...ble who could ...country for the

...y, the Holy Spirit ...yn and Uganda ... he said.

Kahigiriza, S... was keen on Spi... nurturing students through the school chaplaincy, in addition to imparting academic knowledge.

...conta... "We want the...

Luuka council bans children from working on sugarcane plantations

LUUKA

By George Bita

Luuka district has passed a bylaw stopping the common practice of using child labourers on sugarcane plantations.

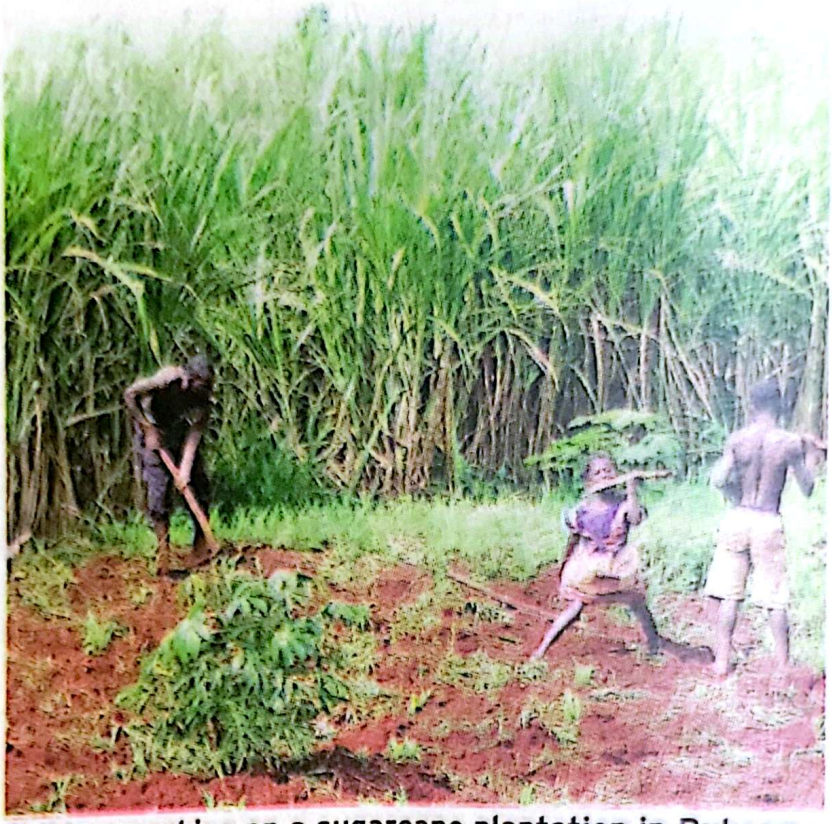
Councillors unanimously resolved on Monday during a session at the district headquarters in Kiyunga town that the regulation comes into effect immediately.

Sarah Ntumba, the district council secretary for education and social services, said the ruling stops anyone under 17 years from working as a labourer in the sugarcane business.

"It has been common to find children as young as 10 years cutting, loading and offloading cane. This should be something of the past as offenders would have themselves to blame," Ntumba said.

She said those who continue to employ child workers would face punitive measures, including fines or imprisonment.

Baker Luwangula, the district chairperson, said the statute would be availed to all sub-county authorities by the end of this week to ensure effective follow-up.



Children working on a sugarcane plantation in Bukooma parish. Photo by George Bita

"We have to work as a team to enforce this. Otherwise, our children are abandoning class to make quick cash from sugarcane plantations," Luwangula said.

Awali Nsaja, the LC3 chairperson of Nawampiti sub-county, said research shows two out of every 10 learners miss school to work as loaders and off-loaders for trucks collecting sugarcane.

"The by-law would help us greatly to check on this vice. Otherwise, whenever local enforcement had tried to intervene, parents at times sided with their apprehended children, reasoning that there was no crime committed at all," Nsaja claimed.

Stephen Nsubuga Bewayo, the resident district commissioner, urged locals to equally desist from turning their entire lands into sugarcane plantations.

CamScanner