

Strange animals destroy banana plantations in Mukono district

MUKONO

By Henry Nsubuga

Residents of Mukono are panicking over strange creatures that are destroying banana plantations.

The banana growers at Naalya-Kampungu in Nama sub-county, Mukono district say the strange animal destroys their crops at night.

Hajat Sarah Ggita, the area chairperson, said the animal which looks like a leopard uses its long claws to scratch the stem of a banana plant repeatedly until most of it is on the ground.

Ggita said the animal was first noticed in Deus Bulimpenda's plantation two years ago.

"It has also destroyed the banana plants of Martin Muwanga, Enos Kato and the plantation for the area mosque," she said.

Over 30 banana plants were destroyed in Bulimpenda's plantation on Sunday night.

Bulimpenda said they have so far killed four animals and the latest was killed by an official from the Uganda Wildlife Authority who shot at it six months ago.

"Before these animals started destroying my banana plants, I used to sell 20 bunches of bananas weekly."

"Unfortunately, I now take a month without harvesting a single bunch," he said.

Bulimpenda added that he has now resorted to replacing the banana plantation with coffee which is free from the animal.



The carcass of the strange animal destroying banana plants in Mukono

David Mugisha said these animals come at night between 11:00pm and 4:00am. He said when they are around, the dogs bark at them so much and they even climb the trees.

Muwanga said: "We are calling on government to come to our rescue before the situation worsens. It would be better if the responsible officials intervened before we lose all of the banana plantations to these strange animals. We wouldn't like to beg for posho from government, which is the next step," he said.