

Govt to pay defunct Busoga Union sh7b

BUSOGA

By Jackie Nambogga

The Government is to compensate sh7b to the defunct Busoga Growers' Co-operative Union, the state minister for co-operatives Fredrick Ngobi Gume, has said.

Speaking at the launch of Buwagi Kamuli Farmers' co-operative Society in Kamuli district on Saturday, Gume explained that the sh7b will be channelled into functional co-operative societies in the sub-region.

Much as there were several factors that led to the collapse of unions in Busoga, Gume said Busoga Growers lost its assets during the National Resistance Army war.

"I went into records and established that the Government owed Busoga Growers Co-operative Union over sh7b," he said.

He noted that the money will deter farmers from selling their crops prematurely in gardens.

"I am happy that farmers are directly involved in this society. The money will help them borrow to pay school fees for their children so that they can pay back after harvesting, instead of selling their crops prematurely, where they are cheated," he said.

Nathan Balirwa, the chairperson of Buwagi Kamuli Co-operative Society, said it comprises 100 members who are into maize, coffee, sugarcane and vegetable growing, as well as piggery and cattle rearing on 32 acres of land.

Fredrick Ssentongo, the Kamuli district commercial officer, told the minister that he had confirmed that the union is member formed, owned and financed.