

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Maj. Kiggundu murder suspects trial for August 22

● The hearing of a murder charge against four men suspected of murdering Maj. Muhammad Kiggundu has been set for August 22. The suspects include former acting Tabliq leader sheikh Yahaya Ramadhan Mwanje, Muhammad Buyondo, Musa Ssekandi and Abdul Wahab Ssendegeya. Yesterday, High Court Judge Wilson Kwesiga, who is also the head of the Criminal Division of the High Court, read the charges to the accused at Luzira Prisons. They all pleaded not guilty. After plea taking, the judge directed state attorneys Lilian Omara and Barbara Masinde to avail all the necessary documents so that the case is heard without delay. Maj. Kiggundu was gunned down together with his body guard Sgt. Stephen Mukasa on November 26, last year, at Masanapu in Rubaga division, Kampala.

# Introduce birth control for city dogs - activists

By Betty Amamukirori

A group of animal welfare activists have called on the urban authorities to stop poisoning dogs as a measure of reducing their population, but come up with a comprehensive birth control strategy for the dog population.

The activists from World Animal Protection, an international non-for-profit animal welfare organisation, said, just like humans, dogs can be put on family planning to manage the birth rates and control their population growth.

"Dogs, just like human beings, can be put on family planning to regulate their birth rates. So, there is no reason why Uganda should be killing them to control their population. This is internationally unacceptable," Edith Kabesiime, the organisation's wildlife campaign manager for Africa said.

She noted that such a method has been successful in Zanzibar in Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Ghana and parts of Kenya, such as Makueni.

She said instead of embarking

on killing the dogs, the urban authorities should also embark on vaccinating at least 70% of the dog population, so that they are no longer a threat and also engage in mass cleaning of the city, to rid it of garbage that attracts dogs.

"When you get rid of dog population by culling, what you do is simply create space within a population. This gives dogs from other species an opportunity to move and fill up that space, making it hard for you to completely get rid of them," Dr Victor Oyamo, the organisation's humane and sustainable agriculture campaign manager, said.

Oyamo stated that during the process of culling, both good and bad dogs are killed and, in the process, the spread of rabies is doubled.

They made the remarks during a press briefing held at Makerere University Guesthouse on Friday. The briefing was aimed at creating awareness on the welfare of both domestic and wildlife and launching their Change for Chicken campaign.

Oyamo, in his remarks, noted that animals, too, have rights and freedoms that must be respected. Such rights include freedom to access food and water, freedom

from discomfort, freedom to be free from pain, injury or disease, fear and distress, and freedom to express their natural behaviour.

Under their Change for Chicken campaign, Oyamo noted that the way chicken is produced in Uganda is not sustainable and is below the required standards, noting that they are forced to grow fast and gain a lot of weight in a short time, in order to be sold off.

He said such methods of production caused heart problems and trauma for the chicken. He also said the chicken are normally overstocked and are bred in dirty and badly lit environments.

Through their report, *Exposing the secret suffering of chickens farmed for meat*, they demand that the chicken be allowed to grow at a more natural rate and gain weight of less than 50 grammes per day on average.

Kabesiime said they fight for welfare of animals used in traditional medicine, those used as pets and those used for entertainment, such as elephants in Asia.



### STOP KILLING DOGS

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