

Sebei MPs renew demand for cattle pay, resettlement plans

BY FRED WAMBEDE
& TONNY MUSANI

KAPCHORWA. Members of Parliament (MPs) from Kapchorwa District in Sebei Sub-region have renewed calls to the government to compensate the families that lost animals to cattle rustling and insurgencies since the 1960s.

The leaders are also demanding a resettlement programme for people in landslide-prone areas and demarcation of the boundary between Bugisu and Sebei.

Landslides hit the Sebei Sub-region last year, leaving more than 20 people dead and more than 200 families homeless.

The residents continue to live in fear on the hazardous slopes of the hills.

The Kapchorwa Municipality MP, Mr Patrick Kitiyo Solimo, who was elected on an Independent ticket, promised the electorate that the leaders would set aside their political differences and push the government to listen to their demands.

"We lost our cattle in the 1960s. Our neigh-

bours are on the restocking plan by the government, while we are nowhere. We are going to unite and fight for our right to compensation," he said.

"We also have an unresolved land boundary crisis with Bugisu. We need to live in peace to make wealth. We have agreed as leaders to put our differences aside and focus our energy on ensuring the government resolves our problems," Mr Solimo added.

He made the remarks during a thanksgiving ceremony with the electorate in Kapchorwa after he was sworn into the 12th Parliament last week.

Mr Solimo and the other MPs also pledged to work with the new LC5 chairperson and the mayor to stop the alleged mismanagement of the Road Fund.

The Kapchorwa District Woman MP, Ms Phyllis Chemutai, said they would closely

monitor the use of money sent to the district.

She said the MPs have been blamed for bad roads, yet it is the work of the district local government leadership to use the road funds well.

"I ask the new district chairperson and mayor to always inform us early to attend council meetings. Our roads have been very bad, but we encourage our people to trust this new leadership. It's 'Kisanja No Sleep' as the President said," Ms Chemutai said.

Kapchorwa Municipality is a beneficiary of the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID), a World Bank-funded programme aimed at enhancing the institutional performance of local governments to improve urban service delivery and infrastructure.

However, last financial year, municipality officials were arrested for reportedly swindling money meant for the construction of roads.

Background

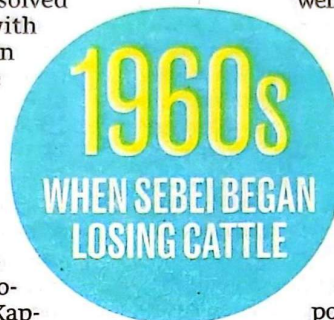
In July 2021 and January 2022, Members of Parliament from Sebei petitioned Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja regarding compensation for cattle lost during past insurgencies and cattle rustling.

In response, she directed officials to capture the concerns of the Sebei Sub-region so they could be conclusively addressed.

While the government has actively implemented and funded phases of the livestock compensation programme in the Teso, Acholi and Lango Sub-regions, Sebei was designated to be rolled into the programme at a later date. The delayed roll-out has caused frustration among local leaders and constituents.

Last month, while launching the second phase of the Mt Elgon landslide resettlement programme in Girik Village, Soi County, Kween District, Nabbanja said the government would soon handle the livestock compensation programme for Sebei.

However, there were no specific dates earmarked for the exercise.



2021

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