

Bagwere king agrees to meet MPs over land fights

KALIRO

By Paul Watala

Bagwere king (Ikumbania), John Chrysostom Wayabire, has agreed to give audience to Bunyole MPs to forge ways on how to restore peace among his tribesmen from Budaka and Banyole from Butaleja who are at war over a boundary.

The conflict has left over 10 people dead and scores injured.

Wayabire agreed to meet the MPs after Bunyole East MP Moses Nagwomu asked the king for audience to discuss peace and unity among the two tribes. He has been using radio stations in Mbale to preach peace to fellow MPs and appeal to the two tribes to unite.

"Bagwere and Banyole have been living harmoniously for years and have also intermarried, so it's not good seeing the two tribes shed blood while we leaders look on," Nagwomu said.

He said he had been tipped that the Bagwere king was ready to lead his subjects to protect their boundaries in case they are attacked.

Wayabire said he has intervened in the boundary wrangles between Budaka and

King Wayabire (centre) touring the region with his security detail recently.

Photo by Paul Watala



Bunyole by calling for the arrest of all politicians who incite locals to fight each other. He explained that the locals have destroyed people's crops and animals in Budaka with impunity.

Wayabire urged the residents to remain calm and pledged the support of the district security committee, which he said intends to petition the President and the Prime Minister over the matter.

On several occasions, business has come to a standstill in Budaka district as locals demonstrated

peacefully, chanting and demanding a response from the district leaders, whom they accused of selling the contested land to Butaleja.

Wayabire praised the regional Police commander, Julius Gobolo, for working hard to reduce the attacks.

"Police have observed that there are political opportunists on either side taking advantage of the situation to meet their own interests, but I have warned them to desist from such criminality,"

Gobolo said.

He noted that locals have started mounting illegal roadblocks to stop people from moving across districts, which is illegal.

The Butaleja district LC5 chairman, Richard Waya and other politicians in the district denied having made statements that were intended to incite violence. "We have proof that our people have been attacked, animals looted by the people of Budaka, but nobody condemned the violent acts," Waya said.