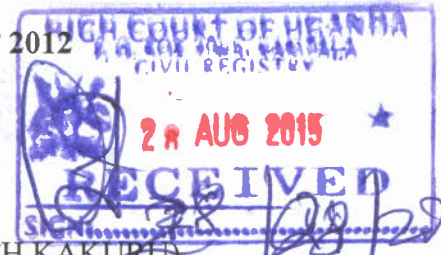


THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF UGANDA HOLDEN AT KAMPALA
(CIVIL DIVISION)

HIGH COURT CIVIL SUIT NO.283 OF 2012



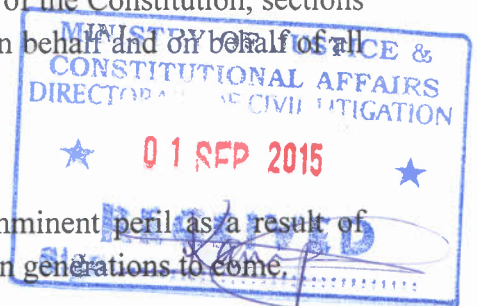
1. NISI MBABAZI
2. JONATHAN ARUHO
3. MATAYO NATUMANYA
4. KIND DAVID TANDEKA
(ALL MINORS SUING BY THEIR NEXT FRIEND KENNETH KAKURU)
5. GREENWATCH:..... PLAINTIFFS

-VERSUS-

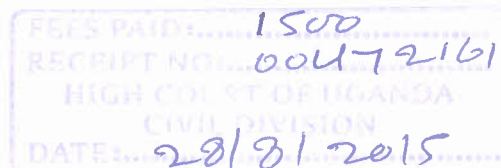
1. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
2. THE NATIONAL ENVIROMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY::::DEFENDANTS

AMENDED PLAINT

1. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th plaintiffs are all minors, Ugandans and are suing through their next friend Kenneth Kakuru whose address for the purpose of this suit shall be Kakuru & Co. Advocates, Plot 7&9 second street Industrial Area Kinyara Sugar Building suit F-5 P.O. Box 6256 Kampala.
2. The 5th plaintiff is a Non-Governmental Organisation registered under the laws of Uganda and incorporated as a company limited by guarantee whose address for the purpose of this suit shall also be the same as the other plaintiffs.
3. The 1st defendant is the Attorney General of the Republic of Uganda and is sued in that capacity. Service upon him shall be effected by counsel for the plaintiffs.
4. The 2nd defendant is the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) a body corporate established under the National Environment Act Cap 153 as the principal agency in Uganda for the management of the environment and the plaintiffs' counsel undertakes to effect service upon it.
5. The plaintiffs bring this action under Articles 29, 50 and 237 of the Constitution, sections 2,3,71 and 106 of the National Environment Act on their own behalf and on behalf of all children of Uganda born and unborn and in public interest.
6. The facts constituting the cause of action are as follows
 - a) That scientific reports now warn that the earth is in imminent peril as a result of climate heating that will impose catastrophic conditions on generations to come.
 - b) That unless checked, extreme climatic conditions may trigger mass extinction and wipe out civilization as we know it.
 - c) That unless action is taken immediately the current climatic patterns of prolonged drought, floods, hurricanes, crop losses will escalate into human catastrophe for the present, but more so for future generations.



Received
Advice
1st sept 2015



[Handwritten signature]

- d) That Uganda's State of Environment Report 2004/2005 reported that the earth surface temperature is raising caused by a buildup of Green House Gasses in the atmosphere as a result of fossil fuel intensive mode of global development.
 - e) The same report states that climate change can affect the availability of fresh water, ability to produce food, and distribution and seasonal transmission of vector borne diseases.
 - f) Uganda government reports indicate that global warming is a modern problem, complicated and tangled up with difficult issues such as poverty, economic growth and population growth. Dealing with it will not be easy and ignoring it will be worse.
 - g) The World Bank report (2000) indicates that people living in poverty and poor countries like Uganda are more susceptible to climate change.
 - h) Uganda is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is also party to the Kyoto protocol which require parties to put in place powerful and legally binding measures to curtail climate change.
 - *i) Uganda has not carried out any comprehensive inventory of greenhouse gas emissions since 1994.
 - j) The National Green Gas Inventory (1994) data indicates agricultural activities constitute a single most important contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.
 - k) The State of the Environment Report indicates that "if current trends in global warming persist, ice cover on the peaks of Mountain Rwenzori will disappear by 2023, reducing water in Lake George and Edward, affecting biodiversity and livelihoods.
7. That as a result of the above and other factors the details of which shall be presented at the hearing, Uganda has suffered major climate related disasters.
 8. The government has not implemented any of the major adaptation measures proposed and suggested by researchers and policy makers.
 9. That government inaction is unsustainable and is causing a lot of harm and suffering to the people of Uganda and the situation will be worse in future putting the lives of the plaintiffs at peril through no fault of their own.
 10. At the trial the plaintiffs shall aver, contend and prove that government inaction on climate change is responsible for loss of life, property, livelihoods and social and political discontent.
 11. The plaintiffs shall in this regard link climate change inaction by government to a number of events that have taken place in the recent past, including but not limited to the ones listed below.
 - a) Five pupils wounded and school of 400 destroyed in a local storm in Lira District. April 2011 (Annexure A).

- b) Two children killed when their house collapse during heavy rains in Kampala April 2011.
 - c) Two year old twins drowned as they slept in their house in Kampala, October 2010.
 - d) Hailstorm destroys 200 houses in Alito sub-county Kole District 20th April 2011, four children seriously injured.
 - e) 200 families rendered homeless in Kumi District following a violent storm 27th April 2011.
 - f) Moroto District hit by drought never seen in the last 40 years (Annexture B).
 - g) Thousands of people displaced from their homes in Budduda village following a storm triggered landslide (Annexture C).
 - h) The current political unrest over rise in food and fuel prices is related to government inaction to climate change.
12. The above all followed a number of reports in the press and elsewhere which shall be presented at the trial detailing government failure to take any action to curtail climate change and its effects.
13. At the trial it shall be contended
- a) That the government of Uganda holds and maintains natural resources for and on behalf of the citizens of Uganda, as enshrined in Article 237 of the Constitution.
 - b) That government of Uganda holds as a public trustee for all the citizens Natural resources and has a duty and obligation to maintain these resources and to ensure their sustainable use.
 - c) That the government has a duty to ensure sustainable use of resources for the present and future generations, including but not limited to Air, Water and land resources.
 - d) That Articles 39 and 237 of the Constitution imposes a duty on government as a public trustee to ensure that the atmosphere is free from pollution for the present and future generations.
 - e) That the 2nd defendant has a duty to ensure the integration of environmental concerns in overall national planning through coordination with relevant Ministries, departments and agencies of the government and undertake research and disseminate information about the environment as well as prepare and disseminate a state of the environment report once in two years.

- f) That the atmosphere is an ecological asset of the people of Uganda which the government holds on their behalf and has a duty and obligation under the Constitution, the laws and international legal instruments to maintain it in a sustainable manner.
- g) That the defendants have failed in their duty to uphold the citizens' right to a clean and healthy environment and neglected their duties as public trustees, in the result that the plaintiffs have suffered, will continue to suffer and are likely to suffer more harm in future.
- h) That the defendants have failed to take measure to curb present and future effects of climate change in total disregards of the constitution and the law, and as such the plaintiffs' constitutional rights have been violated.

14. This Honorable court has jurisdiction to hear and determine this matter, and the cause of action arises out of this jurisdiction.

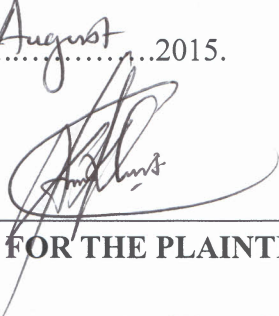
15. That statutory notice of intention to sue was dispensed with this being an urgent matter brought under Article 50 of the Constitution for protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.

WHEREFORE the plaintiffs pray for the following orders and declarations;

- 1) An order directing the defendants to implement measures that will reduce the impact of climate change.
- 2) An order directing the defendants to conduct an updated carbon accounting and develop a climate change mitigation (reforestation/ emissions reduction) plan in accordance with the best available science, to reduce the impact of climate change.
- 3) An order directing the defendants to take measures to protect the plaintiffs and the children of Uganda from effects of climate change and specifically extreme climatic conditions such as floods.
- 4) An order directing the defendants to implement International conventions, treaties and protocols on climate change.
- 5) A declaration that the government holds in trust for the people of Uganda present and future generations, all shared resources set out in Article 237 of the Constitution including the atmosphere.
- 6) A declaration that the defendants' failure to prevent and or curtail atmospheric pollution is a violation of the plaintiffs' right to a clean and healthy environment enshrined under Article 39 of the Constitution.
- 7) An order directing government to compensate victims of climate change and to take appropriate measures to curtail and prevent re-occurrence.

8) No order be made to costs.

Dated at Kampala this ...^{25th}.....day of August.....2015.



COUNSEL FOR THE PLAINTIFFS

We counsel for the 1st defendant consent to the filing of the amended plaint.



COUNSEL FOR THE 1ST DEFENDANT

Drawn and filed By:

Kakuru and Co. Advocates
Plot 7&9 Second Street
(Kinyara Sugar Building)
1st Floor Suite F-5
P.O. Box 6256,
Kampala

Storm destroys Omito school

By James Oloch in Lira

A total of 1,441 pupils of Omito Primary School in Lira district are likely to miss the second academic term following torrential rains that destroyed several classroom blocks recently.

The storm left three classroom blocks without roofs.

Lira chief administrative officer, Benon Rwanghua, said several schools and residential houses were damaged.

The CAO, who was touring the affected areas with the acting Lira LC5 chairman, Fredrick Obong, said P1, P2 and P3 classrooms, the headmaster's office and the library were damaged.

"This is the worst calamity in the school. The roof of the P5, P6 and P7 block is just hanging on the wall. I doubt if the school will reopen for the second term."

Rwanghua asked the school management committee to call an emergency meeting to ask the parents to contribute towards the renovation of the school as they await assistance from the Prime Minister's office.

The acting LC5, Obong Eyit observed that since local government had no budget for disasters management the central government to create a special budget and fund send to the district and is kept to manage such disasters instead of waiting from the prime minister's office.

The head master Omito primary school, Martin Opio, said they had 1,441 pupils in first term and wondered where all these pupils will be put in the second term.

"We have no classes for these pupils, we appeal to the district, central government and other humanitarian organizations to come to our rescue" Opio said.

CAO said, the district is going to send the district Engineer to go and assess the damage in all school, so that they forward comprehensive reports to the prime minister's office.

Five dead, 3 injured in Friday floods

By Petride Mudoola and Andrew Ssenyonga

FIVE people died and three others sustained injuries in two Kampala suburbs when their houses collapsed due to the heavy rains that hit the city on Thursday night.

Annette Nabwire, 32 and her two children, Namakoyo, 2 and Wenger, 5 of Kibuli-Kitoro zone and Cosma Rwamahe, a trailer driver and his daughter, Zaina Kassim, of Kisugu, Namuwongo, died after their houses were destroyed by the rain.

The Kabalagala Police commander, Wesley Nganizi, confirmed the incidents, adding that the bodies were taken to the City Mortuary.

Nganizi noted that the house in Kibuli-Kitoro was too old to survive the heavy rains while residents attributed the tragedy to poor urban planning within the city. Other injured people were rushed to Mulago.

October 6, 2009

El-Nino rains begin, more areas to get landslides. By Gerald Tenywa

HEAVY rains, expected to be disastrous in the mountainous areas and eastern parts of Lake Kyoga, have started as predicted by weather experts. "El-Nino rains have started. The intensity is expected to increase and the peak will occur in October for western Uganda and early November for Kampala and the rest of the country," said Deus Bamanya, a senior meteorologist. "The heavy rains, being experienced in Kabale, will soon advance towards Bundibugyo and other areas of western Uganda."

He cited mountainous districts, such as Mbale in eastern Uganda, as the areas that can expect landslides. The low-lying districts, such as those at the foot of Mount Elgon, should be braced for floods.

El Nino will not be as severe as in 1998. Nevertheless, the country is likely to receive above normal rains, the weather expert predicts. He listed as areas in eastern Uganda that will receive more than their normal share of rain Soroti, Kumi, Bukedea, Amuria, Keberamaido, Manafwa, Sironko, parts of Pallisa, Kamuli and Iganga.

In Central Uganda, high amounts of rainfall are expected in Kampala, Mpigi, Mubende, Mityana, Kiboga and Kayunga.

In the north, the districts of Oyam, Amolatar, Dokolo, Lira, Pader and Kitgum are likely to experience heavy rains.

For the western part of the country, Bamanya predicts that Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu and Bundibugyo will be hardest hit.

The meteorology department is expected to release an update on the weather forecast later this week. Phillip Gwage, a weather expert in the climate change unit, said abnormal weather conditions were becoming more frequent as a result of climate change.

"B"

TRUTH EVERYDAY

Daily Monitor

Posted Saturday, February 11 2012 at 00:00

Insight

Increased charcoal burning biggest threat to climate change in Uganda *By Bamaturaki Musinguzi & Agenciés*



UPDF soldiers help Karimojong fire victims carry timber for rebuilding their homes in Moroto last year. Cutting down trees is said to be one of the major causes of climate change. Photo by Steven Ariong

In Summary

Environmental scare. With lacking co-ordination in the communication of climate change information in the country, reports indicate there is an extremely small window of opportunity to deal with the global hazard.

Once a fortnight, Moses Sserwada travels from the capital, Kampala, to northern Uganda to pick up a truckload of charcoal destined for the popular Owino Market.

"I have been in this trade for three years; we get our supply from northern Uganda because the charcoal produced there is of good quality and in high demand," Mr. Sserwada says. The charcoal trade, referred to as "black gold" by Kampala traders, has become more profitable than the forests where trees are being indiscriminately cut down for charcoal-burning. For the rural population, charcoal trade is an opportunity to earn an income.

However, because of this lucrative trade, Uganda loses close to 73,000 hectares of forest cover annually, which has crippled the country's climate.

New findings show that the average temperatures in Uganda have increased to as high as 1.4 degrees Celsius since the 1960s compared to an average of 0.5 degrees in the East African region over the last century.

The experts are now warning that: "Looking further ahead, up to 4.30C, change in average temperatures by the 2080s is possible. A temperature rise of that magnitude would have disastrous consequences for Uganda."

To put these numbers in perspective, there is a general consensus among politicians that if the most dangerous effects of climate change are to be avoided, average global temperatures should not rise by more than 20C.

In a new report titled: 'Hidden Heat: Communicating climate change in Uganda: Challenges and Opportunities,' the researcher notes that there is an extremely small window of opportunity to get to grips with climate change.

"Unless urgent action is taken, climate change will cause a range of serious problems in Uganda," the report cautions. The Ugandan government has presented tentative evidence that the number of droughts per decade is already increasing, with the period 1991-2000 especially drought-prone.

The surface area of the ice cap on the Rwenzori Mountains has reduced from six square kilometers in 1906 to 0.86 square kilometres today.

"We may not be able to say with certainty that a particular extreme weather event is directly linked to climate change, but we know that extreme weather events will become more frequent and more severe as the global climate warms. An increase in drought is completely consistent with scientists' predictions about how climate change will impact on lives and livelihoods in Uganda. Climate change is becoming a reality in Uganda," the report says.

According to the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, all of Africa is likely to warm during this century, and at a faster rate than the global average. But Africa is also the continent that is least likely to be able to cope with its effects.

African nations are highly dependent on climate sensitive industries like farming and food production and yet Africa lacks the financial and technological resources to adapt to a changing climate.

"Among the crops to be affected in Uganda will be tea. The temperatures will be so high and will scorch the tea leaves, bringing down production, if not drying out the whole plant," the senior agricultural officer and head of the tea unit in the ministry of agriculture, animal industries and fisheries, Ms. Daisy Eresu, warns.

"B"

"We shall then have to grow our tea at altitudes of 2,000 above sea level and abandon the low lying areas. Alternatively, if Uganda is to remain growing tea in the low-lying areas, we have to encourage the farmers to plant trees for shade that are compatible with tea and we are beginning to encourage farmers to adopt this method through our extension services," Ms. Eresu says.

According to the executive director of Nature Uganda, Mr Achilles Byaruhanga, there is need for a firm commitment from development partners on the issue of financing for mitigation or adaptation to climate change impacts.

"The point is that there is no more dilly-dallying. Climate change is with us. We are already suffering its impact through food insecurity and less power generation. Therefore, it is not an issue to be postponed," Mr Byaruhanga says.

The hidden heat research project conducted by Dr Adam Corner of the School of Psychology, Cardiff University in partnership with Panos Eastern Africa-Uganda, aimed at identifying the challenges and opportunities for communication and public engagement on climate change in Uganda.

Although government policies, low-carbon technologies and financial support from international donors will all play a role in Uganda's response to climate change, central to the fight against climate change in Uganda is effective communication and public engagement, the report suggests.

The report adds that there is a major lack of co-ordination in the communication of climate change information in Uganda. Although several governmental and non-governmental bodies are potentially in position to act as a central hub for climate change information and engagement, currently they are poorly funded and have a low public profile.

At the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Nairobi in 2010, it was noted that communicating about climate change is as complex as the issue itself – and that there was an urgent need to communicate clearly to African citizens and mobilise mass support for policies to tackle climate change.

At a national and international level, the report notes that politicians are not being held into account for taking action on climate change – but this is partly because there is such little awareness of the international causes of climate change.

Raising awareness about the role of industrialised nations in causing climate change, and pressuring national politicians to make greater progress at international negotiations is critical.

At the local level, politicians tend to be poorly informed about climate change; yet local government structures represent a crucial opportunity for reaching large numbers of ordinary citizens. Sensitisation campaigns should focus on local politicians as a key constituency that can catalyse action on climate change. Awareness must be raised about the emerging carbon trading sector, as the report notes.

"There is the potential for carbon trading to deliver much-needed income to ordinary Ugandan citizens, but there are also major risks. An honest and open dialogue about the risks and benefits of carbon trading for Uganda is an essential first step to accessing the financial advantages that carbon trading may bring."

Uganda has a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), but a coordinated national policy on climate change is yet to be implemented.

Responses to climate change are usually divided into two categories – 'mitigation' and 'adaptation'. Mitigating climate change means reducing the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere, in an attempt to avoid the effects of climate change. Adaptation means taking action that increases the capacity to cope with the effects of climate change – building resilience.

However, findings show that Uganda's capacity to mitigate climate change through changes in energy use is extremely limited. Fossil fuel use is low, and greenhouse gas emissions from Uganda barely register at the global level. This does not mean that steps to mitigate climate change should not be taken.

Some actions – such as the use of solar fuel cells for heating water, or fuel stoves with increased energy efficiency for cooking, will reduce Ugandan greenhouse gas emissions and provide tools for sustainable development.

Saving forests

Uganda does have significant forest reserves although they are rapidly being reduced.

"If these forests can be maintained or increased, they will help to absorb the extra carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

According to the report, "Given the limited scope for mitigation in Uganda, adaptation is the focus of most attention.

"Trees and vegetation play a number of critical roles in Uganda, providing food, wind cover and contributing to local-level temperature regulation. Other potential adaptation methods include developing drought-resistant crop varieties, maintaining soil fertility, and diversification in agricultural methods."

According to the National Forest Authority (NFA), more than 73,000 hectares of private forest are cleared every year across the country and over 7,000 hectares of protected forest reserves are destroyed annually for timber and charcoal.

"People are cutting down trees indiscriminately without thinking of the future," Mr. Moses Watasa, of the NFA says, adding that Uganda has no clear policy on charcoal production.

"We must encourage planting fast-growing trees like eucalyptus so that we can be in position to get timber and charcoal in 10 years," he said.

"B"

Northern Uganda has thick forest cover, comprising both hard and soft wood. Forest growth in the area flourished during the two-decade LRA conflict since many locals were displaced from their villages.

Previously, Kampala charcoal traders relied on charcoal from Nakasongola, Hoima, Masindi, Kafu, Luweero areas in central Uganda. These have since been depleted of private and community forests.

For instance, Langele Village, adjacent to the Murchison Falls National Park in Nwoya District, known for its beautiful scenery and thick forests, is no more because locals have depleted it of the forest cover, referring to it as a charcoal factory.

"The price of forest depends on its thickness but on average it costs 1.5 million shillings [US\$600] for a hectare," said Mr. Otto Oola, a resident of Langele. "Any patch of land here covered with trees is worth a fortune, it can earn you millions of shillings any time."

Poverty

Although aware of the environmental impact of indiscriminate cutting of trees, Oola said many people were doing it out of poverty. He said charcoal buyers not only provided cash upon purchase, they also helped villagers clear forested land for cultivation. "I am trying to survive, I can't sit hungry in that forest," Mr Oola said.

According to the State of the Environment report by the Uganda National Environment Management Authority, the rate of deforestation had, by 2005, increased from 1.76 per cent per annum to 2.13 per cent per annum.

The report says pressure on land, water, forest and biological resources has dramatically increased to meet the needs of a growing population, leading to a loss of 76 per cent of the country's forest cover.

Mr. Geoffrey Oryema, the Nwoya district chief, said poverty and lack of a meaningful livelihood were the driving factors for environmental destruction.

But Mr Samuel Abwola, a district environment officer in Gulu, said people in rural areas were being exploited to degrade their own environment.

Forest depletion in Gulu

Gulu initially had 371 Sqkm of forest cover, but environmentalists now estimate the cover to be only 200 Sq.km, a reduction they attribute to charcoal-burning, human settlement as well as the quest to open up cultivable lands.

Margaret Barihahi, a coordinator for the African Climate Change Resilience Alliance, said it was necessary to devise alternatives for sustainable livelihoods and to empower communities with information on the dangers of indiscriminate forest-cutting.

"Without a viable alternative source of energy, it is clear that charcoal and wood fuel will remain the dominant sources of energy," Barihahi said.

An estimated 95 per cent of Ugandans depend on charcoal and wood for cooking. Moreover, Uganda's rapid population growth, coupled with rapid urbanisation, has increased the demand for energy, especially cooking fuel.

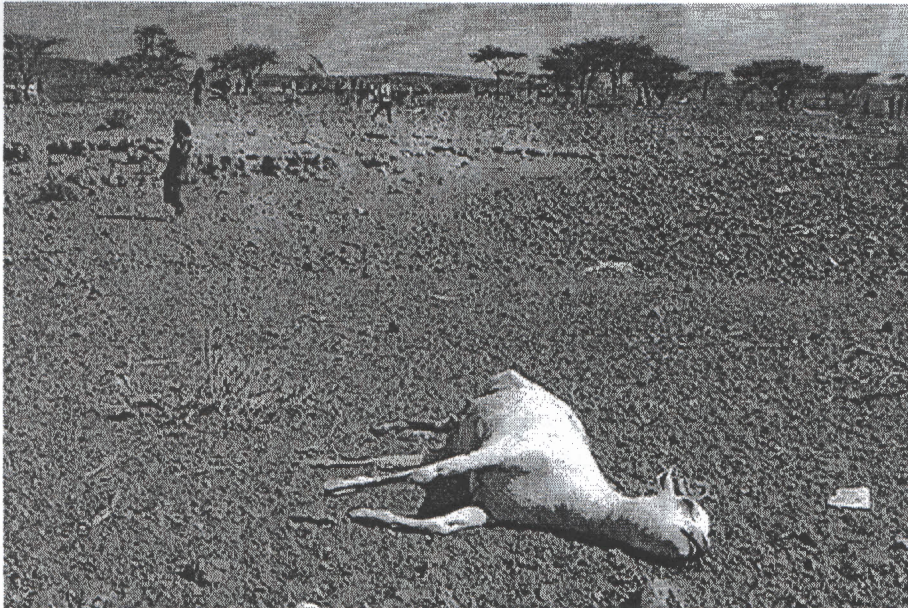
However, growth in energy demand has not been matched by corresponding growth in supply of alternative sources of fuel, such as hydro-electricity, which is the cheapest and most convenient alternative source of energy for cooking.

Because of its short supply, hydro-electricity is neither affordable nor reliable.

Uganda's National Development Plan estimates the country's electricity demand to reach 35,000MW by 2015 and the absence of cheap charcoal is likely to push demand for electricity even higher.

By IRIN

Drought: Ntoroko district loses over 10,000 cattle



Severe drought in East and Central Africa has affected over 12 million people

Publish Date: Feb 17, 2012

By Vision Reporter

OVER 10,000 heads of cattle have died in the western district of Ntoroko in a period of two months due to prolonged drought in the area.

The most affected areas are Rwebisengo, Nombe, Butungama, Kanara and Karugutu sub-counties.

The District Veterinary Officer, Dr. Patrick Bagonza said the common source of water are simple wells that dry out during the dry seasons, adding that livestock walk for over 25 km in search for water.

Bagonza added that milk production has also been affected with farmers now getting less than two liters of milk per cow.

The minister of state for animal husbandry Bright Rwamirama said his ministry is planning to pump water from River Semliki to provide water for the livestock.

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Meanwhile, hot and sunny conditions are expected to intensify this February and so are wild fires, Water and environment minister, Maria Mutagamba has said.

She attributed the current weather pattern to the position of the overhead sun, La Nina conditions and winds from the Arabian Desert.

"During the month of February 2012, there are high chances that several places in Uganda are expected to have dry and sunny conditions, with more frequent dry winds that are likely to expose the communities to wildfires and burning of houses," she said a statement to Parliament recently.

The dry and sunny weather conditions, she warned, are likely to lead to reduced foliage and pastures for livestock reduce availability of water.

She also revealed that outbreak of diseases associated with dry conditions are likely to occur both in humans and animals.

She further warned that likelihood of dry weather conditions especially in northeastern and eastern Uganda might give rise to heat waves, which is a potential health risk with cases of meningitis likely to occur in such places.

She observed that at this time of the year, Uganda receives winds that originate from the Arabian Desert and they have continental track through Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. "By the time they reach Uganda, they have already lost their moisture on their track hence becoming hot and dry and affect the country with hazy conditions."

She explained that the overhead sun, which is currently in the southern hemisphere, gives more heat to the southern hemisphere and as a result, surface air expands, becomes lighter and rises, creating a low pressure over this area.

She noted that La Nina conditions have been prevailing across the tropical pacific basin since October 2011, which are now closer to their peak. La Nina is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific and this occurs, several parts of Uganda especially Karamoja experience dry conditions.

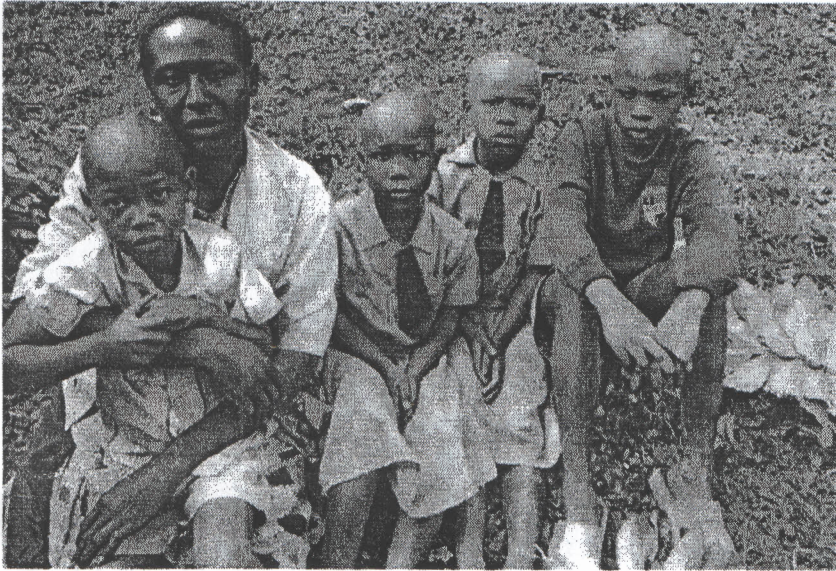
TRUTH EVERYDAY

Daily Monitor

Posted Sunday, July 1 2012 at 01:00National

Bududa landslides leave six children orphaned, homeless

By Tabu Butagira & David Mafabi



Four of the six children who were left without a mother or father. Photo by David Mafabi

In Summary

Life at stake. With their parents reported buried alive by the slipped earth, it has been a gamble since Monday evening for the half-a-dozen children to live another day

Six children have been orphaned by the Monday mudslides in Bududa and are now in urgent need of assistance after momentarily dropping out of school, local authorities here confirmed on Thursday.

District Probation Officer, Ms Beatrice Wakooli, said the affected children - aged three to 12 - lack food, clothing and shelter after the flowing debris reportedly knocked down their family houses and buried their parents alive.

Mallinga however appealed to the locals to vacate the risk prone areas for safe places.

The Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) joined a team of Uganda Red Cross Society in the excavation of the soil.

According to Uganda Red Cross Secretary Michael Nataka, 9 people were critically injured, 72 still missing and 448 people are at a risk as a result of torrential rains that pounded the area.

“UPDF has sent a team to work with us in the excavation of the land,” Uganda Red Cross Spokesperson Catherine Ntabadde said .

By Monday afternoon dozens were feared dead by landslides that swept through four villages in Bulucheke sub-county, Bududa district.

The Bunamulembwa LC1 chairman Stephen Kibalati said it rained heavily in the area for two days.

TRUTH EVERYDAY

Daily Monitor

Friday
September 14, 2012

National

Mudslides destroy five houses



Part of Mr Murumba's house in Bukhamoli Village was destroyed after a rock fell on its roof.
PHOTO BY DAVID MAFABI

By David Mafabi ([email the author](#))

Posted Friday, July 20 2012 at 01:00

In Summary

The mudslides occurred on Wednesday at 9pm in Wanale Sub-county, destroying five houses and several acres of crops. Officials in the affected areas say 57 homesteads were affected.

Mudslides have struck Bugisu sub-region again destroying five houses and several acres of crops in Wanale sub-county in Mbale District.

The mudslides ripped through Bukhamoli, Bunabumali and Bunamondo villages on Wednesday night after a six-hour downpour.

Mr Geoffrey Murumba, 42, a resident of Bukhamoli Village, whose house was crashed by a rolling rock, told Daily Monitor that he was seated with his family in the living room shortly after having supper at 9pm when they had a loud noise and some thing heavy struck the roof.

"I carried my little children and we ran out only to see a big stone rolled from the hills standing on the roof of the bedroom. Actually if we had gone to sleep immediately, we would have all died," he added.

The Wanale Sub-county LC5 councillor, Ms Kurusum Kissa said from the assessment carried out, about 57 homesteads need to be evacuated from the affected areas located at the slopes of Wanale ridge on Mt. Elgon.

"It is sad that people's crops have been destroyed in gardens. All crops are buried under rubble. Our appeal is that people be evacuated from the slopes of Mt. Elgon to the lowlands for safety," Ms Kissa said.

The Uganda Wildlife Authority warden in-charge of tourism, Mr Richard Matanda, said mudslides at the slopes of Mt. Elgon have become common because of the growing population which is putting pressure on the land.

He said most people living on the slopes of Mt. Elgon, especially Wanale ridge have cut down trees on the mountain and destroyed vegetation as they search for land to cultivate and settle.

"There were all signs that there would be a mudslide here. Even now there are all signs that the mudslides will be there unless people are evacuated. Trees in this area need to be replanted fast and if the issue is not handled urgently, we foresee a repeat of the Nametsi in Bududa," said Mr Matanda.

Dr Mary Gorretti Kitutu, the environment systems specialist at National Environment Management Authority, said: "Due to the ever increasing population people have encroached on the forest cover on the mountain for settlement and economic activities and the farming methods being practiced by residents are unfavorable for the soil,"

Past disasters

This is the third time in the recent past that mudslides are occurring in the Mt. Elgon area. In March 2010, landslides hit Nametsi village in Bududa District killing 350 people and displacing thousands, most of whom are now resettled in Kiryandongo District.

In 2011 there was another mudslide in Bulambuli that killed about 28 people. In March this year, mudslides killed six people in Sironko District and in June, there was another mudslide that buried 18 people in Bududa District.

dmfabi@ug.nationmedia.com

TRUTH EVERYDAY

Daily Monitor

Tuesday September 11 2012 at 15:02

National

Bududa Landslide Victims Flee Back To Risky Areas

By Agencies

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This comes just about a month after the office of the Prime Minister provided tents, relief food and non-food items and relocated them to nearby trading centers among other areas after the June 25 landslides that left eight people dead and 18 others injured.

John Wamalwa, a resident of Bunakasala village, the epicentre of the June 25th landslides, was relocated to Bunamuvi trading centre.

Wamalwa however says one month after the office of the Prime Minister promised to send them more relief food items, no government official has visited the area.

He says in Bunamuvi where majority of them were relocated, they are facing hard times since they lack clean water source, latrines and food. He says together with others they have decided to go back to their villages which are considered highly prone to another disaster.

He says they are aware of the risk but argued that they can at least grow food to survive.

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Lubango says the recent rains that have pounded Bugisu sub region pose serious risks of another landslide. She explains that in some areas water was gushing out of the once dry ground, implying that rain water has penetrated the soils.

John Baptist Nabeshe, the Bududa district Local Council Five chairperson blames government for the delay to relocate all those living in unsafe areas of Mt Elgon slope.

He says government failed to fulfill its promise of delivering relief assistance to those who were relocated. Nabeshe says his office tried in vain to stop them from returning to their villages as they challenged him to provide them with the basic necessities in their displaced areas.

Musa Ecweru, the State Minister for Disaster Preparedness acknowledges government's inability to immediately provide relief items and implement the relocation plans. He says at the moment government is struggling to secure some funds for this purpose.

Ecweru said that the inter-ministerial committee that visited and assessed the areas recently recommended for immediate relocation of these people. He says they identified 17 urban centres in Bududa where government intends to put up modern buildings for accommodation.

TRUTH EVERYDAY

Daily Monitor

Posted Sunday, July 1 2012 at 01:00

Commentary

Bududa: Can't we learn from past experience?

By Adventino Bbanjwa

The Baganda say; "Ekijja omanyi kinyaga bitono." This literally means that once you have the ability to foresee something, it can't take you by surprise. You prepare for it in advance. In Uganda it is for the same reason that we have a fully fledged ministry for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees.

On Monday June 25 Bududa was once again devastated by landslides. Media reports show that over 18 people were feared dead, but the number is predicted to reach hundreds. Over 20 homes have been buried by these landslides. What puzzles is that landslides are not striking the area for the first time.

We should all remember that in 1970, landslides killed over 60 people in Bulucheke Sub-county. Between 1997 and 1999, over 48 people lost their lives as a result of landslides. In 1997 alone, over 10,000 people were displaced due to landslides. Again in 2002, three children were reported to have been killed by landslides, and six others injured in Bududa, then part of Mbale District. As we have seen, every time landslides strike the area, villages are buried and many people end up perishing. In 2010, it was a natural massacre! Whereas government reported only 100 deaths, Bududa District reported a shocking figure of over 300 people!

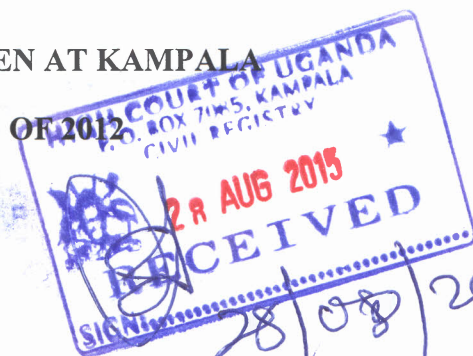
Unfortunately, up to now, landslides have continued to terrorise the people, despite government awareness of the disaster. Why? What have we learnt from our past experience? It seems we have not. This is evident in the continued vulnerability and loss of lives by the people due to a well known disaster. Annually, it is believed that the rate of displacement due to landslides in Uganda is now 700 per year. This is outrageous! We must stop treating the Bududa case with frivolity. Delivering relief in form of aid to the survivors is okay, but this should not be considered an end.

Meanwhile a comprehensive recovery plan should be designed by the concerned ministries and organizations for the permanently resettled communities. This will prevent the reoccurrence of the Kiryandongo scenario, where resettled folks felt insecure in the new place and decided to go back to Bududa, despite vulnerability to landslides. This was due to state abandonment and absence of a comprehensive resettlement plan. If this is done, our Disaster Preparedness Ministry will be put to proper use, and the people will feel the presence of a government amidst them.

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF UGANDA HOLDEN AT KAMPALA

HIGH COURT CIVIL SUIT NO.283 OF 2012



1. NISI MBABAZI
2. JONATHAN ARUHO
3. MATAYO NATUMANYA
4. KIND DAVID TANDEKA
(ALL MINORS SUIING BY THEIR NEXT FRIEND KENNETH KAKURU)
5. GREENWATCH:..... PLAINTIFFS

-VERSUS-

1. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
2. THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY:.....DEFENDANTS

AMMENDED SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

The plaintiffs shall adduce evidence to prove that scientific reports now warn that the earth is in imminent peril as a result of climate heating that will impose catastrophic conditions on generations to come and that unless action is taken immediately the current climatic patterns of prolonged drought, floods, hurricanes, crop losses will escalate into human catastrophe for the present, but more so for future generations.

That Uganda's State of Environment Report 2004/2005 reported that the earth surface temperature is raising caused by a buildup of Green House Gasses in the atmosphere as a result of fossil fuel intensive mode of global development.

That the defendants' inaction is unsustainable and is causing a lot of harm and suffering to the people of Uganda and the situation will be worse in future putting the lives of the plaintiffs at peril through no fault of their own.

At the trial the plaintiffs shall aver, contend and prove that the defendants' inaction on climate change is responsible for loss of life, property, livelihoods and social and political discontent.

LIST OF WITNESSES

1. Mrs. Ssekyana Irene
3. Shuaib Lwasa
4. Any other with leave of Court.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. Uganda State of Environment Report 2004/2005
2. IPCC Assessment Reports
3. Regional Impacts of Climate Change. An assessment of vulnerability

4. The National Picture: Climate trends in Uganda – Policy brief by Africa Climate Change Resistance in Africa (ACCRA)
5. Report from Adaptation Partnership workshop by USAID – Climate Change Adaptation and Peace Building in Africa.
6. A case study by ACCRA Consortium with the World Vision Uganda – Weather and Climate Change forecasting for community resilience to climate related risks and shocks in Uganda.
7. Articles from the New Vision
8. Any other documents with leave of Court.

LIST OF AUTHORITIES

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 as Amended.
2. The National Environment Act Cap 153
3. The Civil Procedure Act Cap 71
4. The Civil Procedure Rules S.1 71-1
5. Any other authorities with leave of court.

DATED at Kampala this _____ day of August 2015.



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