

Landlord lynched

● A landlord in Nakabango, Kayunga district, has been lynched by a mob following land wrangles. Robert Wafula, 49, who has been the parish councillor, owned a piece of land in the area and residents suspected that he planned to sell it off to a tycoon, Peter Kivumbi, for the extension of his farm. Residents surrounded Wafula as he inspected their gardens and beat him up.

Two held over theft

● Two people are being held for attempting to pick mourner's pocket during the burial of former Iganga Woman MP Hailat Kauda. Asuman Mugwere and Joseph Musoke were arrested as they attempted to rob a woman at Iganga Municipal Council Primary School playground, where mourners had converged to pay their last respects. An angry mob threatened to lynch the suspects, but they were rescued by Police.

COLLECTOR 40

New campaign to revive coffee launched

MASAKA

By Mathias Mazinga

Prior to the early 1990s, the greater Masaka region enjoyed the reputation for growing organic Robusta coffee. The coffee farmers also enjoyed a lucrative market through Masaka Growers Co-operative Union, the region's affiliate co-operative organisation.

Masaka's coffee growing niche nonetheless suffered a huge decline in the late 1990s, following the collapse of the union, unfavourable climatic changes and the general lukewarm attitude of the people for the trade.

About three decades after losing their farming niche, the people of greater Masaka have started a project to revive coffee growing. The campaign is spearheaded by the family of the late George William Mukasa Mayanja.

The campaign was launched by the Vice-President, Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, at Mayanja's home at Kabuwoko, Kyannamukaaka sub-county in Masaka district on Sunday.

Godfrey Sseremba, Mayanja's heir and champion of the project, explained: "Our father was a prominent coffee farmer. Owing to his influence in the trade, Uganda Coffee Development Authority certified him to supply coffee seedlings in the



Ssekandi (left) hands over an envelope containing sh500,000 to Sseremba after launching the project for the revival of coffee farming in greater Masaka on Sunday. Photo by Mathias Mazinga

region. He used to give out 60,000 seedlings every season," he said.

"We shall be supplying coffee seedlings to farmers every season. We have started with 90,000 seedlings, but we shall be scaling up the number every season," Sseremba said.

Mathias Kasamba, the East African Legislative Assembly MP, asked residents to embrace coffee growing to eradicate poverty. He argued that coffee earns the country over \$400m.

Ssekandi hailed Sseremba for maintaining his father's legacy. He donated sh500,000 and also promised to continue supporting the project.

Mayanja (alias Mayanja-Nkoko, 1944-2016) was a prominent coffee/poultry farmer and former general manager of Masaka Co-operative Union.

He is remembered for the role he played in promoting coffee farming and marketing in the region.