

UNRA to help flood-hit Kisiizi Hospital

RUKUNGIRI

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) has promised to construct strong drainage channels in Rukungiri district, especially around Kisiizi Hospital, to redirect floods from damaging the facility.

The hospital was over the weekend hit by heavy floods that left three children dead and three wards submerged.

This prompted UNRA executive director Allen Kagina to lead a team of technical staff to visit the hospital and other affected areas. She assured the residents that all drainage channels would be widened, adding that government would also look for long-term flooding mitigation measures.

Kagina also visited other roads

that were affected by floods which include Katuna-Muko, where she got stuck for almost an hour following the mudslide that made the road impassable.

Kagina, who was helped by the residents to push her car through the mud, said the disaster in the area needed a multi-agency approach to get a lasting solution.

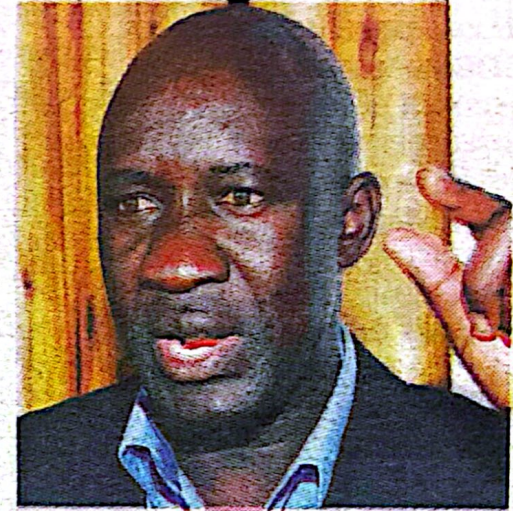
Heavy rains accompanied by floods cut off the Kisoro-Kabale road, damaging roads which have started developing cracks. The rains did not spare schools and people's homes. Crops were washed away, while a number of domestic animals were killed.

Alex Kakama, the Kisiizi Hospital human resource officer, attributed the floods to people who have continued to encroach on wetlands and forms of environmental degradation.

"Government will immediately restore the spoilt medical equipment." **Ecweru**

By the time this reporter left the hospital, patients were still in fear as workers struggled to clear the debris left in some wards.

Kakama called for more government support and other agencies to ensure the hospital is reinstated to its normal operations as floods destroyed some machines that were in the wards.



Musa Ecweru

The state minister for disaster preparedness, Musa Ecweru, said government would immediately restore the machines and provide mattresses to the hospital.

But Kagina asked the environment ministry to continue sensitising the people on the dangers of environmental degradation.