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Residents want fishermen evicted



Reason. Residents claim they pose a security threat.

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ENTEBBE. More than 1,000 fishermen at Mayanzi Sub-ward in Entebbe Municipality face eviction.

School proprietors and owners of residential houses in the area claim the fishermen, who relocated to the Lake Victoria shoreline recently, are a security concern.

Mayanzi is one of the emerging suburbs of Entebbe with superior residential houses and educational institutions such as Merryland High School, Shoreline Technical Institute and Kigungu Primary School.

The fishermen were evicted from Makusa and Lwamunyo islands in Lake Victoria by the Fisheries Protection Unit of Uganda People's Defence Forces for allegedly tampering with the fish breeding sites last month.

"Those islanders are drug addicts and also engage in other immoral activities of a sexual nature and we fear they may seduce our girls into bad behaviour. They are going to set up bars and lodges that are a source of evil," Mr John Lukwago, a board member of Entebbe Girls School, said during an interview on Wednesday. "We have already in-

structed our lawyers to institute legal proceedings against municipal authorities over failure to relocate those people to gazetted landing sites," he added.

Daily Monitor has seen a copy of a May 11 letter from lawyers representing Entebbe Girls School and other residents threatening to sue municipal authorities if no action is taken to evict the fishermen.

"We shall seek legal redress, should your office take no action against these migrants and their activities," a letter from Fides Legal Advocates reads in part.

Leaders disagree

The relocation of the fishermen has already caused friction between Entebbe municipal authorities and the Wakiso District fisheries officer, Mr Michael Lubulwa.

Although he insisted that the islanders have to swiftly relocate to gazetted landing sites, the deputy Entebbe Mayor, Mr Richard Ssenyondo, said they have to stay since all landing sites in the peninsular town are overpopulated amid poor hygienic standards.

Instead, Mr Ssenyondo advised property owners in the area to fence off their premises.

In his April 30 letter addressed to the Entebbe Town Clerk, Mr Charles Maguma, Mr Lubulwa reasoned that allowing the islanders to settle at Mayanzi will be in con-

Settled. The fishermen have put up makeshift structures at Mayanzi Landing Site in Wakiso District. PHOTO BY EVE MUGANGA

Voices

"Those islanders are drug addicts and also engage in other immoral activities of a sexual nature and we fear they may seduce our girls into bad behaviour," JOHN LUKWAGO, A BOARD MEMBER OF ENTEBBE GIRLS SCHOOL

"During the fisheries licensing exercise, I established that there was an illegal landing site that is developing on the shoreline in Mayanzi Sub-ward...," MICHAEL LUBULWA, WAKISO DISTRICT FISHERIES OFFICER

travention of the Fish Act, Statutory Instrument No.33 (Fishing Rules of 2010).

"During the fisheries licensing exercise that was conducted in March and April, I established that there was an illegal landing site that is developing on the shoreline in Mayanzi Sub-ward, some distance away from Kigungu Landing Site," Mr Lubulwa's letter reads in part

But Mr Ssenyondo said evicting the fishermen will not automatically solve the problem of illegal fishing, adding that the municipality is currently in a process of expanding the boundaries of Kigungu Landing Site to cover Mayanzi where the affected group settled.

But when contacted, Mr Magumu, said the municipality was ready to cooperate with the district to relocate the fishermen.

"If it is not a gazetted landing site, they [fishermen] should look for gazetted landing sites, if not, let them go back to where they came from," he said.

Mr Fred Mululi, who led the fishermen to settle at Mayanzi said they settlement was okayed by the municipal authorities.

He added that they agreed with municipal council officials not to construct lodges and bars in the area.

"Some people are making all sorts of allegations to tarnish our name, but we are not criminals. We are here to earn a living," he added.

ected thief lynched

30. Residents of Nakinyuguzi ndye East Constituency on Tuesday found a suspected thief allegedly found breaking into a house. The residents had a week ago reported to police about the wave of robbery cases in the area. The police called on the police to the area during day and night curfew increased theft and cases. [Joseph Kato]

Woman rescued

KAMPALA. A woman has been rescued from her kidnappers on Tuesday after the culprits enticed her with a job. The 19-year-old woman from Kakra in Jinja followed a phone call from a one Mayanja Muhammad, also known as Alideki, in search for a job. The deputy police spokesperson, Mr Patrick Onyango, said Mayanja had promised to give her a shop attendant job, and went further to send her Shs15,000 as transport to the agreed destination. He said her captor raped her and demanded a Shs10m ransom. [Joseph Kato]

Two operatives held

KAMPALA. The Kampala Metropolitan police commander, Mr Moses Kafeero, on Wednesday confirmed that officers under the disbanded Flying Squad Unit were still in detention over kidnap. The two officers were arrested after they allegedly kidnapped a man in Bwaise and called his wife demanding Shs2m ransom. Police said the suspects' phone was tracked and they were found with the victim in a car as they waited for the victim's wife to send the money for his freedom. [Joseph Kato]

Buganda in sanitation drive

KAMPALA. Buganda Kingdom plans to construct at least 200 pit-latrines. The kingdom will partner with a donor agency, Burkisha, to facilitate the project. The kingdom will work through its NGO, Buganda Cultural and Development Foundation (BUCADEF), and the programme will be implemented in selected villages in the kingdom. Mr Noah Kiyimba, the kingdom spokesperson, said yesterday that the move will boost hygiene and reduce poor sanitary related diseases. He said BUCADEF spearheads various community interventions such as providing safe water, and promoting household incomes. [James Kabengwa]