

# Councillors block motion to appoint new land board

**Issue.** The councillors led by Mr Ibra Kabugo, said the issue of approving new members onto the district land board was smuggled into the day's agenda.

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**MASAKA.** Masaka District councillors have rejected the appointment of a new land board.

The district chairperson, Mr Jude Mbabaali, and some of his executive members found a hard time last week as councillors opposed their move to appoint a new district land board.

The former district land board headed by Mr Peter Ssenkungu was disbanded last year by the district executive committee following accusations surrounding its members of occupying offices illegally and fraudulently allocating public land to developers.

Since then, the appointment of new board members has become a hot subject.

### Illegal appointments

During a heated council session last week, several council members accused Mr Mbabaali of illegally appointing members of his choice.

Councillors led by Mr Ibra Kabugo said the issue of approving new members onto the district land board was smuggled onto the day's agenda.

He wondered why Mr Mbabaali was personally pushing the matter.

"Mr speaker, according to standard rules of procedure Part



**On the spot.** Masaka District Chairperson Jude Mbabaali addresses a gathering in Masaka Town recently. PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER KISEKKA.

Two, Rule 13(4), I beg that the motion of appointing the district land board be removed from the agenda as it was not earlier communicated to the members of the house," Mr Kabugo said.

Mr Kabugo further explained

that since the matter concerning the district land board was not communicated to the councillors prior to the meeting, they never got time to make research about it and could not go ahead and debate it.

However, Ms Janet Kisekka, the Masaka District vice chairperson, said although the issue was not communicated to councillors prior to the heated sitting, it was discussed by members on the business committee before drafting the agenda.

"Mr speaker, according to standard rules of procedure Part Two, Rule 13(4), I beg that the motion of appointing the district land board be removed from the agenda as it was not earlier communicated to the members of the house," IBRA KABUGO, COUNCILLOR.

"This issue was discussed in the business committee which even honourable Kabugo attended and I don't see why he is trying to make such a discussion," Ms Kisekka shouted before asking the speaker to adopt the agenda without removing the item of appointing members on the land board.

As the debate on whether they should remove or retain the motion became heated, Mr Mbabaali asked the speaker, Mr Achilles Mawanda, to disqualify himself from chairing the council and let his deputy take over.

### Accused of bias

"Mr speaker, you are already biased and I beg that you disqualify yourself so that the deputy takes over," Mr Mbabaali demanded.

But Mr Mawanda, decided that the house votes to decide whether or not to debate the motion and the opposing side took the day.

Mr Mbabaali said it was unfortunate for the councillors to take such a decision since the district urgently needs the land board to sort out a number of pending land matters.