

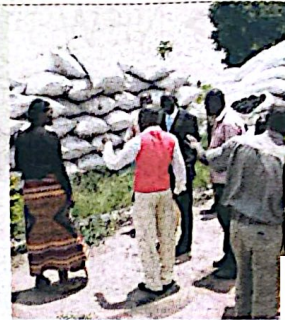
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MP orders district authorities to refund money. Kilak South County Member of Parliament Gilbert Olanya has asked Amuru District authorities to refund more than Shs12 million raised out of sale of impounded charcoal from unlicensed charcoal burners. The district authorities in September auctioned 1,391 bags of charcoal impounded in a crackdown launched to curb illegal burning and sale of charcoal. While meeting charcoal dealers in Adara village, Pabbo Sub-county on Monday, Mr Olanya, blamed the district authorities for selling the impounded charcoal. [Denis Omony]



Govt to build Shs4 trillion irrigation scheme in Pallisa

Beneficiaries. The scheme will be constructed on River Mpologoma in Pallisa and Kibuku districts and is to be implemented into phases.

BY MUDANGHA KOLYANGHA
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KIBUKU. The government, in partnership with the Korea Rural Community Corporation, is set to construct an integrated irrigation scheme at River Mpologoma in Kibuku District to address the persistent dry spell and increase on household incomes.

The \$1.28b (Shs4.5 trillion) Mpol-

ogoma River Basin Integrated Agriculture Development Project, is being spear-headed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

During a sensitisation meeting for political and technical staff from Kibuku and Pallisa districts on Wednesday, the director of crop resources in the Agriculture ministry, Mr Okassai Opolot, who represented the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Vicent Ssempiija, revealed that the scheme is intended to establish a stable agricultural-production-based environment. He said the project will also improve post-harvest process-

ing facilities, distribution, agricultural produce marketing and also build capacity for poverty alleviation and job creation in rural areas.

"The ministry is implementing the directive of the President to fully utilise the existing [water] resources to promote irrigation systems because of the prevailing situation that has been compounded by the long dry spell," Mr Okassai said.

He explained that the project, to be constructed on River Mpologoma in Pallisa and Kibuku districts, is to run for 49 years and is to be implemented in phases.

Mr Okassai explained that the project will be multi-sectoral in nature involving ministries, departments and agencies responsible for agriculture, water, environment, energy, local government, trade, investment and private sector.

Mr Henry Nakelet Opolot, an assistant commissioner in the department of agricultural infrastructure and water for agricultural production under the ministry of Agriculture, said the feasibility study has been done and the project will entail several components, including aquaculture, domestic water supply and livestock farming.

The Kibuku Resident District Commissioner, Ms Margaret Wazikonya, urged politicians and other stakeholders to sensitise their communities about the good of the project. She also noted the current trend of wetland destruction has reached an alarming rate and this has contributed to the current prolonged dry spell.

Cautioned. Gen Katumba warns soldiers on reckless lifestyles

On tour. Chief of Defence Forces Gen Katumba Wamala addresses soldiers of the 407th Brigade in Nakapiripirit District last week. Gen Katumba, who was visiting all Uganda People's Defence Forces detachments under the 3rd Division command in Karamoja sub-region, warned soldiers against living reckless lives and urged them to be disciplined. The Army chief also briefed the troops on the country's general security situation, which he described as calm and normal.

PHOTO BY STEVEN ARIONG.



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