Activist to walk 260km against climate change

KAMPALA

By Gerald Tenywa

As more Ugandans face dangers caused by floods, landslides, drought and food insecurity, Geoffrey Walker Ayeni has decided to highlight the plight of climate change by walking 260km from Kampala to Kapchorwa.

Ayeni's charity walk for climate change will cover 10 days, starting today (September 18). He will plant trees at different stopovers, including Mabira forest reserve in Mukono, Buikwe and Kayunga districts.

He will also plant a tree at the world famous Source of River Nile at the place where the Nile starts its 6,700km journey to Egypt. He hopes that this will create awareness and increase the consciousness of people about climate change.

Sam Cheptoris, the water and environment minister, is expected to flagoff Ayeni at an official ceremony organised at the ministry headquarters in Kampala.

Climate change is caused by emissions such as carbon dioxide from production processes, which trap heat escaping into the atmosphere, thereby causing global warming. The warming of the earth disrupts rainfall patterns and also melts the ice on mountain tops such as the Rwenzori.

Ayeni, who is a marketer by profession, describes himself as a committed social and charity walker. His previous expeditions include the walk for popularising the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2007.

Because of his body build, Ayeni was invited by a top modelling agency in Kampala but he turned them down because it was not his passion. The Aleptong-born Ayeni preferred to engage in pursuits that benefit humanity and the disadvantaged people.

"I have decided to dedicate this walk to climate change because it is affecting our lives and we need to do something about it," he told *New Vision* in an interview. "I hope people will take steps to address climate change as individuals, government, private sector and civil society."

CamScanner