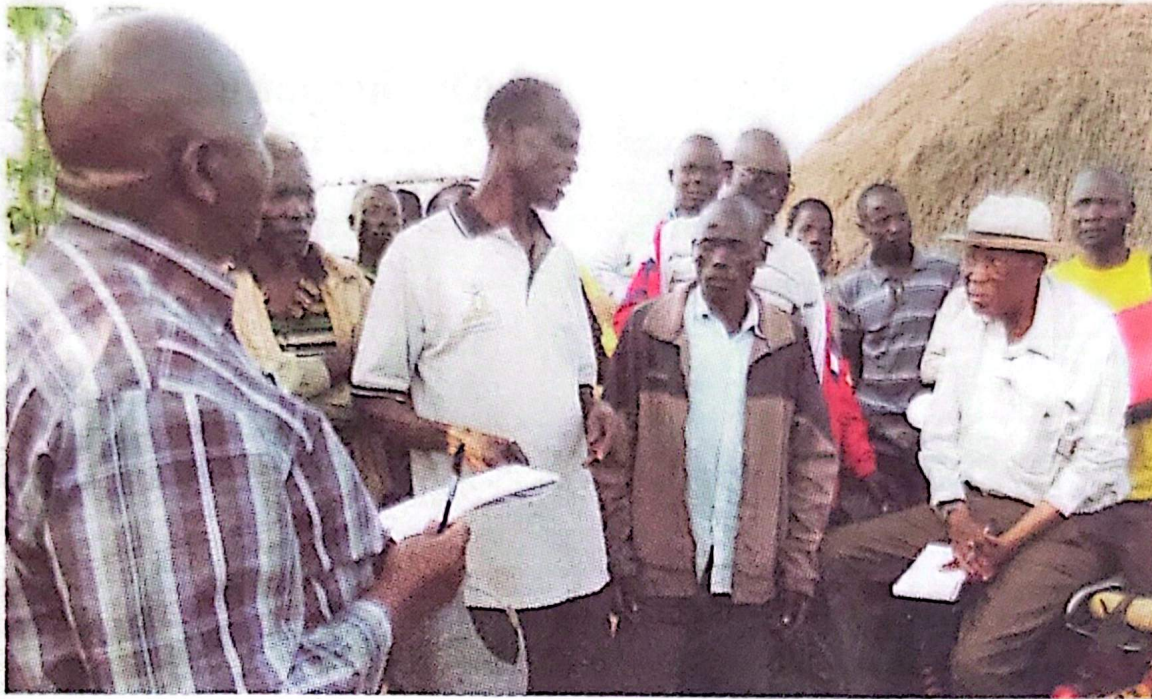


Govt urged to act faster on ranch boundary



Attentive.
Land probe commissioner Robert Ssebunya (right) listens to submissions of residents in Angura Village in Lungulu Sub-county, Nwoya District on Wednesday.
PHOTO BY STEPHEN OKELLO

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PADER. Land probe commissioners have asked government to speed up the boundary opening of Aswa ranch in Pader District to end boundary disputes and save it from encroachment.

This comes barely a month after the commission headed by Justice Catherine Bamugemereire launched inquiries into controversies surrounding operation of the State-owned ranch.

The ranch, which covers about 134 square miles, is under management of National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and Databank for breeding cattle

for commercial production.

However, early this year, President Museveni directed that the ranch be leased to private investors.

While visiting the ranch on Thursday, land commissioners said there was need to understand its exact

“ There is need to draft a programme to secure this (ranch) land. If the government doesn't open the boundary of the ranch, it will be hard to secure what it is possessing.”
GEORGE BAGONZA, LAND PROBE COMMISSIONER

boundaries in order for it to operate smoothly.

Mr George Tinkamanyire Bagonza, a commissioner, said the Agriculture Ministry was losing a lot of land in the country to encroachers due to limited understanding of boundaries of land it owns.

Mr Bagonza said this was the source of disputes emerging between the community, local leaders and ranch managers.

The in-charge of Aswa Ranch, Mr Patrick Mwesigwa, acknowledged the challenge, saying they have never been able to reopen the boundary of the ranch since the defunct Uganda Livestock Industries is still holding the ranch land title.