

# Landslide hits two sub-counties in Bududa

By Andrew Masinde

A landslide has hit two sub-counties in Bududa district leaving several hectares of crops destroyed.

No deaths have been reported, but area leaders say the landslides left 30 homesteads at a risk of being hit by more landslides.

Three villages; Nabutsasi, Shikhuyu and Marobo in the sub-counties of Bulucheke and Bumayoka were affected.

The residents say they are living in fear following Sunday's landslide which occurred after a heavy downpour. The residents have also reported widening cracks.

According to Alice Nambozo a resident of Shikhuyu village, there was a heavy downpour that lasted for over two hours before the landslide. Luckily, for her and family, it was during day and they sensed danger early and escaped.

Boniface Nangaka of Shikhuyi village abandoned his house and sought

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refuge in the home of a relative in a more secure location. Coping with a family remains his biggest concern.

"I have five children and a wife. Accommodating all of us will not be easy for our relative," Nangaka lamented.

Wilson Watira, the Bududa district chairperson says a huge mass of wet soil broke off from the hill, knocking down trees and crops along its path. Watira says many people will eventually require relocation.

"As leaders, we appeal to the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness to intervene and relocate the people because the

situation is bad," Watira pleaded adding that asking people to seek refuge in relatives' homes, churches, mosques and schools is not sustainable.

"It takes a lot to relocate. We need food, medicine and security. Since the Government claims to have bought land in Bulambuli, let them move the affected people to that place," he says.

The commissioner for disaster management and preparedness, Martin Owor, was not available for comment.

However, Watira said when he sought assistance from the Office of the Prime Minister, he was told that the people under threat should temporarily move

to their relatives' home or to schools churches and mosques as the threat subsides. Watira also said he was told that after the 30-day period for peak rains, "the threat will be over".

Watira was further advised that since schools have now closed for holidays, he should discuss with the chief administrative officer and the executive committee so that some people can move into classrooms.

"By the time schools re-open the rains will be much less. People should be able to move back to their homes then. Please use FM radios to send out this piece of advice as arrangements for their permanent relocation to Bulambuli new plots are being worked out," a message sent to Watira by a senior OPM official stated.

Last week, *New Vision* reported that there was a looming disaster in Bududa due to the cracks that had emerged in the landslide-prone area, which was receiving heavy rains. At the same time, Bundibugyo district in western Uganda, has also been hit by landslides.