

Kadaga calls for compulsory tree planting in homes, schools

LUWERO

By Jeff Andrew Lule and Andrew Ssenyonga

As part of the strategies to increase tree coverage in different parts of the country, Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga has said there is need for a special national forest fund.

She stressed that the fund would help in the generation of tree seedlings to boost tree planting in different parts of the country.

"I want the Government to establish a tree fund. Ever since the National Forest Authority (NFA) Act came into force, we have never established that fund. The fund would be helping us to support tree planting in the country, at all levels," she noted.

Kadaga made the remarks while officiating at the Bugema University Green Consumer Week celebrations at the university's main campus in Luwero on Friday.

She said if matters of environment degradation are not handled urgently, the country is headed for danger.

"During the recent dry spell, some Karimojong cattle keepers went to Lango with their cattle and invaded people's gardens and water sources. Just imagine a massive influx of people and their animals without water and food," she added.

She called for compulsory tree planting to easily increase tree coverage in the country. The move, she said, should also be applied at all education institutions.

"Planting trees during baptism, introductions and wedding ceremonies among other functions, will improve the environment in our areas. It should be done in both homes to leave a mark to strengthen the relationship of the two families and save the environment," she



Kadaga planting a tree at the Bugema University Green Consumer Week celebrations in Luwero recently. Photo by Lawrence Mulongo

said.

Kadaga, who is also the patron for the Parliament Climate Change Forum, called on students and pupils to always plant at least two trees every holiday.

"Children must be part of this campaign because they are to live longer than us," the speaker added.

She asked all local governments to develop programmes with the NFA to boost tree planting in their towns and villages. She also called on civil society organisations and the private sector to support the initiative for the good of the country.

"Can you imagine some districts and sub-county headquarters do not have well-manicured lawns where people can sit during a gathering?" he added.

She commended the Bugema University for leading the campaign on tackling climate change in Luwero district and asked the communities and all leaders to embrace it.

The university has so far planted over a 5,000 trees on seven acres.

The vice-chancellor of Bugema University, Patrick Manu. He noted that out of the 460 acres of the university land, a third of it is a forest.

"We want to conserve the eco-system. This is our fourth anniversary since inception of the initiative," he noted.

The district Woman MP, Lillian Nakate, said the university has supported the locals in boosting tree planting in their homes which has greatly changed the environment.

"The locals freely go into the forests to pick herbs, fetch water, collect firewood and materials for making crafts," she added.

The head of the project who is also the university's head of development studies department, Joshua Busulwa, said the forest is also used as a learning facility in environmental conservation and biodiversity.

Five remanded over murder

MUKONO

By Henry Nsubuga

Court in Mukono district has remanded five suspects to Luzira prison over the murder of an investor, Yang Yesu.

Yang was a cashier at Nile Steel and Plastic Company Limited at Nangwa village in Nakisunga sub-county, Mukono district.

She was shot dead by the assailants who took off with an unidentified amount of money on September 1.

The suspects include Fred Gatukaya alias Fredrick, Edward Kaluga Mulefu 45, all of Banda Zone II Nakawa division and Francis Ogwal, 30, a private security guard attached to Global Papers and a resident of Kigombya village in Mukono municipality.

Others are Omala Kokasi 29, a mechanic at Coca-Cola Namanve, residing at Nangwa village, Joseph Nalodha, alias Katala 30, a resident of Mutungo Zone IV in Nakawa division and Edson Musinguzi, 31, a businessman from Nansana municipality in Wakiso district.

Four of the five suspects arrived at Mukono court on Tuesday at 1:30pm from Nalufenya Police Station in Jinja amidst tight security whereas Musinguzi who was under detention arrived at 3:25pm.

The suspects were supposed to appear before Grade One Magistrate Mariam Ssemwanga, but she was absent.

Grade One Magistrate, Pamela Muhwezi Bomukama remanded them to Luzira Prison, until Tuesday.

According to Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesman Emilian Kayima, after his arrest, Gatukaya confessed that he shot Yang. Kayima also said the Police recovered the pistol which the assailants used to kill Yang upon Gatukaya's arrest.

It is alleged that the assailants hired the killer weapon from one of the security guards at a flower factory in Nakisunga sub-county.

Police said the security guard, who is still at large, reported two days before Yang's murder that his gun had been stolen.

Police spokesman, Hassan Kasingye said the CCTV footage helped Police to identify the suspects.

Luwero farmers reap big from ADRA intervention

LUWERO

By Geoffrey Mutegeki

Sarah Nakiranda, a resident of Musale village in Luwero district, rears cattle and keeps pigs on her small piece of land, to enhance her income.

Despite her old age, she is able to earn a living from the sale of piglets and milk from her cow. She is also knowledgeable about farming, especially vegetables, which she grows behind her house.

Like her fellow members from Musale Farmers Development Group, in Lukoge sub-county, Luwero district, Nakiranda believes her life has changed since she joined the group.

The group was formed with support and guidance from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Uganda, a humanitarian organisation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and



Nakiranda showcases the cow she bought using her savings from the SACCOs

the members were trained in income-generating activities.

"As members, we have got knowledge on how to rear animals, such as cattle and growing crops," Nakiranda said.

The mother of four says she no longer buys milk and never has to worry about money to buy scholastic materials since the cow produces milk, which she sells.

According to Julius Owori,

the chairman of Musale farmers group, they have been in partnership with ADRA from 2006 to date.

"They sensitised us on health and sanitation and many people in the village sleep

under mosquito nets, drink boiled water and keep their houses clean," Owori says.

He grows coffee, maize tomatoes and fruits to enhance income.

The farmers' group members have also invested in tents and chairs to raise money to supplement their savings. The money is kept on the group account and can be given out as loans to members. The group has 50 members.

Ronald Kafeero, the group secretary, said the skills they acquire from the trainings by ADRA have helped him draw up workplans and given him skills in writing business proposals.

"We have had to write proposals to get money and our group is expanding. Existing for over 10 years is not simple," Kafeero said.

The group has an office where members meet to discuss and guide one another.