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Firms bid to build lodges in Murchison Falls National Park

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KIRYANDONGO. Several companies have bidden for three sites to construct lodges in Murchison Falls National Park to boost domestic tourism.

According to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) executive director, Mr Andrew Gunga Seguya, the initiative is expected to reduce on accommodation fees for local tourists.

"We invited bidders to construct a 40-bed lodge at Karuma Falls, 30-bed at Rwagongo Forest and another 30-bed at Bugungu on the Butyaba escarpment. All this is aimed at providing cheaper accommodation rates for our local people to visit the park," he said.

Speaking to Members of Parliament and journalists after visiting Murchison Falls National Park in a campaign to boost local tourism named *tulambule* last week, Mr Seguya declined to disclose the number and name of the firms that have bid.

Tulambule campaign

The *Tulambule* campaign started on September 23, 2016, at the onset of 2016 World Tourism Day celebrations in Mbarara. It aims at creating awareness about Uganda tour adventures and destinations and calls upon everyone to be part of this initiative by visiting the 10 national parks other game reserves in Uganda.

10,000

AMOUNT IN SHILLINGS
THAT LOCAL TOURISTS PAY
AS ENTRANCE FEES TO THE
NATIONAL PARKS

The Ugandan national parks include; Bwindi Impenetrable, Kibale, Kidepo Valley, Mount Elgon, Mount Rwenzori, Lake Mburo, Semuliki, Murchison Falls, Mgahinga Gorilla and Queen Elizabeth.

State minister for Tourism Godfrey Kiwanda, said the initiative would boost revenue to government.

Most of the accommodation in the park is billed in US dollars, something that has discouraged local tourists.

Half of the tourists that visit the park are foreigners charged entrance fee of \$40 (Shs150,000) while locals pay Shs10,000.

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