Which kind of punishment is given to people who encroach on our private tree farms? — Alex Musisi

Dear Alex: The National Forestry and tree planting Act 2003 puts strict rules in specifically section 33 on the use of forest resources.

However, this applies to only gazetted forest reserves. The Act also places the private forests under the guidance of forestry officers.

This means that any use of forest and its resources, forestry officers must be notified. This means that the District forest officer regulates the use of forests and trees on private land.

However, if someone cuts down your tree stealthily, that constitutes criminal trespass and as such you can report them to police.

The forest officer will help assess the damage, tree species, its value and location. This report can guide on the prosecution of the case.

— Answered by Ronald Lotet, senior environment officer, Mubende District.



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