

individuals are involved in land encroachment. There are allegations will face the full force of the law.

Iganga residents choke as rubbish takes over town

IGANGA

By George Bitu

The huge amount of uncollected rubbish dumped by Iganga urban residents has blocked some streets in the municipality.

A number of roads are blocked by trash. On Woiira Road near Iganga Police Station, residents were using alternative routes to avoid the stench from the rotting trash.

Zachariah Kabba, a resident, said the rubbish heaps on Woiira, Saza and Wagina roads have been accumulating over the last month.

"We do not see the council garbage trucks quite often. They collect trash once a day yet in the past it was three times a day," Kabba said.

David Balaba, the municipal mayor, said some garbage trucks had developed mechanical problems that compromised rubbish



A boy walks past one of the rubbish heaps in Iganga town. Photo by George Bitu

collection. "We are working round the clock to ensure the rubbish is collected. However, residents should do their part and avoid dumping trash anyhow," Balaba said.

Dr David Muwanguzi,

the district health officer, expressed concern over disease outbreaks as a result of the filthy environment.

"The flies from that refuse easily end up on people's food and spread disease-causing

germs. Something must be done or else we suffer the consequences," Muwanguzi warned.

He said the waste should be removed as it exposes urban residents to diseases.

WHAT RESIDENTS SAY



Richard Mukwaya, washing bay attendant
The blocked Woiira Road is hurting business by driving away our clients.



Ayub Ssebida, Kasokoso LCI chairman
The residents need to exercise some discipline while dumping rubbish from their homes.

Security threat

Nasib Nditta, the Iganga district Police commander, said the trash has in the recent past prompted youth to riot.

"Police had to fire live bullets and teargas to stop locals from dumping the trash on the main street in protest over delayed pick-up. Our intervention also stopped rioters from taking advantage to loot traders' merchandise," Nditta said.

According to Balaba, the

council has plans of more effective rubbish disposal with stringent fines for errant locals.

Patrick Kayemba, the Iganga district chairman, urged locals to be disciplined in rubbish disposal so as not to worsen the already worrying situation in the neighbourhood.

"Let us join hands to keep Iganga town clean and safe. It is one way of ensuring our municipality is free of litter," Kayemba urged.