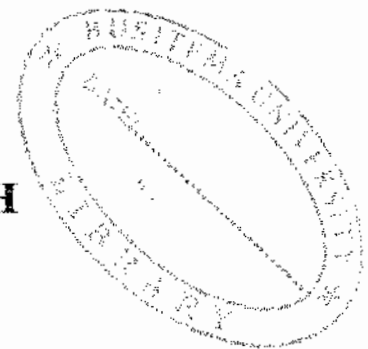


**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF  
COPPER MINING TO THE COMMUNITIES IN RWENZORI  
REGION: CASE STUDY OF KASESE DISTRICT KILEMBE SUB  
COUNTY**

**BY**

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**BU/UG/2012/124**



**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULLFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE IN BACHELORS OF SCIENCE  
IN NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY.**

**JUNE2015**

## DECLARATION

I MUHUMUZA KENNETH do hereby declare that this research report is my own work and has never been submitted to any university or institution of higher learning for any academic award. And where other peoples' research was used, the authors were dully acknowledged.

Signature  .....

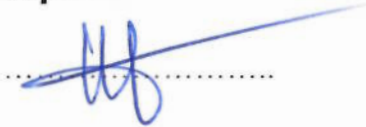
MUHUMUZA KENNETH

Date...../...../.....

### APPROVAL

This serves to certify that this work has been as a result of efforts of MUHUMUZA KENNETH towards partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Economics of Busitema University under my guidance and supervision.

Supervisor

  
.....

Date.....08/07/2015

DR NAKIYEMBA ALICE

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this report to my family especially my dear parents Mr. Kaheru Francis and my mother Ms Kabatooro Judith, Mr. Aliganyira Nelson Mr. Agaba Nicholas ,Ms Kobusinge Sylvia ,Ms Tusiime Mable. My friends Nyangoma Immeldah, Turyasingura Innocent and whoever put in a hand towards accomplishment of this report. May the good Lord reward you abundantly

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADF	Allied Defense Forces
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
KDEC	Kasese District Environment Committee
GHG	Green House Gases
KDEC	Kasese District Environmental Committee
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
ZCM	Zambian Copper Mines

## ABSTRACT

The study examined the socio-economic and environmental impacts of copper mining in the Rwenzori region focusing on Kilembe Sub County as the case study. The mines are located about 150 meters off Kilembe road, a tarmac road that still looks new yet it was built in the 1960s. After crossing a narrow bridge, a pebbled road leads you uphill to an area described as '45 portal', where the lower mines are located. The overall objective of the study was to assess the socio-economic and environmental impacts of copper mining to the communities in the Rwenzori region. The mining and mineral industry as sources of primary export income plays an important role in the economic and socio-political development of many developing countries, as these countries largely depend on the mining for their economic development, an example of which is Uganda.

The assessment was carried out through the use of a case study methodology which employed interviews and documents as instruments for data collection. It further establishes that though copper production has been on an increase and seen increased inflows, environmental management has not received the same attention and this has negatively impacted on the environment and the livelihood of the people of the Copper belt Province.

The study comprised of a sample of 60 respondents. Survey questionnaires, key informant interviews were used to gather information and the published literature. The methods of analysis that were used included; tabular analysis which involved computation of percentages and frequencies like pie charts and bar charts of the analyzed data in SPSS software.

The findings from the study indicate that the social impacts on the local people arising from copper mining were examined and it was found that the mining industry has negatively impacted on the social support systems of the local people and that productive land which could ideally be used for other developmental projects has been allocated for copper mining. In addition, it was found out that the government had not taken course. The study therefore, recommends reinforcement of institutional capabilities and competencies for proficient long-lasting planning for sustainable development.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Rwenzori region is endowed with a variety of natural resources and minerals in particular. Exploration by Kilembe Mining Ltd from 1956 to 1961 identified several copper-cobalt occurrences on which several confirmatory holes were drilled. While the mine was in operation from 1956 to 1972, a total of 16.2 million tons grading 1.98% copper and .17% cobalt were mined and approximately 270,000 tons of blister copper were produced. (ACTSA) et al. (2007) Over this span, mining was centered on the eastern deposits and the southwestern deposits were regarded as future developments. Perched on the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains, about 12km west of Kasese town, lie the remains of Kilembe Mines. Production of copper and cobalt ore at the mines stopped in 1982, making the mines a tale of struggling to come to life again. (Asimwe, Wilson 7 June 2014). "Kilembe Mines Rehabilitation Starts", New Vision, Retrieved 7 June 2014). The mines are located about 150 meters off Kilembe road, a tarmac road that still looks new yet it was built in the 1960s. After crossing a narrow bridge, a pebbled road leads you uphill to an area described as '45 portal', where the lower mines are located. Copper is a valuable metal that has been used throughout history for many different purposes. Copper has been mined for over 2,000 years. Historical records show the Chinese recovered copper from blue vitrol by placing iron into the vitriol solution as early as 150 BC (1). Copper is also a trace element that is needed to maintain many biological life forms and processes. According to the Uganda government, Kilembe had 4.17 million tons of copper reserves when it ceased production in 1982. In addition to the unexploited copper ore, there is 5.5 million tons of cobalt in tailings (dumped material from previous mining). The government also says there are additional copper reserves in the vicinity of the mine. Tibet Hima Industry Company Limited, a consortium of Chinese companies, is reviving copper mining in Kilembe after signing a concession agreement with the government of Uganda in 2013 (newvision By Ibrahim Kasita July 05 2013). The firm is to invest US\$175 million in the mines in the first three years, which will go to resuscitating smelting, refining, and product factory development. It also plans to increase power production at the Mubuku power plant, one of Kilembe's assets, to 12MW from 5MW (Jim Mugunga, 2013).

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