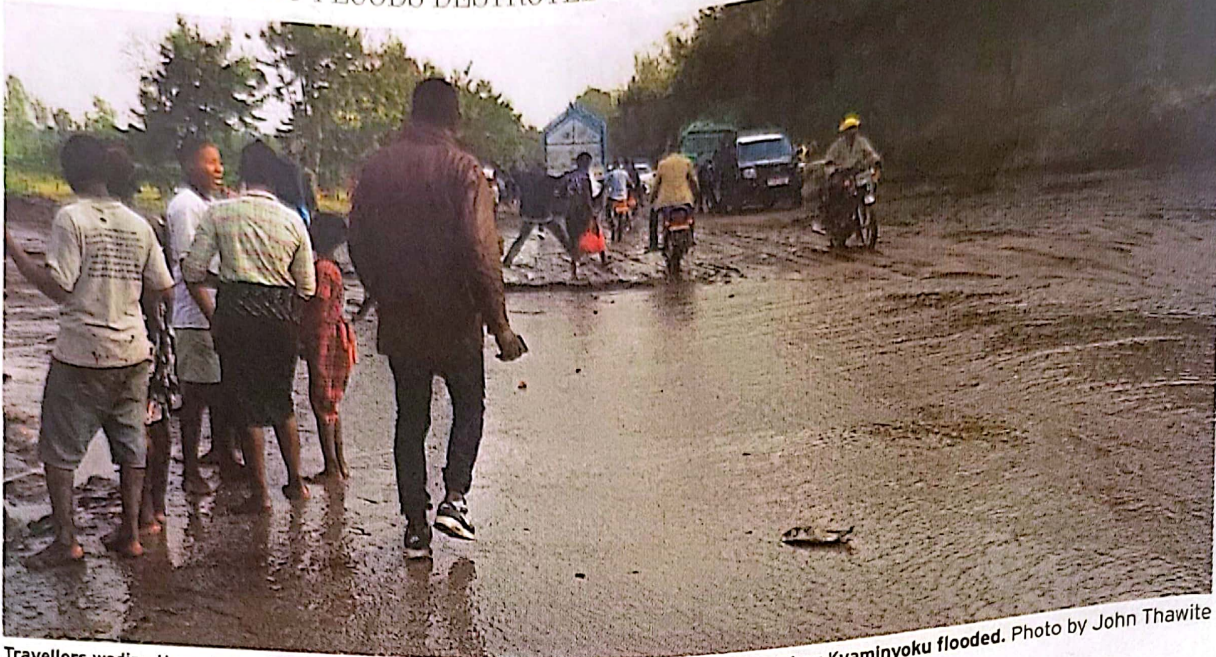


RIVER KYAMINYOKU FLOODS DESTROYED PROPERTY AND PARALYSED TRANSPORT



Travellers wading through the silt that was deposited on the Kasese-Mbarara highway when River Kyaminyoku flooded. Photo by John Thawite

# Kasese floods kill 4 siblings

**KASESE**

By John Thawite

Four children from the same family perished when River Kyaminyoku in Nyakabingo ward, Kasese municipality, burst its banks, on Monday, making the eagerly awaited rains a tragedy.

The floods hit the house of Remegio Mukundi and engulfed two girls and their two brothers. It carried them downstream over the rugged terrain, across the Kasese-Mbarara highway and deposited them in Kamaiba cemetery, in Kidodo cell, from where certain Good Samaritans recovered them.

One of the children was rescued alive from the silt and taken to Bishop Masereka

Medical Centre, but later died.

In the cemetery, the lethal floods unearthed a coffin of a recently buried child, breaking the coffin into pieces and taking parts of the decomposing body.

By the time *New Vision* reached the scene, flies were hovering over a piece of the coffin.

Transport on the highway was paralysed for several hours, as passengers waited for the muddy floods to subside.

A health centre II was deserted after health workers fled from the approaching floods.

Rwenzori East regional Police commander Richard Ecega confirmed the reports of the deaths.

**BETWEEN THE LINES:**

Since 2014, Kasese has been experiencing floods, in which over 15 people have died and household and public property has been destroyed.

"At around 3:00pm, my office reported that the river had flooded and that it had killed the children and injured their brother Godwin Bwambale, 4," Ecega said.

He said according to preliminary reports, many houses, gardens, livestock and other household and commercial items of unspecified value were ravaged.

Israel Masereka, a

resident of Kamaiba, said it was habitual for River Kyaminyoku to flood, but "not to this extent".

Narrating the incident, Jennifer Kighoma, a neighbour of the cemetery, said when she heard the roar of the the floods, she whisked away her children.

"But I have lost gravel, which I recently bought to renovate my residence," Kighoma, who has lived in the area for the last two years, said.

"I praise God that the flood did not occur at night because more lives would have been lost," her neighbour, Rosette Mbambu, who has lived in Kidodo cell for the last two years, said.

The Mahango sub-county LC3 chairperson, Eric

Mathu Muhasa, said the areas of Kibalya were hit by hailstones, which devastated various gardens.

"I am afraid that unless urgent interventions are made, many of our people are at risk of famine," Mathu said.

Since 2014, Kasese has been experiencing floods, in which over 15 people have died and household and public property destroyed.

One of the most affected was Kilembe Mines Hospital, where the floods destroyed 84 housing units for nurses and medical equipment and supplies.

The Government has since repaired some of the infrastructure, including bridges and roads and also done work to tame River Nyamwamba.



Religious cult m pupils quit school

Several pupils have abandoned their studies at the newly created district of Bunyangabu because of a religious cult that offers formal education and anything that may be modern. The Nyangabu cult sector, which started in Kamwenge district, has been spreading fast in the districts of Kabarole, Kasese, Iganga, Ibanda and Bunyangabu. James Mugenyi, a local leader in Kasunganyanja, a local sub-county, said: "Many children are not going to school because the cult has stopped their parents from paying fees. The situation worsened since the national registration exercise began."

Judge decries bribing of voters

Justice Simon Byabakama, the chairperson of the Electoral Commission, has raised concern over the rampant monetisation of politics, noting that the practice undermines the essence of democracy and the value of one's vote. He advised that those vying for political office refrain from the practice, noting that they should be able to lay a foundation of posterity other than concentrating on how to win an election. "All of us have a duty to discourage this demonic influence," he said. Byabakama made the remarks in a speech read by Richard Nsube, an official from the commission, during a meeting to update stakeholders on the progress of Pakwazi