

UPDF arrests Kenyan fishermen over trespass

By Charles Etukuri

The Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) has revealed that the nine Kenyan fishermen arrested on Monday for trespassing into Uganda have been handed to the Police to

be charged with illegal fishing.

Capt Nathan Abaho of the army's fisheries unit confirmed that personnel under the UPDF Fisheries Protection Unit arrested nine fishermen from Remba Island neighbouring Mbingo on Lake Victoria

and handed them over to the fisheries officer in Kalangala with their exhibits, which included undersize nets and illegal hooks.

"When we arrest them, we do not treat them in any special way, whether they are

"I can confirm that the army arrested nine fishermen who had no fishing permits, had undersize hooks and nets and brought them to Kalangala Police Station with their exhibits." Abaho

finds out the cause of the arrest.

Lake Victoria Beach Management Unit network chairperson, Edward Oremo, was also quoted saying the fishermen were arrested by armed Ugandan security personnel a few kilometres from Remba Island.

Abaho noted that the Kenyan politicians should not make this a big issue because it was common for Kenyans to arrest Ugandans who were practising illegal fishing in their own country and charge them.

"We were deployed on the lake to ensure the best fishing practices are maintained to preserve the fish stocks in the lake," he noted.

Mayuge resident district commissioner Suleiman Ogajjo Barasa told *New Vision* that they were ensuring a smooth working relationship with the neighbours as they rid the lake of criminality.

Tension engulfed the island as both countries claimed ownership and accused each other's security of harassing its nationals.

Following the visit, normalcy returned as both Kenyan and Ugandan police officers started working together to guard islands.

Kenyans or Ugandans. I can confirm that the army arrested nine fishermen who had no fishing permits, had undersize hooks and nets and brought them to Kalangala Police Station with their exhibits," Abaho said.

He said the Kalangala fisheries officer preferred charges against them in accordance with the Fish Act and that the suspects were arraigned before court and charged accordingly.

The confirmation comes in the wake of yesterday's press conference by opposition Members of Parliament from Kenya's Nyanza region, who accused Uganda Police Force of arresting and detaining 22 Kenyan fishermen on Lake

Victoria on Monday.

The politicians led by John Mbadi (Suba South MP) the minority leader in the National Assembly and Millie Odhiambo (Suba North MP) urged the Government to act fast to ensure the arrested fishermen were released.

The MPs claimed that the fishermen were detained in two different islands. Kenyan media claimed nine of the fishermen were being detained at Riabana Island, while the others are at Kalangala Island, on the Ugandan side of Lake Victoria.

Media also quoted the Suba North OCPD Wilson Nanga confirming the incident saying the Kenyan security personnel had begun investigations to



ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT

Call for Consultancy for conducting a study on current Financing & Investment in the energy sector in Uganda.

Background

Environmental Alert in collaboration with World Wide Fund-Uganda Country Office (WWF UCO) is implementing a project titled, 'Increasing access to sustainable and renewable energy alternatives in the Albertine Graben to conserve high value forest ecosystems to benefit people and nature in Uganda.'

This is a four (4) year project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).

The purpose of this assignment is to, 'Conduct a study on current financing & investment in the renewable energy sector in Uganda.' This will help to inform effective resource mobilization in the renewable Energy sub sector in Uganda.

The study will generate recommendations

to inform policy engagements for increased financing and investment in the renewable energy sub sector in Uganda. Eligible and interested consultants should send their applications to the **Executive Director, Environmental Alert, and P.O. Box 11259, Kampala, Uganda. Or E-mail to pm@envalert.org** with a copy to ed@envalert.org or hand deliver to Plot 475/523 Sonko Lane, Kabalagala (off Gaba Road).

Applications should be delivered to the above address not later than **Tuesday, 14th November 2017.**

The terms of reference, scope of services and qualifications for the above assignment can be obtained from <https://goo.gl/ySQJrx> or <https://goo.gl/8AdjUh> or picked from Environmental Alert offices as described in the above address or requested through the above email address.