

## URBANISATION IN UGANDA

Urbanisation refers to a process involving the increase in the proportion of people living in towns or cities.

### CATEGORIES OF URBAN CENTRES

- ✓ Cities such as Kampala
- ✓ Municipalities such as like Ntugamo, Moroto, Jinja, Mukono, Mbarara, Gulu, Arua, Hoima, Mbale, Soroti, etc.
- ✓ Town councils such as Luuka, Bududa, Moyo, Kayunga, Rakai, Buyende, Serere, Apac, Kole, Kamwenge, Ntoroko, Mayuge, etc.
- ✓ Town boards like Buwama, Namulesa, Buloba, Bukoloto, etc.

### SKETCH MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING MAJOR URBAN CENTRES.

### CURRENT STATUS OF URBAN CENTRES

- ✓ Urbanization in Uganda has been rapid over the previous years.
- ✓ It is believed that approximately 14.7% of Uganda's population is living in urban areas today.
- ✓ Uganda has one of the lowest urbanisation rates in the world at 12 per cent (MFPED 2007 report).
- ✓ The number of urban dwellers is increasing.
- ✓ Urbanization in Uganda is relatively young compared to Kenya and Tanzania
- ✓ Uganda has one city, 30 municipalities and 174 town councils.
- ✓ These urban centres have grown primarily because of rural-urban migration.
- ✓ 21% of the total population live in urban centres.(2014 population and housing census.

### Urban population Trends in Uganda from 1980 to 2014

Year	Population in Millions	Percentage (%)
1980	0.9	6.9
1991	1.9	9.9
2002	2.9	12.3
2012	5.0	14.5
2014	7.4	

Source: UBOS 2012

The State of Uganda Population Report 2012p.17

Draw a bar graph to represent the information given in the table

## **FACTORS FOR THE INCREASED URBANISATION IN UGANDA:**

The rapid urbanization is caused by the following factors:

### **Physical factors**

The natural increase in population due to high birth rates. This is evident in urban centres like Kabale, Kisoro, Mbale and Rubanda.

The proximity to the Water supply also explains why there is increased development of urban centres primarily due to the assured abundant water supply for domestic and industrial use. This explains why many urban centres have developed around Lake Victoria for example Jinja, Masaka, Entebbe, Busia, Mukono, Buikwe, Entebbe and Kampala.

The ideal climate in form of heavy rainfall that is reliable and well distributed through out the year attract large scale agricultural production, infrastructural developments and increased settlements in areas like Mbarara, Jinja, Hoima Wakiso, Masaka and Mukono.

The gently sloping landscape that has eased the development of infrastructure in form of buildings, roads and other social facilities. This has stimulated the development of towns like Soroti, Lira, Iganga and Masaka.

The cheap and abundant land the establishment and expansion of urban centres in the broad valleys and flat topped hill in urban centres like Jinja, Masaka, Hoima, Mityana and Kampala.

### **Human factors**

The increased skilled labour used in the establishment and expansion of infrastructure in form of modern roads, power station, modern hospitals and industrial complexes in areas like Kampala, Masaka, Mbarara and Gulu.

The increased agricultural activities which stimulate establishment and expansion of roads and agro-based industries as evidenced in towns like Mbarara, Rubirizi, Kabarole, Rubanda and Kabale.

The positive government policy of gazettement some areas as cities, municipalities, town councils, etc. Kampala is the capital city of Uganda, creation of new districts like Namisindwa, Kasanda and Rwampara as well as municipalities such as Njeru, Bugiri, Masindi, Nebbi, Nansana and Ibanda. This has influenced their development because of the public building construction led in order to enhance administration.

The increased religious centres such as Rubaga cathedral, Christian life church and Rubaga miracle centre have led to influx of many people in Kampala city.

The improved social facilities in form of better schools, hospitals and recreational grounds that attract large populations in areas like Gulu, Mbale, Tororo, Kabale, Masaka, Mukono and Lugazi.

The increased trade opportunities like border points like Busia, Malaba, Mutukula and Kutuna have developed into urban centres because they facilitate international trade between Uganda and other countries through importation and exportation of goods. Towns like Kampala, Masaka and Arua have developed due to booming trade in the market and shopping centres.

The increased industrialisation in areas like Jinja, Mukono, Mbarara, Kabale, Kasese and Kampala have attracted infrastructural development and a large number of the labour force especially from the rural areas.

The improved technology used for infrastructural development such as modern roads has stimulated the growth of urban centres like Jinja, Masaka, Kampala, Entebbe, Iganga, Arua and Lira.

The improved political atmosphere/security has attracted foreign investors who have established various investments in form of industries such as Mukwano group of companies in Kampala and Mehta sugar processing industry at Igazi owned by Mehta. Kakira sugar works and Nile breweries have promoted the socio-economic development of Jinja town.

The increased mining activities and discovery of new minerals account for increased urbanisation for example Tororo and Hima towns developed into urban centres due to limestone extraction which stimulated infrastructural developments. The discovery of oil in the Albertine Graben accounts for the development of towns like Kikuube, Hoima and Buliisa.

The improved infrastructure in form of efficient transport and communication networks accounts for the rapid urbanization in Uganda for instance Jinja town, Entebbe town and Kampala city developed because of the improved roads, connection to the railway line and air port.

The increased power supply for domestic and industrial use. This has led to the influx of investors into the business and the industrial sector culminating into development of urban centres. Areas such as Jinja, Mukono and Kampala developed because they are located near the major power sources of Owen falls, Kiira and Bujagali power plants in Jinja.

The increased rural-urban migration partly accounts for the rapid increase in Urban centres in Uganda. Many people have migrated from rural areas to towns due to both "Push" and "pull" factors hence leading to increase in population in areas like Kampala, Mukono, Jinja, Masaka, Mbarara and Soroti.

## **FACTORS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED THE SETTING UP OF TOWNS IN UGANDA**

Some towns were sited because of defence factor. They were located in strategic positions so as to be able to defend against incoming invaders for example Kampala was sited on hills such as Rubaga, old Kampala hill, etc in order to defend against the incoming invaders like the Bunyoro and Arabs.

Historical factors in that some towns were sited simply because they were areas where the great chiefs existed as an early colonial administrative centres like Mbale town was sited by Semei

kakungulu. Kampala city started as an administrative centre for the British while Jinja town as an administrative centre for Busoga kingdom under the kyabazinga.

Some towns were sited where various lines of transport and communication networks converge. They act as nodal points for instance Gulu is a centre through which roads from Kitgum, Masindi, Moroto and Adjumani converge. Jinja town is a nodal point because several roads converge there. It is also connected to the railway line as well as Lake Victoria.

The influence of water supply. Some towns were developed near water sources due to provision of abundant water for industrial and home consumption for example Jinja town and Entebbe were partly sited because of large volumes of fresh water from Lake Victoria.

Some areas were sited near centres either to process the minerals or to provide residence for the workers in the mines for instance Kilembe town was sited as residential area for workers in kilembe mine, Tororo town developed into a town after discovery of limestone and phosphate from its surrounding hills.

The rich and productive hinterland with fertile soils that facilitate the sustainable food provision to towns like Budondo serves as a food basket for Jinja town.

Some towns were sited where different people would exchange contrasting products for instance Kigumba town in Kilyandongo deals in the exchange of maize from Bunyoro, millet, simsim from, Acholi and lango and also milk from Nakasongola.

Some towns in Uganda were sited as bridge points like Jinja became important town after building the Nile bridge at the own falls dam. The river had posed a real barrier to movement between Jinja and Njeru.

## **THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF KAMPALA**

Kampala, the capital city of Uganda is situated  $0^{\circ}15'N$  and  $32^{\circ}30'E$ . It is located 45 km north of the Equator. The city centre is situated 8 km north of Lake Victoria. The city is 1300 metres above sea level and receives a mean annual rainfall of 1200 mm. Despite its proximity to the equator, it has a tropical climate rather than a typical equatorial climate. It is characterised by a series of low lying hills with flat hill tops typical of the Buganda region of Central Uganda. These hills are surrounded by a network of wet valleys which are covered by papyrus swamps.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The area was an ideal breeding ground for various antelopes especially impala to describe a particular species of antelopes. Kampala derived its name from the Impala animals which were grazed on the slopes on the slopes of hills of Kampala. It was translated in Luganda "kasozi ka impala" hence the name Kampala

It was constructed by F.D Lugard in 1890 and in 1962 it was replaced by Entebbe as a national administrative centre. In 1906, Kampala was gazetted as a township with a 3 mile boundary, 1949 declared a municipality. According to the 2002 population and housing census, Kampala had a population of 1.2 million people.

The city is situated on a number of hills which include Kololo, Muyenga, Namirembe, Lubaga, Kibuli, Makerere, Nagulu, etc.

It is also divided into administrative divisions of Kampala central, Makindye division, Nakawa and Lubaga division. Kampala is the only urban district in Uganda. Kampala currently occupies an area of about 195.5 square km.

## **SKETCH MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF KAMPALA CITY**

## **FACTORS FOR THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF KAMPALA CITY**

### **Physical factors**

The gently sloping landscape with several flat topped hills such as Makerere Hill, Nsambya, Makindye, etc. These have facilitated development of institutions and residences like Makerere University on Makerere Hill, Mulago Hospital on Mulago Hill, etc. It has also broad valleys which have been used for industrial establishment and expansion for instance Kyambogo, Nakawa, Namanve and Kawempe industrial complexes.

Kampala is located in a rich hinterland i.e. it is located in the fertile crescent of Lake Victoria which receives heavy and reliable rainfall of over 1500mm per year which is evenly distributed. This has facilitated the growing of both food and cash crops therefore Kampala has a rich agricultural hinterland which provides enough food for the population as well as enhancing the development of agro based industries.

The growth and development of Kampala was also as a result of its location near the water source i.e. Lake Victoria. This has provided unlimited supply of fresh waters there by attracting a large population as well as the stimulation of industrial development especially industries which use water as a raw material like Century Bottling Industry in Namanve and Uganda Breweries in Luzira.

Abundant land has facilitated the establishment and expansion of Kampala city from the original area of 19.4 square km. This has boosted infrastructural development in form of industrial, residential and commercial buildings in areas such as Kyambogo, Nakawa, Kawempe, etc.

### **Human factors**

Kampala developed because it was an administrative centre from the very beginning. In 1906 Kampala was officially declared a township. In 1994 it became a municipality and in 1996 it became a town council and a capital city of Uganda. It therefore developed rapidly because of becoming the capital city thus with several ministerial head quarters.

The influence of Asians who set up various shops and industries in Kampala. Others came as skilled labour or workers, mechanics, accountants and builders in areas of Kololo and Old Kampala thereby contributing to the development of Kampala especially in terms of infrastructure.

Commercial and administrative functions with several market centres such as Nakasero, Nakawa and St. Balikudembe. These have enhanced trade and commerce. It is also a residential area as evidenced in areas such as Bugolobi, Kololo, Muyenga, etc. These activities have increased population in Kampala.

The favourable government policy also accounts for the development of Kampala. The government established Kampala as an urban centre by locating all its ministerial headquarters in the city for instance ministry of health in Wandegaya, ministry of works, Housing and communication, etc. This has resulted into the development of the area as it has attracted the setting up of recreational areas and accommodation facilities in areas such as Bukoto, Kololo and Nakasero.

The relative political stability in Kampala has attracted foreign investors who have established various industries in the city like Mukwano industries in Kibuli, Sameer agriculture, and livestock spare motors and the plastic industry.

The improvement in the banking system service also explains the development of Kampala due to several banks such as Stanbic, Crane, Centenary, Post Bank etc. These have the potential to provide better and improved advanced system in banking for instance ATM services which facilitates fast withdrawals and deposits. This has enabled the development of trade and commerce in areas such as Nakasero and St. Balikudembe markets.

The existence of well developed transport network especially roads and railway line radiating to all directions from the centre for example Kampala Northern by pass and Kampala-Malaba railway line

## **FACTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF JINJA TOWN**

Jinja lies in South Eastern Uganda, approximately 54 miles (87 km), by road, East of Kampala. The town is located on the shores of Lake Victoria, near to the source of the Nile River. It is bordered by Kamuli in the North, Luuka in East, Mayuge to the south East, Buikwe in the west, Kayunga in the North west and Buvuma in the South.

Jinja is considered the capital of the Kingdom of Busoga. Jinja has an area of 767.7 sq km of which 701.9km<sup>2</sup> is land and 68.8km<sup>2</sup> covered by water bodies. It is the second busiest

commercial center in the country, after Kampala. Nearby towns and villages include Njeru, Buwenda, Kimaka, Mpumudde, Masese, Bugembe and Bugungu

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Before 1906, Jinja was a fishing village that benefited from being located on long-distance trade routes. The town was founded in 1907 by the British, as an administrative centre for the Provincial Government Headquarters for Busoga region. The town remained the capital of Busoga region, and in 1956, it was granted municipality status. Jinja was the industrial heart of Uganda between 1954 and the late 1970s supported by power from the hydroelectric Nalubaale Power Station at the Owen Falls Dam, which was completed in 1954 but its glory years ended when most of the industries were relocated to Kampala

The origin of the name "Jinja" comes from the language of the two peoples (the Baganda and the Basoga) that lived on either side of the River Nile in the area. The area was called the 'Place of Rocks' or 'The Place of Flat Rocks'. The word for stones or rocks in the language of the Baganda is 'Ejjinja (Plural **Amayinja**), and in the Basoga dialect this became Edinda. The British used this reference to name the town they established - "Jinja"

The 2002 national census calculated Jinja's population to be approximately 71,213.

## **INDUSTRIES IN JINJA TOWN**

Paper and pulp industries like Nile Plywood Limited and Papco Industries Ltd, Dairy industries such as White Nile Dairy Limited, Chemical industries such as Nile Agroprocessors Limited and BIDCO Uganda industry, Food processing industries like Kengrow Industries Limited, Engano Grain Millers Limited, Agro-Marine Fishing Co. Ltd and Gomba Fishing Co. Ltd, Leather turning industries like Sky Fat Limited, Jinja Leather Tannery Limited, Steel rolling mills such as Masese Steel Rolling Mills and M.M Intergrated industry, Textiles industries like Textiles Mills (MULCO) Ltd and Southern range textile limited (NYANZA), Breweries like Nile Breweries, Buwenge breweries, etc.

## **SKETCHMAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF JINJA**

## **FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF JINJA**

Jinja is located in the equatorial climate therefore it receives double maximum with hot temperatures ranging between 23<sup>0</sup>c and 25<sup>0</sup>c. This has facilitated crop production in the areas of Budondo, Mafubira and Buwenda thereby supporting the population in Jinja town.

Jinja is located in the Fertile Crescent. It therefore has a rich agricultural hinterland where various crops are grown. This provided sufficient food production for the growing population. The establishment of Agro based industries such as the sugar processing industry at Kakira based on sugar cane.

The relatively flat landscape that enable infrastructural development like industries such as Nile agro industry and Tip Top industry in Jinja industrial area and Sun belt textile industry, Bidco industry and M.M. Intergrated industry in Masese. It has also flat topped hills which have favoured establishment of institution like Jinja College in Rubaga hill and wanyange girls on wanyange hill and Kiira College Butiki on Kiira hills.

Jinja is location at the lake shore of Victoria and river Nile.This provides abundant water for both domestic and industrialuse. Nile breweries and Bidico industries use large quantities of water.

The existance of abundant and cheap hydro electricity.The construction and completion of the Owen falls dam attracted adense settlement and industrial establishment like Kakira sugar processing industry and steel milling in Bugembe.

Jinja developed because its trade facilities for example it is lake a port that handles about 7100 tonnes of lake trade and it has also a trade ferry between Rippon and Mwanza, Masese and Kisumu,etc there by boasting trade and commerce hence growth and development.

Jinja is a nodal point where numerous transport routes converge.Jinja is thus strategically located with various roads linking the town for example Kamuli-Jinja road, Kampala-Jinja road, etc. It is linked to the Kampala-Tororo railway line and lake routes to other areas such as Ssese islands, Mwanza, etc.

Jinja developed because of the rich population hinterland. Jinja has a large population that has provided so much labour force in both Agricultural and Industrial sectorfor instance industries such as Kakira sugar industry.This population also provided market for goods produced by the various industries in jinja as well as agriculture products from area like Budondo.

Historical background in that Jinja was an an administrative centre since 1901.It is the headquarter of Busoga kingdom.This stimulated the development of infrastructure in areas such as Bugembe and Kakira. The town remained the capital of Busoga region, and in 1956, it was granted municipality status. Jinja was the industrial heart of Uganda between 1954 and the late 1970s.

It also had some influence of early missionary settlers at Rubaga hill as well as Asian traders and settlers.This resulted into the influx of people in areas such as Mpumudde, Njeru, Mafubira, etc. A lot of the buildings in town are the old style Indian architecture - some of them looking really old. The Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, the Swaminarayan Temple and the town hall are some of the city's landmarks.

Its growth can be attributed to the supportive government policy in that Jinja was designed as an industrial centre in Uganda by government of Uganda.This saw the establishment of various industries as well as transport routes in the area like steel rolling mills, Nile Breweries, Southern range textile limited which attracted the labour force hence increasing the population in Jinja.

It developed as an urban center because it was once a collecting center for the agricultural products in Busoga kingdom for instance cotton from kamuli and Iganga as well as coffee were collected in Jinja for processing. This boosted trade and commerce in the area.

It developed as a result of the construction of the bridge. Initially river Nile formed a real barrier from Jinja to Njeru and when the river was bridged, Jinja became an important area for settlement and industrialisation. The construction of the Nile Bridge was a turning point towards its growth and development because it enhanced accessibility thereby attracting dense settlement in areas such as Bugembe, Walukuba, Mafubira, etc.

This town is endowed with some wonderful tourist sites and possibly the most adventurous activities like bungee jumping, water rafting and more at the at Bujagali and Itanda falls.

### **Sample questions**

1. For either Kampala or Jinja

(a) (i) Discuss the factors that have led to the growth and development of the town

(ii) Outline the functions of the town

(a) Using specific examples, discuss the problems facing urban centres in Uganda.

### **THE FUNCTIONS OF URBAN CENTRES IN UGANDA.**

They are commercial centres with various business transactions like various market centres such as St. Balikudembe, Nakasero, Wandegaya etc. shopping malls and shoprites such as Nakumati in Kampala, madhivani, Jinja central market and kyabazinga market in Jinja.

They act as financial centres accommodating several financial institutions such as banks, insurance companies and micro financial institution for example bank of Uganda, pride, centenary, KBC bank, Cairo bank, etc in Kampala. Banks such as Stanbic, Centenary bank, Crane bank are also evident, in areas like Mbarara, Fortportal, Jinja, Gulu and Arua urban centres.

Urban Centres act as administrative centres like headquarters of districts for instance Kamuli, Gulu, Arua, Hoima, Soroti, Masaka, Luwero and Kabale towns. Kampala is the capital city of Uganda and therefore the headquarters of the ministries such as internal affairs, Transport and works, tourism, etc.

They act as industrial or manufacturing centres with several industries making various goods in most the urban centres for example the Century bottling plant, Uganda breweries, GBK dairies in Mbarara town, Nile breweries, BIDCO industry, Steel rolling mill etc in Jinja urban centre, Sembule steel works, spear motors and Uganda breweries in Kampala city.

Urban centres act as cultural and recreational centres. They offer variety of entertainments in form of Cinema hall, Casinos, theatres, beaches, etc. This is the case in Kampala for example national theatre, amusement centre at Kasanga, Hotel and beaches like Angenoir and silk discotheques, Gaba beach, etc.

They are transport and Communication centres with several television and radio stations like Baba fm and Busoga One in Jinja town, Paidha fm Nebbi town, sky fm in Mityana town, NBS, Bukedde, Urban Tv, UBC tv in Kampala city. They are also major nodal point as well as telecommunication companies such as MTN, Airtel, UTL and Orange in urban centres like Jinja, Kampala, Lira, Mbale, Masaka and Bushenyi.

They serve as residential centres with various designated housing estates like Walukuba estate, Mpumudde estate and Bugembe in Jinja. Kololo, Bugolobi, Ntinda, Nalya, Nakasero, Muyenga and Bukoto estates in Kampala.

They are educational centres with several universities, colleges and schools like Makerere, Kyambogo, Nkumba universities, Kololo high school, Nabisunsa girls school, Old kampala ss, Kampala parents primary school etc in Kampala, Jinja college and Wanyange girls in Jinja town, Uganda Christian university in Mukono and Ntale high school, Mbarara university in Mbarara.

Urban centres act as scientific and research centres with various research institutions like Naffiri in Jinja, NARO in Entebbe, Joint clinical research centres in Kampala and Jinja urban centres.

They act as tourist centres with numerous tourist destinations like Uganda museum, Kasubi tombs and kabaka's lake in Ndeba, tourist facilities like Speke hotel, Equatorial and Grand imperial in Kampala and Source of the Nile, Bujagali power plant, Itanda falls in Jinja town.

Urban centres act as medical centres with several health facilities in form of hospitals, health centres, dispensaries and clinics. Hospitals include Mulago Nsambya, kibuli, Kololo, Kampala international hospitals and CASE clinic in Kampala city. Jinja regional referral hospital, Alshafa modern hospital, and ALMECA Medical centre in Jinja town, Mbale regional referral hospital in Mbale and Lacor hospital in Gulu.

They act as religious centres with numerous churches and mosques like Rubaga miracle centre, Kampala Pentecostal church (KPC), Rubaga cathedral for catholics, Bahai temple, Namirembe cathedral for protestants and Kibuli mosque for muslims in Kampala city.

## **THE IMPACT OF URBANISATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT.**

### **Positive effects**

It is a source of government revenue through taxation such as ground rent and from the various economic activities in urban areas like Kampala, Mbarara, Lira, Kiboga and Kakumiro.

It acts as a reserve of labour force to work in the different sectors such as agricultural and industrial sector in urban centres like Arua, Tororo, Kabale and Gulu.

It has resulted into provision of improved social services to the people in form of education, health care, clean piped water and electricity in urban centres such as Jinja, Mbale, Kampala, Rakai, Kasese and Lira.

Urban centres provide administrative and commercial services such as payment of civil servants. Many urban centres act as district headquarters, regional and capital city like Kampala city, Gulu town, Arua town, Hoima, Kabale, etc

It has Stimulated infrastructural development to cater for the increasing population for instance the construction such as Kampala-Entebbe road linking Kampala city to Entebbe municipality.

Urbanisation results into conservation of the environment like well designated green belts, peri urban tree plantation and constitution square in areas such as Kampala, Fortportal, Mbale, Mbarara, Jinja, etc.

It has led to provision of large market for agricultural produce and industrial products promoting industrialisation and trade in urban areas like Jinja, Wakiso, Lira, Mukono and Hoima.

It offers increased employment opportunities to many people in the central business district of Mbarara, Tororo and Lira towns.

It promotes creativity and innovativeness for survival purposes in urban centres for example Jua kaali and selling of air time in Kampala and Entebbe and Kazimungi in Jinja.

Urbanisation has promoted unity and international cooperation since they are melting points of different tribes and nationals creating unity in diversity in areas like Jinja, Mukono, Arua, Lamwo, Kampala and Wakiso urban centres.

It has resulted into improved standards of living due to provision of better accommodation facilities in form of housing estates and lodges and improved sanitation in areas like Kampala, Kabale, Mbale, Hoima, Gulu, Mukono, etc.

It has promoted full utilization of resources such as forestry, sand and clay for construction purposes in urban centres like Wakiso, Masaka, Mukono, Iganga, Kampala Mbale town.

It has promoted tourism, research and education purposes due to varied tourist attractions for instance UWEC in Entebbe, Kasubi tombs in Kampala, source of the Nile in Jinja, etc.

It eases population pressure in rural areas of Sironko, Hoima, Rakai, Lira and Koboko.

### **Negative effects**

It has resulted into depopulation in rural areas as people migrate to urban centres Rukungiri, Kiriuhura, Ngora, Kitgum, Mbale, Koboko and Nebbi depriving rural areas of labour agricultural activities leading to famine and underdevelopment.

Urbanisation results into over crowding and congestion in urban centres especially Kampala, Entebbe and Mbarara.

It has led to growth of slums with their associated problems like poor housing facilities and poor sanitation in areas like Kamwokya, Katanga, Makerere Kivulu and Kosovo in Kampala city and Budumbuli in Bugembe town.

Urbanisation is associated with traffic congestion leading to delays affecting trade and other activities in areas Kampala, Masaka, Jinja and Mbarara.

It leads to encroachment on fragile areas especially swamps and forests due to urban sprawl or expansion in Kampala, Kabale, Mbale, Jinja and Mpigi.

It leads to increased rates of unemployment and underpayment in urban centres evidenced by gambling, sports betting and pickpocketing along streets of urban centres like Kampala Jinja and Mbale.

It results into high costs of living in urban centres evidenced in the high prices of goods and services especially in Kampala, Fortportal, Jinja, Mbarara and Tororo.

Urbanisation leads to increased ethnicity problems due to emergence of ethnic clusters like Kitooro, Kifumbira, Katwe-Kinyoro in Kampala and Kikaramoja in Jinja hence promoting tribalism.

It has led to displacement of people due to infrastructural development like roads and markets in urban centres like Mbarara, Mbale and Kampala.

It results into cultural erosion due to mixing of people of different culture and nationals. This is evidenced in form of prostitution and wearing of mini skirts in urban centres such as Kampala, Wakiso, Jinja and Mbale towns.

It leads to increased spread of diseases like cholera, AIDS and T.B due to Poor sanitation and congestion in places like Bwaise, Kalerwe and Makerere-Kivulu in Kampala city.

It has led to increased pressure on social services like water, electricity and health centres like Mulago hospital in Kampala and Jinja regional referral hospital in Jinja.

Urbanisations leads to over exploitation of resources like sand and clay, fisheries and forestry resources in the bid to satisfy urban requirements in Wakiso, Mbale, Kampala and Kabale.

It has led to increased flooding due to urban infrastructure and poorly planned drainage system such as Kawempe, Bwaise, Kalerwe and Kikoni in Kampala city.

It has led to increased government expenditure on social services limiting saving and investment in towns like Kamuli, Tororo, Masindi and Arua.

It has led to increased crimes like theft, prostitution murder, etc in areas like Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono and Jinja.

### **Question**

1. Assess the impact of urbanisation on the environment in Uganda.

(25 marks)

### **Approach**

- ✓ Define the term Urbanisation
- ✓ Identify the categories of urban centres and give names of towns in each.

- ✓ Identify categories of urban centres on a map
- ✓ Clearly specify the positive and negative impacts of urbanisation on the environment.

**The points should be well explained and illustrated with names of urban centres/towns**

## **PROBLEMS FACING URBAN CENTRES IN UGANDA**

Urban areas in Uganda, like elsewhere have their own challenges. The problems are as seen below

Traffic congestion during rush hours in areas like Kisubi, Queen's way, wandegeya, along Jinja road and Bombo road in Kampala city.

Poor sanitation and health conditions due to poor disposal of wastes leading to easyspread od diseases in areas like Kalerwe, Bwaise, Kawempe and Kisenyi in Kampala, Kibuga Mbata and Budumbuli in Jinja.

Pollution of air, land and water due to rapidly increasing vehicle usage and emission of industrial fumes as well as discharge of raw sewage and untreated industrial effluent into rivers and lakes. This is a common occurrence in many major towns like Kampala, Mbale, Iganga, Hoima, etc.

The growth of slums and its associated problems such as Poor accommodation, poor sanitation, water shortages and overcrowding in areas such as kisenyi, Makerere, Bwaise, Kamwokya, Mbuya, Kasanvu and Soweto in Kampala.

Cultural erosion/immorality due to moral decadence in form of prostitution, ponography and V-monologue ("Kimansulo"). These are a common practice in most of the urban centres especially at Speke road, Wandegeya and Nakulabye in Kampala, Mbiko and Lugazi in Buikwe, Republic street in Mbale and Naluwerere in Bugiri.

Accidents are a common phenomenon in the urban centres due to over speeding and over taking in towns like Entebbe and Kampala.

Increased street children who are a menace in towns like Kampala, Mukono, Mubende, Iganga, Jinja, Mbale and Gulu.

The limited land for expansion. This is common in Kampala, Kisoro, Mbale, Kabale, Kasese and Rubirizi.

Floods especially in Mbuya, Nakawa, Bwaise and kalerwe. Some settlements have spilled over into wetlands and have contributed significantly to the now common flooding of many residential as well as commercial areas of Kampala during the rainy seasons.

High crime rates is amajor problem being faced in urban centers.This is because of high population which lacks what to do and so resort to theft, robbery, pick pocketing and gambling. This is evident along the streets of Kampala like Luwum, Ben Kiwanuka and market centres such as St.Balikudembe and Nakasero as well as Soweto in Namuwongo.

Rapid spread of air and water borne diseases like cholera and dysentery due to poor sanitation, congestion and poor disposal of wastes in areas like Mbarara town, Jinja and Kampala.

Unemployment due to high rate of rural-urban migration, low rates of job creation and advanced techniques of population requiring less people albeit the majority remain jobless This explains why there is a lot of gambling in the urban centres like Kampala forexample at old and new taxi parks and streets of Luwum, Masaka, Gulu, Soroti, Masindi, etc.

The high cost of living in terms of goods and housing facilities in areas like Kololo, Luzira, Ntinda, Nakulabye and Makindye in Kampala

Shortage of food due to increased population. This is common in towns like Soroti, Soroti, Moroto and Kotido.

Strain of social infrastructure as evidenced in Mulago hospital and Bombo road in Kampala. This also the case in major towns like Gulu, Lira, Mbarara and Mbale.

Encroachment on fragile areas like Forests and swamps for urban expansion and infrastructure in areas like Kampala, Mukono, Mbarara, Kabale and Tororo.

Breakdown of family social ties due to migration of people from rural areas to urban centres like Masaka, Hoima, Fortportal and Arua.

Displacement of people due to urban expansion in areas like Kampala, Kabale, Mbale, Mbarara and Jinja.

Ethnicity leading to tribal conflicts like Kitoro in Entebbe, Acholi quarters in Kampala, etc.

### **MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE:**

There is establishment of traffic lights for instance at Bukuli, Kampala Northern by pass Construction humps, Zebra and use of speed governors.

There is proper waste management through provision of proper garbage disposal bins and trucks so that there can be regular cleaning of towns like Mukono and Jinja. There is establishment of gabbage treatment centres like Euata in Arua, Kibati cell in Kahoora division in Hoima municipality and Lubigi water treatment centre at Lubigi in Kamapala city.

There is construction of housing estates for accomodation purposes for instance Naalya estate, Naguru and Bugolobi in Kampala and Walukuba estate and Mpumudde estate in Jinja.

CCTV cameras

There is construction of by-pass such as Northern bypass which has relieved traffic congestion in urban centres. Kampala Northern by pas facilitates cross country traffic to by pass the city's down town area in Naalya, Busega, Namungoona and Natete in Kampala.

Establishment of special investigation unit and flying squad in urban centres like Kampala, Wakiso and Entebbe to curb criminology.

There is settling up of industries to sustain the unemployment problem. This is evident in urban areas like Jinja, Kabale, Mbarara and Kampala.

Construction of protected springs, piped water extension of power to slum areas in urban centres of Jinja, Mbale, Soroti, Lira, Fort Portal, Kasese, Kabale, Mbarara and Mukono.