

300 demand compensation from REA

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KABALE. About 300 people whose properties were destroyed during the construction of the 33KV powerline from Kabale to Kisoro district have asked the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) to compensate them.

They claim they have never been compensated despite several promises by REA. Properties including crops, trees, farms and houses were destroyed during the construction in 2013.

The affected persons are residents of Muko, Hamurwa, Bubare, Ikumba Sub-counties and Northern division in Kabale Municipality. In August 2013, they complained to the executive director of REA, Mr Godfrey Turyahikayo.

"Your staff members have since the assessment exercise failed or refused to turn up thus leaving us in doubt," reads the August 19, 2013 letter addressed to the executive director of REA.

It was signed by more than 25 complainants as leaders of the affected group.

On Sept 19, 2013, Mr Turyahikayo wrote to leaders in the affected areas asking them to use their offices to calm the claimants.

According to the letter, which *Daily Monitor* has seen, Mr Turyahikayo informed them that everything possible was being done to settle their compensation claims.

He added that the agency will communicate to the leaders the compensation programme once funds were available. However, to date, they have not been paid, and have threatened to go to court.

Mr Keneth Mutungi of Twikirize and Company Advocates on February 1 wrote to REA saying: "Take note that our clients have engaged us to specifically demand that you avail to them the asset valuation of each of their destroyed property and compensate them accordingly within seven days and if you fail, we shall drag you to the appropriate fora to recover compensation for our clients and our own costs."

Efforts to get a comment from Mr Turyahikayo were futile.