

Kamuli, Buyende districts receive five valley tanks

KAMULI

By Tom Gwebayanga

As the rainy season sets in, livestock farmers in Kamuli and Buyende districts are happy that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has dug five valley tanks to improve agriculture, livestock farming and ease access to water during the dry season.

The tanks, which agriculture minister Vincent Ssempijja commissioned on Friday, reduced the farmers' challenge for water for livestock especially during the dry season.

Ssempijja advocated the use of water harvesting methods in order to improve both livestock and agricultural productivity.

He said the Government, through the ministry is to construct 200 valley tanks around the country, to address the challenge of water scarcity.

"The Government, through the agriculture ministry, has subsidised valley tanks sinking to promote watering livestock, irrigation, conservation and productivity. We want individuals to go the extra mile and dig their

own reservoirs," the minister said. Ssempijja urged the farmers to go for intensive farming, get back to coffee as an export crop and change the animal sector to better breeds if they are to enjoy farming and its proceeds.

The Karamoja affairs state minister, also Bugabula North MP Moses Kizige, said the Government had big plans for Busoga sub-region since it was both a cattle corridor and agricultural zone.

"We send water to Egypt and Sudan, which calls for the need to create our reservoirs and use them profitably. We can start with these dams, before taking bigger strides," Kizige said.

He urged the Government to provide the agriculture ministry with equipment for opening up farm access roads and meet the overwhelming demand.

Stephen Mubiru, a progressive farmer in Kidiki village, Namwendwa sub-county and

former LC5 chairman for Kamuli, hailed the ministry for adding value to the farmers in the district.

He advocated the revival of agricultural schemes to create mini-training centres with a package for maintaining the existing tanks to avoid future silting.

Julius Bataamye, the proprietor of JB Farm Naminage, said: "With more upcoming and practising farmers farming shall go up in the next decade."

Agriculture minister Ssempijja (in a yellow tie), with officials during the commissioning of the valley tanks. Photo by Tom Gwebayanga



NEWS IN BRIEF

RDC warns civil servants

The Kaliro resident district commissioner Mary Kemerwa, has warned civil servants who shun public functions, saying the practice undermines service delivery. Kemerwa cited the area district Police commander, Joseph Kihamba who showed up for the passing out of 85 teachers. The teachers had completed five-day training in patriotism at National Teachers College in Nabisungu sub-county, Kaliro district. Kemerwa said the college sent invites to departmental heads and security officers, including Kihamba.

LC3 chairperson

The Police in Mayuge holding David Omara of Bukatube sub-county of kidnapping an 11-year-old together with another identified as Juma. Police in Mayuge identified a kidnap Joshua M' of Kyebando Primary council. Munaak by a man from payment for a man had bought the polythene rescued by