

Fishermen applaud Museveni for fighting illegal fishing

MUKONO

By Henry Nsubuga

Businessmen dealing in fish products at Katosi landing site in Mukono district have commended President Yoweri Museveni for his wise decision to use the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) to look for fishermen who were using illegal fishing methods on Lake Victoria.

The fishermen told *New Vision* thanks to the army's manning of the landing sites and patrolling the lake, they have started catching mature fish.

"We hope that after a period of over four months of constant operations by the UPDF, the number of mature fish caught shall increase," Deo Kintu, a businessman at Katosi landing site, said.

"The lake does not only benefit us who directly deal in fishing, but the whole country at large. The tax we pay is used to construct roads, hospitals, schools and lots of other infrastructure and services," Charles Buufu, a fish supplier, said.

One of the members of the former Beach Management



Fishermen weigh mature fish at a landing site. Photo by Henry Nsubuga

Unit (BMU) at Katosi landing site, who preferred anonymity, said it was wise for President Museveni to fight illegal fishing because fishermen were alleging he okayed their operations during the 2016 presidential campaigns.

Romulus Mulambi, the fisheries officer, said the impact of the UPDF's operation against illegal fishing has been felt, though it will be short-lived.

Mulambi said sustaining the army on the lake is so

ON THE GROUND



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expensive and the Government will not be able to do so for long.

Prossy Nakiriza, the fisheries officer at Katosi landing site, said a number of factories were forced to close during the time of fish scarcity, which was largely caused by indiscriminate fishing on the lake.

Nakiriza said some of the companies that were closed are Marine and Group, Marine and Agro, Tampa and Majanje Fishing Company.