LIRA

Lango chief cautions against environmental degradation

By Patrick Okino

The Lango paramount chief, Eng. Dr. Michael Odongo Okune has warned communities against environmental degradation, saying it poses serious and far-reaching consequences for human survival and development.

In a message read to him by Benson Taiwo during the celebrations to mark Northern Uganda Water and Environment Week at Mayor's Gardens in Lira city, Odongo urged the public to take deliberate action to protect the environment.

He called on communities to plant more trees and safeguard water sources, emphasizing that environmental protection is central to sustaining livelihoods.

He also commended the water ministry for organising the event, noting that the environment is not merely a backdrop to human activity, but the very foundation of life and prosperity.

The celebration, organised through the Water Resources Institute, serves as a platform for advocacy, knowledge sharing, and policy engagement on water and environmental issues.

The week-long activities started on March 15 and concluded on May 19 under the theme *Ensuring environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities.*

The event aimed at highlighting the role of water and environmental conservation in achieving Uganda's tenfold growth strategy, while aligning sector goals with Africa Agenda 2063 and other global frameworks.

As part of the activities, at least 3,500 trees were planted in key public spaces to provide shade and help moderate the climate. These included Lira Town College, Coronation Park and Adyel Children's Park, all located within the central business district, among others.

PHOTO BY PATRICK OKINO



Aguti (left) and others preparing to plant tree at Coronation Park in Lira yesterday

Odongo highlighted the "Greening Lango Programme," an initiative he launched in 2024 to promote conservation of natural resources, including tree planting in districts such as Alebtong and Amolatar.

Grace Aguti, the National Forestry Authority manager in charge of Lango East, said the trees planted are mainly evergreen species such as soursop and grevillea.

She explained that planting such trees in public spaces will provide shade and help regulate temperatures in urba areas.

Deputy city clerk Ok Patrick George said Lira ci authorities supported

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