



STATE OF ROADS

Residents protest

Residents of Misigi Village in Maanyika Sub-county, Mityana District, plant a banana stem in the middle of a road to protest its poor state at the weekend. Many roads in various districts in the country are in a sorry state.
PHOTO BY JESSICA NABUKENYA

Lyantonde councillors block move to sell district land

Claim. They claim some district officials want to parcel public land for their own benefit.

BY PAUL SSEKANDI
& AL-MAHDI SSENKABIRWA
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

LYANTONDE. Lyantonde District councillors have blocked a move by authorities to sell part of the district headquarters' land.

Daily Monitor has learnt that some district officials had orchestrated to share the 3704-acre land.

The campaign against that move is being spearheaded by Mr Simon Simbwa, a councillor representing Lyantonde Town Council.

The councillors argue that the authorities had exhibited the highest degree of selfishness by apportioning themselves land meant for projects that could benefit the public.

Lyantonde District headquarters

sit on 49 acres of land. So far, 52 plots have been parcelled out to various individuals in the area, including district officials.

During an extra-ordinary meeting recently, the councillors unanimously resolved to stop any further subdividing of the district land into plots. They also tasked the district revenue enhancement team to collect ground rent from the bona fide occupants to boost local revenue.

"It will really be a disservice to the electorates if we leave the district officials to grab public land the way they want. There is land elsewhere that they can purchase," Mr Simbwa said during an interview yesterday.

Proposals in the district annual development plan singled out leasing of the district land to private developers as one way of boosting local revenue, but councillors were bitter to learn that the leased-out 52 plots of land have not generated any revenue.

"We cannot just give out more land

KEY ISSUE

According to the district land status report 2017, before the subdivisions were made, the land had only two bona fide occupants. Proposals in the district annual development plan singled out leasing of the district land to private developers as one way of boosting local revenue. But councillors argue that no revenue has been generated so far.

yet development projects that will benefit our people are underway. Let the district cashier first compute and tell us the revenue generated from the already sold plots of land," Mr Ephraim Kamugisha, the Lyantonde District council speaker, said during an interview last Saturday.

Mr Moses Mugabi, the district chief finance officer, one of the beneficiaries of the said plots, said he 'legally' acquired the land, and has since constructed a house on it.

"It is true I own some land, but I cannot recall the plot number. I constructed a house there which I rent out to some Asians. I paid for that land but I have just learnt that the person, who sold it to me, acquired it from Lyantonde Sub-county through questionable means," he said.

Mr Mugabi said he owns two plots on the disputed land measuring 50x100 ft. He denied reports that he ac-

briefly

Residents protest

SEMBABULE. Residents of Lwemiyaga Sub-county in Sembabule District are crying foul after cows destroyed their plantations. Residents claim the cattle belong to President Museveni. They accuse the manager of the farm, Ms Florence Kamateneti, of failing to control cattle from accessing their plantations. However, Ms Kamateneti dismissed the allegations saying cattle from the farm don't cross to residents' gardens because the farm is properly fenced. [Malik Fahd Jjingo]

Minister directs

RAKAI. Minister for Works Monica Azuba has asked the Uganda National Roads Authority to reconstruct the road that connects the districts of Lyantonde and Rakai. While inspecting roads in both districts, Ms Azuba said the Lyantonde-Lwamagwa-Lumbaga road is in a poor state and warned motorists against speeding. "This road is very risky to the users and if it was possible, motorists could avoid using it until it's reconstructed," she said. Buyamba MP Amos Manderu asked that the road be upgraded to bitumen standards. [Gertrude Mutyaba]

CONTINUES TO PAGE 12

Councillors block move to sell district land

Voices

FROM PAGE 11

"It will really be a disservice to the electorates if we leave the district officials to grab public land the way they want. There is land elsewhere that they can go and purchase."

SIMON SIMBWA,
LYANTONDE TOWN
COUNCIL COUNCILLOR

"We cannot just give out more land yet development projects that will benefit our people are underway. Let the district cashier first compute and tell us the revenue generated from the already sold plots of land."

EPHRAIM KAMUGISHA,
LYANTONDE DISTRICT
COUNCIL SPEAKER

"It is true I own some land, but I cannot recall the plot number. I constructed a house there which I rent out. I paid for that land but I have just learnt that the person, who sold it to me, acquired it from Lyantonde Sub-county through questionable means."

MOSES MUGABI,
DISTRICT CHIEF
FINANCE OFFICER

"I cannot really tell whether the district land extends to where my house is. I bought it from a private individual whom I cannot remember right now."

OBBO OKOTH, DISTRICT
HEALTH OFFICER

quired the land at no cost, saying: "I paid Shs800,000 as premium and another Shs80,000 as nominal ground rent."

Another beneficiary, Dr Obbo Okoth, the district health officer, however, denied owning a plot on the said land.

"I cannot really tell whether the district land extends to where my house is. I bought it from a private individual whom I cannot remember right now. I will ask those people in the lands office to explain to me whether I am on the district land or not," he said.

Dr Obbo is among the first group of people, who benefited from the 52 plots, which district officials parcelled out earlier.

Bona fide occupants

According to the district land status report 2017, before the subdivisions were made, the land had only two bona fide occupants, including Ms Byendozo and the late Rev James Ngabonzira's family.

The land where the district headquarters are located was procured from Ms Joyce Byendozo in 1993 before Lyantonde was carved out of Rakai District.

When Lyantonde became a district in 2006, the land was transferred in the names of the district as the registered proprietor.

Under minute LDC/43/2007/08 of April 30, 2008, the district council resolved to allocate a piece of land to the Judiciary for the construction of judicial offices, which was implemented in 2016, leaving the district with Block 2012 measuring 37.04 acres.

Sheikh Mubarak Ssentare, the Lyantonde District khadi, said land was a contentious issue and urged district leaders to retrain themselves from taking public land for their own benefit.

"Land is currently a contentious issue that should be handled with care, and I ask district officials to spare our land because we need it for future projects" he said.

The district also owns another piece of land measuring 242 acres at Makukulu Village, 20km outside Lyantonde Town, which has also been encroached on.

briefly