

THE SH300M SLAUGHTERHOUSE HAD BEEN DESIGNED WITH CAPACITY TO SLAUGHTER 200 PIGS PER DAY

**MASAKA**

By Dismus Buregyeya

# NFA halts construction of Masaka pig abattoir

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) has halted Masaka district administration's plan of constructing a modern pig slaughterhouse in Kumbu Forest Reserve. The reserve is located in Masaka municipality.

Dr Mukasa Kirumira from the district veterinary department said the slaughterhouse worth sh800m is being funded by the Irish government and Masaka district in conjunction with the International Livestock Research Institute.

Kirumira said the facility was designed with capacity to slaughter at least 200 animals per day.

Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and Police officers attached to NFA arrested over 10 builders found at the abattoir construction site on April 17 and handed them over to Masaka Central Police Station for detention.

New Vision learnt that Masaka district had earlier on two occasions defied directives by NFA authorities to stop constructing the abattoir in Kumbu.

New Vision has seen two warning letters from NFA addressed to the Masaka district chief administrative officer by the NFA range manager for greater Masaka region, Denis Ssebugwawo, and the sector manager Mildred Nafuna dated March 14 and 19.

Nafuna said the issuing of titles, creation and allocation of plots and constructions in affected protected forest



Mary Kitutu



Jude Mbabaali

## BETWEEN THE LINES

■ Masaka district chairperson Jude Mbabaali said the abattoir was not being constructed in the forest reserve. He threatened to take NFA to court.

reserves in Masaka, was illegal. Masaka district administration, politicians, schools and 15 residents are among those who have been accused of encroaching on Kumbu Forest Reserve.

Ssebugwawo said Kumbu

up," the state minister said. Kitutu said clearance is needed from Parliament and other line institutions in case one wants to use any part of the forest reserve.

Nafuna said the continued illegal construction of the abattoir would promote further encroachment on the forest reserve.

She said the NFA would also seek guidance from the Inspector General of Government offices if the district and other individuals remained defiant.

Ssebugwawo said the NFA land in Masaka was formerly used by Sweden-based VI Agroforestry Project as a demonstration site until four

years ago when the project scaled down its operations.

He said the district land office started processing illegal titles Kumbu Forest Reserve after the Sweden-based firm stopped its operations.

Ssebugwawo said it was useless for Masaka district to continue funding the construction using the illegal land titles issued on the forest reserve.

The Masaka district chairperson, Jude Mbabaali in an interview said the abattoir was constructed outside the NFA forest reserve.

"The land where we are constructing the abattoir is not a gazetted forest reserve," Mbabaali said.

He threatened to take legal action against NFA for blocking the construction of the abattoir



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