

# 10 die in Bugiri crash during a URA chase

BY ASUMAN MUSOBYA

**BUGIRI.** Fresh details have emerged following the tragic accident in Bugiri that claimed 10 lives, including a three-month-old baby, after a taxi allegedly fleeing from Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) officials rammed into a parked Sino truck on the Jinja-Tororo Highway.

The taxi, a Toyota Hiace registration number UBN 817H, crashed into the stationary truck UA 647BA/TUA at Busowa Town Council on Wednesday morning.

Eyewitnesses said the taxi was allegedly transporting smuggled goods from Kenya.

Mr Hasan Mugoya, a businessman in Busowa, reiterated that the taxi driver appeared to be speeding while overtaking the truck, which turned out to be stationary.

"People said it was being

chased by a URA vehicle. The taxi knocked into a truck that was parked about seven metres off the road. Some of the goods, wheat flour, clothes, and polythene bags were taken by residents before police arrived," he said.

The Bugiri Traffic Officer-in-Charge, ASP Godwin Oyesigye, confirmed that the deceased included five men, four women, and a three-month-old baby girl.

Three survivors, a woman and two men, were first taken to Bugiri Hospital before being transferred to Jinja and Mbale hospitals in critical condition.

Police said investigations are ongoing. ASP Oyesigye noted that highway CCTV footage is being reviewed, adding that speeding and reckless driving remain the leading suspected causes.

## URA denies involvement

The tax body has denied that

any of its enforcement vehicles from Busia were involved in a chase.

Mr Moses Wanjala Owino, the URA manager for enforcement and border control in Eastern Uganda, dismissed the allegations.

"Bugiri and the surrounding areas are high-risk smuggling zones. People may have assumed it was a URA vehicle. As we speak, our vehicle is in Kampala. But we shall follow up to understand exactly what people are alleging," he said.

Bugiri Hospital medical superintendent, Dr Anthony Wamasyuwu, confirmed that postmortem examinations on all the bodies were completed and the remains were handed over to families.

He identified the survivors as Arafat Idinda, 28, and Daadi Kamurani, 44, both residents of Malaba in Tororo District, and Milliy Kagoya, 22, a resident of Bugiri.