

vision labour...
bour to low awareness among residents

He applauded the UPDF soldiers de-

were chased away from activities such
as sun-drying silver fish.

dren are often used to chase birds away
from rice plantations.

ity of about 100 people, including in ag-
culture, livestock, and fisheries sector.

BY ALEX ASHABA

Fort Portal City has launched a renewed campaign to restore its reputation as one of Uganda's cleanest urban centres, as leaders move to tackle growing concerns over poor waste management, littering, and environmental degradation.

City authorities said the initiative will focus on strengthening sanitation systems, enforcing by-laws, and mobilising communities to reclaim the city's former standards of cleanliness.

Fort Portal is among the regional cities, which in July will celebrate five years, since their elevation to the city status. However, most city dwellers said garbage disposal is appalling. They also cited environmental degradation.

Rev Willy Kintu Muhanga, the mayor-elect, last Wednesday, pledged to restore cleanliness and order in the city.

He expressed concern over what he described as declining civic responsibility, adding that while efforts to clean the city are ongoing, many residents still show a poor attitude toward proper waste management.

Rev Muhanga said he intends to strict-

Fort Portal officials seek to restore city's lost glory

ly enforce laws governing sanitation.

"Any shop operating without a garbage bin or designated disposal point will not be allowed to operate. Likewise, vehicles operating in the city must have waste bins," he said.

He also announced plans to strengthen citywide cleaning initiatives, including enforcing mandatory participation in designated clean-up days.

"We are going to emphasise a 'Keep Fort Portal Clean Day,' and on that day, all shops will be required to close to allow everyone to participate. If necessary, we shall enforce compliance through measures such as roadblocks," he said.

He observed that a clean city will require collective responsibility from all stakeholders, including residents, business owners, transport operators.

He added that penalties will be introduced for non-compliance, including

fines for those who fail to participate in communal cleaning activities.

Fort Portal City has River Mpanga and River Mugunu and a number of wetlands. However, due to population pressure leading to increased human activities, wetlands have been encroached on and rivers degraded.

Tooro Kingdom, civil society organisations, and Ministry of Water and Environment, among other key stakeholders, launched a campaign to conserve the environment.

The Fort Portal City senior environmental officer, Ms Gladesi Natugonza, said they are seeking one designated day in a month for general cleaning of the city.

On Wednesday, the city leaders and other stakeholders commemorated World Earth Day characterised by general cleaning of the streets and planting

of trees.

Dr Guma Brian, the team leader of Albert Water Management Zone, said the presence of environmental police would boost the fight against environment degradation.



Way forward.

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Rev Willy Kintu Muhanga, Fort Portal City mayor-elect

The Bishop of Rwenzori Diocese, Reuben Kisembo, called on residents and leaders to take collective responsibility in restoring cleanliness in the city.

He expressed concern over the increasing levels of littering, describing the current state of the city as unfortunate.

"It is unfortunate that our city is becoming dirty. We call upon the entire community to stop littering and to take responsibility for keeping the environment clean," he said.

The bishop also appealed to the government to strengthen enforcement of environmental laws and penalise people who dispose of garbage irresponsibly.

He also warned against the destruction of natural ecosystems, including wetlands, rivers and forests.

"If we continue destroying the environment, nature will react negatively and that will affect us all. We must preserve our rivers, forests, and wetlands so they can continue to serve their purpose," he added.

Mr Isiah Muhereza, an environmental activist, called upon the government to do more to stop pollution of environment by plastic waste.