museveni over poor road state

RUBANDA

By Job Namanya

Residents of Rubanda district have petitioned President Yoweri Museveni over the poor state of the Hamurwa-Kanungu road.

The road connects the villages of Shebeya, Ikumba, Mukadongo and Hamurwa town council, all in Ikumba and Hamurwa sub-counties, to Kanungu district. It had a floating bridge that was submerged about two months ago following heavy rains that hit the region.

Currently, using the road is a hustle since it floods every time it rains.

According to Fred Turyamureeba, the lead petitioner, the situation of the road worsened early last year and despite their continued calls to have it repaired, nothing has been done yet.

"This road was last repaired over 15 years ago by setting up a floating bridge, which was supported by a strong mat covered with soil. But, recently, it collapsed completely, making movement difficult," Turyamureeba said.

He noted that there is a great need for the construction of a stronger bridge in the area to ensure safer movement.

"This road is surrounded by hills with big volumes of water flowing downhill whenever it rains. This has escalated the problem. We, therefore, ask the Government to construct a more reliable bridge on this road to make it passable," Turyamureeba added.

The petitioners also allege that the maintenance works that had been previously going on along the same road were too shoddy to solve the problem.

He added that even pregnant mothers who urgently need to access medical facilities are not able to get timely treatment.

Mildred Twikirize, a farmer, said they had failed to ferry their agricultural produce to the intended markets, thereby limiting income levels. "In



Residents walking along a badly damaged part of the Hamurwa-Kanungu road. Photo by Job Namanya

RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT



Silver Baguma, Rubanda district vice-chairperson
We would like this road repaired soon for better transportation of our tourists.



Justus Kwesiga, bodaboda rider
Business is not booming because our motorcycles keep breaking down because of the bad road.



Geoffrey Turyahikayo, resident
We would like our leaders to take immediate action because we elected them to help us.

Hamurwa, we are blessed with fertile lands that enable us produce fresh foods, but transporting these foods to the markets is a big challenge,"

Twikirize said. In a petition dated December 28, 2017 which the residents hope to deliver to the Office of the President through the Prime

Minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, they are asking for immediate intervention to save the situation.

Lobbying in progress

However, the Rubanda district chairperson, Jogo Kenneth Biryabarema, said they were already lobbying the Uganda National Roads Authority to have the road fixed as soon as possible.

"We are seriously concerned about the state of this road," Biryabarema said.

He added that the poor state of the road had not only affected Rubanda district residents, "but it is a serious concern for the region since it benefits the districts of Kanungu and Kabale"

Travellers currently are forced to use the longer and more expensive alternative route from Nyamasizi Kanungu.

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BULIISA

By Priscilla

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