

was made to notify

process because shortly after we had issued out our clearance, we got another order from the judge and we musene] says he has not issued a second order. The judge also wondered how his signature came onto the second order that he didn't issue."

Oil palm project gets Shs200b support



Boost. Farmers tend their produce. The new investment in the oil palm project will enable more farmers countrywide to grow the crop to boost its production as well as their household incomes. FILE PHOTO

Purpose. The oil palm project will be expanded to benefit farmers in Buvuma, Mayugé, Bugiri, Mukono, Buikwe and Masaka-Kyotera.

BY IVAN KIMBOWA
& SHABIBAH NAKIRIGYA
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA/KALANGALA. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal, Industry and Fisheries has finalised plans to invest more than Shs200b in oil palm growing in Uganda.

Addressing journalists at the weekend, Ms Connie Magomu Masala, the vegetable oil development project manager, said the project is funded by International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

She said the project based in Kalangala District will be rolled out to other districts across the country.

"We want to expand these activities to other islands and these include Buvuma Island, Mayuge, Bugiri, Mukono, Buikwe and Masaka-Kyotera so that other areas can also benefit from oil palm grow-

ing," Ms Magomu said.

Ms Magomu added that the sector has been negotiating with IFAD to increase funding to expand the project.

"This money will be used to extend loans to farmers. The loans will be recovered after four years. The government will start deducting their percentage according to the pricing formula tagged to international costs," Ms Magomu said.

500,000

Profitable. Oil palm farmers earn between Shs250,000 and Shs500,000 per month.

Recently, Oil Palm Uganda Ltd (OPUL), unveiled plans to expand its oil palm fields to other districts as per the agreement it signed with the government 15 years ago.

Partnership

OPUL is a partnership of four companies including BIDCO Kenya, Wilmer plantation services, Josovina, and Archer Daniels Midland that

won a contract of leading palm oil growing in Kalangala and later to expand to other parts of the country.

Mr Vincent Adipa, the OPUL administration manager, said the firm plans to set up more 41,000 hectares of oil palm fields in other districts across the country.

KEY ISSUE

Production. Commercial oil palm development started in 1972 in Uganda but real development started in 2004 on Bugala Island in Kalangala District under the vegetable oil development project.

Kalangala district is composed of 84 islands and oil palm has been developed on three islands. The total area of Bugala Island is 30,000 hectares and oil palm covers 10,400 hectares which is around 34 percent of the total area.