



**Dialogue.** Mr Lawrence Biyika Songa (centre), chairperson of the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change Uganda, speaks during the dialogue in Kampala last week. PHOTO BY EPHRAIM KASOZI

# MPs demand law on climate change

**Agreement.** Uganda is among the first 175 countries that signed the Paris Agreement on climate change in New York on April 22, 2016, in one of the positive actions to protect the environment. However, MPs think this process is taking longer than expected.

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**KAMPALA.** Members of Parliament have asked the government to expeditiously enact a law to regulate activities on natural resources to avert the dangerous effects of climate change in the country.

The law, according to MPs, seeks to protect the ecosystems threatened by population pressures and erosion that affect all those who depend on natural space.

The legislators under the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change Uganda (PFCC-U) said the legal framework will help the country to mainstream climate change in the country's development processes.

"We note that the Climate Change Bill has taken too long to be tabled in Parliament yet the country is continuing to experience devastating effects of climate change. We have resolved that if government fails to present the bill, we shall table it as a private member's bill," said Mr Lawrence Biyika Songa, the chairperson of PFCC-U.

In 2015, Cabinet directed the Ministry of Water and Environment to initiate the legal framework on climate change.

Speaking at a dialogue on the Climate Change Bill development process in Kampala last, Mr Songa said the

proposed law would regulate the infrastructural development and human activities to ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

The PFCC-U in partnership with Cordaid in Uganda organised the dialogue on the update about the law in offing.

In 2016, the country experienced hottest temperatures characterised by erratic rainfall, long dry spells which affected production in agriculture leading to food shortage, death of animals, floods which destroyed infrastructure like roads and death of people.

Mr Chebet Maikut, the commissioner in charge of climate change department at the Ministry of Water and Environment, attributed the delays to the bureaucracy in the processes which involved procuring legal services but that the process has started.