

Shoddy? The leaders say there is no value for money in respect to the work done at the site so far.

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Leaders want probe into Akii-Bua stadium works



Little progress. So far only a pavilion and a pit latrine have been constructed at the site for interim use even after more than Shs600m has been released for the works. Inset is John Akii-Bua. PHOTO: ISAAC OTWILI

going to do delegated work on behalf of the ministry. So, Lira District local government was supported to start the preliminary work. This preliminary work included landscape preparation, drainage system, road networking and tree removal."

The government released Shs400 million in the first batch. Mr Oremo said they used the money according to the project design. Shs165m was released in the second batch.

"But the total amount injected in this land preparation is Shs665m for the three financial years, including the current one. So we had only that money and what we have done is land preparation," he said.

The Commissioner for Physical Education, Mr Lameck Omara Apita, recently told *Daily Monitor* that he didn't know when the actual construction of the stadium would start because the ministry of Education was still sourcing for funding.

BACKGROUND



New. An architectural model of the proposed Akii-Bua stadium.

John Akii-Bua was a Ugandan athlete and the first Olympic champion from the country in the 1972 - 400m hurdles. As a police officer, Akii-Bua was promoted by

Ugandan president Idi Amin, and given a house, as a reward for his athletic exploits. Akii-Bua died on June 20, 1997 and was given a state funeral.

To honour him, a stadium in his memory was built on Lira Hospital land and authorities recommended that it is relocated to create room for expansion of the health centre.

The new stadium will now be constructed in Erute, following Lira District Local Government's acquisition of the title for the land measuring about 18.6 acres.

When reconstruction is complete, the stadium will have capacity to accommodate more than 50,000 spectators, according to the district sports officer Leo Alani.

The stadium will also have an indoor stadium, training ground, aquatic centre and a modern hotel.

[of Education] and the design is not yet out. This is a mega project that we still do not know how long it will take to construct but it will depend on the mobilisation of resources by the ministry," Mr Tivu said.

However, Mr Hudson Omoko, the Lira District engineer, estimates the stadium will cost about Shs400 billion.

Lira District chairman Alex Oremo ruled out any corruption in the project being implemented by his administration and supervised by the ministry of Education.

"When I came to office in 2011, arrangements were already in place to start the work. We handed over the land; we gave the land title and processed everything for the construction to be done," he said.

"When construction was sought, the ministry of Education said we are



No value for money?

Just like other critics, the RDC said there is no value for money in respect to the work done at the site so far.

"There have been concerns because when you go on the ground, you don't see the value for money. So, as we talk now, we are also investigating but the answer they [contractors] are giving us is that the money did not come at once but in instalments," Mr Abak said.

On behalf of the ministry of Education (the implementing body), Lira District sourced Upland Enterprises and Construction Ltd to do the work.

So far, a pit latrine and a pavilion have been constructed for interim use.

The two facilities built are temporary structures without an approved design.

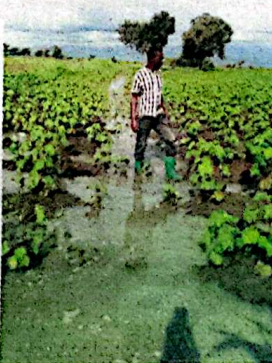
The Lira Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Mark Tivu, acknowledged he received a complaint from the stadium project management committee claiming there is no value for money on what has so far been done.

"We have been doing the preliminary work on behalf of the ministry

briefly

Cotton farmers worried

IKEDA: Cotton farmers in Kamutur b-county in Bukedea District are facing poor plant growth following heavy rains that have left much of the fields lower lying belts water logged, turning most of the crop yellowish. The affected areas are those adjacent to the rivers, which act as accumulation points for the runoff water. Mr Robert Oda, the Tajar Village chairperson and also a cotton farmer in the area, says the plants have remained stunted, fueling worries among farmers that could subsequently lead to poor harvest. Mr Jude Ongota, the sub-county agriculture officer, said about 2,000 farmers in Kamutur alone are water-logged. [George Emuron]



Teenage held over murder

KABERAMAIDO: Police in Kaberamaido District are holding a 14-year-old pupil of Opiro Primary School on allegations of murder. The female suspect, a resident of Opiro village, Olelai parish, Aperikila Sub-county, allegedly hit her eight-year-old colleague to death at the weekend. Mr Michael Odongo, the East Kyoga police spokesperson, said the deceased girl was also resident of the same village. He confirmed that the teenager was detained to rescue her from the wrath of the deceased girl's angry relatives, who wanted to lynch her. Mr Odongo said the suspect was the late girl looted property and burnt three houses belonging to the suspect's family. [George Emuron]

Man arrested with gun

ENTEBBE: Police at Kasenyi Landing Site in Entebbe Municipality have arrested a 32-year-old man over illegal possession of a gun, army uniform and 10 bullets. Residents told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that the suspect was a new resident in the area, who they suspected to be a drug dealer. The residents said armed men, who they suspected to be soldiers, have recently been breaking into their houses and confiscating their boats and fish at the landing site. Mr Ernest Akhankiriho, the officer-in-charge of Kasenyi Police Station, said the suspect was arrested following a tip-off by a resident, who became suspicious of the man's activities. [Paul Adube]

Police recovers body

SOROTI: Police in Soroti on Sunday recovered decomposing body of an unidentified man dumped in the bush along the roadside. Police said the deceased is believed to be a boda boda rider from the districts of Katakwi, Kaberamaido, Amuria and Serere districts. According to Mr Michael Odongo, the East Kyoga regional police spokesperson, the deceased is suspected to have been strangled by motorcycle thugs and dumped his body in the bush in Amen village, Nakatunya Parish in Soroti Sub-county. Mr Odongo said the body was recovered with Shs18,000 without any identification and their engagements with boda boda riders to help identify it had not yet yielded results. [George Emuron]