

**ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF STONE QUARRYING ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN  
OSUKURU SUBCOUNTY TORORO DISTRICT**

**BY**

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BU/UP/2012/595**


**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN  
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**JULY 2015**



**DECLARATION**

I **Aja Clare** hereby declare that this dissertation is a result of my independent commitment and has never been submitted in either the same or the different kind to this or any other institution for any academic qualification.

Signature: .....  .....

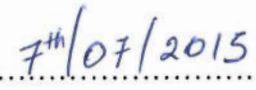
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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my mum Grace Isapu. **God bless you as you pursue all your reveries.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to my supervisor, Ms. Ariango Esther for the guidance and advice they gave me in the course of my research and writing this report. I would like to acknowledge the love, care and help of my friends and also those who helped to make this work a success.

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## ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

JFCU	Joy For Children Uganda
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization of Economic Corporation and Development
PECs	Parish Environmental Committees
SECs	Sub County Environmental Committees
UBOS	Uganda Beaura Of Statistics
VECs	Village Environmental Committees
WHO	World Health Organization

## ABSTRACT

The general objective of the study was to find out the impacts of stone quarrying to the environment in Osukuru Sub County, Tororo District. The study unearthed the impacts that stone quarrying has on the physical, social, and economic spheres of the environment. The study relied on the information collected qualitatively through individual interviews coupled with personal observations in addition to documented data from published and unpublished sources. Findings reveal that the activity has led to a small scale ecological debt as the extraction of the stone resource is destroying people's ability to survive and the trade of the resource is also ecologically unbalanced as these natural goods are exploited and traded without taking responsibility for the environmental damage to the community from which the resource is exploited.



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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

A Quarry is a place from which dimension stone, rock, construction, aggregate, riprap, and, gravel, or slate has been excavated from the ground. A quarry is almost the same as an open pit mine from which minerals are extracted. (Wikipedia, 28<sup>th</sup> may 2014).

Quarrying has been defined as an activity where stones are dug for the purposes of being employed in building, making roads and the like through cutting, digging or blasting. Before starting of quarry operation many preparations must be made. First, the geologist must find a place where there is a large supply of rocks beneath the earth surface. Then the quarry can be igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. In order to get the rock beneath the surface of the earth clearing of the land is the first operation step. Once the land is cleared and prepared it will be ready to begin mining the rock (Vulcan, 2006). Quarrying operations generally involve removal of over burden drilling, blasting and crushing of rock materials. This comes along with swamp creation, deterioration of ground water, erosion of soil, noise and percussion from rocks blasting, generation of dust and smoke. Apart from land degradation, other negative impacts of quarrying are the production of noxious gases and ground vibration. Suspended particulate matter is quite outstanding among all pollutants emanating from quarrying operation (USEPA, 2008).

The increased levels of urbanization in developing countries have triggered a lot of construction ranging from construction of roads to develop the transport sector to setting up of industries to support the manufacturing sector.

In Uganda, commercial gravel extraction to supply aggregate to the construction industry has been on the increase in recent years. Although there is some informal stone quarrying practice, the majority of such activities are carried out on large scale by well-established developers; products are increasingly demanded for industrial,

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