

Moyo farmers advised on rains. Farmers in Moyo District have been advised to use the first rains to plant short-term crops. Speaking to *Daily Monitor* in an interview last Wednesday, Mr Daniel Buni, the Moyo Sub-county LC3 chairman, said: "Those who were given maize seedlings should start planting because the first rains will be productive. It is good that some people have started planting maize, which is germinating well." [Sovin Iceta, Monitor]



Residents withhold land for refugees

BY CISSY MAKUMBI
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LAMWO. Officials from the Office of the Prime Minister have expressed disappointment after residents withdrew land they had offered for resettling refugees from South Sudan.

Late last month, residents of Palabek Kal, Palabek Gem and Palabek Kal sub-counties, offered land to the district to be used for resettling refugees who were fleeing renewed fighting in Imatong State in South Sudan.

In an interview with *Daily Monitor* last Friday at Palabek Ogiri reception centre, Mr David Wangwe, commandant Palabek Refugee Settlement, said they were assured of land for refugees but when works commenced, landowners withdrew the offer.

"Land acquisition is causing some delays in some areas where development works should have been carried out already. In some instances, instead of getting to the found to implement we are negotiation with land owners," he said.

At the moment 4,500 South Sudan refugees have been settled in the four zones and every zone has between 150-300 refugees, according to Mr Wangwe.

He added, "Each household is given 30-30 metres for setting up shelter and more 30-30 meters for small farming and sustainability."

Mr Christopher Omal, the area LC3 chairperson, confirmed the withdrawals saying his office is "trying to sensitise the residents about the benefits that come along with the refugees in the area in terms of development, especially in areas of infrastructure."

He said some land owners were angered by the surveyors whom they accused of surveying past the boundaries of the land that had originally been donated.

"We are set to have a meeting to iron out all the differences on Monday [today]," he said.

Uganda, currently hosts about 700,000 South Sudanese refugees, according to statistics from United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

7 held over elephant tusks



Arrested. The suspects at Lira Central Police Station with pieces of elephant tusks allegedly found in their possession.

PHOTO BY ISAAC OTWII

Arrested. The suspects were apprehended last Friday as they attempted to sell the elephant tusks.

BY ISAAC OTWII
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LIRA. Seven people have been detained at Lira Central Police Station over alleged illegal possession of six pieces of elephant tusks.

The suspects, who included one woman and six men, were apprehended last Friday night as they attempted to find market for the wildlife product.

The North Kyoga regional police spokesman, Mr David Ongom Mudong, confirmed the suspects were arrested as they sought market for the elephant tusks weighing about

55kgs. According to Mr Ongom, the suspects are believed to be indulging in the illicit trade.

"We have found materials in their possession that suggest they are part of transnational gangs that are dealing in ivory. This is an indication that almost 20 elephants were killed to get the ivory from them," he told journalists last Saturday.

20

NUMBER OF ELEPHANTS
POLICE SUSPECT TO HAVE
BEEN KILLED

He added that officials from

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) would examine the recovered elephant tusks to establish the slain animals' origin.

UWA recently recorded an increase in poaching incidences with about 20 guns believed to have been used in the vice recovered from Murchison Falls National Park in six years.

The illegal ivory trade is mostly fuelled by demand in Asia and the Middle East, where elephant tusks and rhinoceros horns are used to make ornaments and in traditional medicines.

Africa is home to an estimated 472,000 elephants, Uganda owning about 5,000 elephants, whose survival is threatened by poaching and the illegal trade in game trophies, as well as a rising human population that is causing habitat loss.

Students develop new mobile app to fight HIV

BY BILL OKETCH
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LIRA. Students at Lira Town College in Lira District have developed a mobile app that will enable HIV positive people to access Anti-Retroviral drugs (ARVs) easier.

Once installed on a smartphone, the app enables HIV clients to order for the life-prolonging drugs online.

For one to use this app, you first need to register your personal details, including health status and the name of the facility where you access the treatment.

At this point, you submit the tails to the administrator (the Stars), who will in turn deliver medicine to you through their partner organisations.

Tabitha Adongo, Sarah Ejarah Achan Awoui, Robinnah A Musarapat Mubarak, the five Senior Six students behind the app, said they developed the app in memory of their friend, Rorah, a then Senior Two student who died due to HIV in 2015 partly because he feared to accept his status and his medication.

The app

The mobile app enables HIV positive people to access ARVs through the app. The app enables HIV clients to order for the life-prolonging drugs online. Developed by five Senior Six students: Tabitha Adongo, Sarah Ejarah Achan Awoui, Robinnah A Musarapat Mubarak, the app sets reminders to take medication.

The young Ugandans are cause "some ARVs yet not"