

UPDF army to guard Vanilla growers

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The UPDF has pledged to deploy forces to guard vanilla growers in Buikwe District to reduce the growing robbery and insecurity the crop is experiencing due to the increasing produce.

The UPDF Deputy Chief Defence Forces Lt. Gen. Wilson Mbadi, said UPDF is more than ready to provide security but it cannot do so until local government pass by-laws concerning the vanilla crop.

He said this last Wednesday at Ngongwe Sub-county headquarters when farmers demonstrated before discussing the matter with security officials, district and local leaders. Gen Mbadi said UPDF is going to

station five guards per village to work with village security committees to restore order and these guards would be directly under UPDF command.

Farmers from different vanilla growing sub-counties demonstrated against the district officials and sub-counties for delaying to pass vanilla by-laws in the area which has put their lives in danger.

Farmers want by-laws which restrict the harvesting of raw vanilla and also restrict buyers who purchase such vanilla.

They also wish to see that their security is guaranteed from robbers since the crop is generating good money.

Currently one kilogramme of vanilla costs Shs250,000.

