

Bagwere to re-plant mvule trees

BUDAKA

By Paul Watala

In a bid to restore what Semei Kakungulu left in eastern Uganda, Bagwere Batakangana youth have acquired 20,000 Mvule tree seedlings for along the Mbale-Tirinyi highway.

Semei Kakungulu was a colonial agent who helped the British establish local government structures in eastern Uganda in the early 20th century. He died in 1928.

The vice-chairperson Bagwere Batakangana youth forum, Fazali Kabwaka, made the revelation on Wednesday at Budaka.

Mvule trees, planted in the 1900s, were a landmark on the Mbale-Tirinyi road but were cut down between 1990 and 2005.

"The trees will be planted from River Mpologoma border to Namatala river, the border between Budaka and Mbale," he said.

Kabwaka noted that it was a shame to see that the mvule trees that Kakungulu, who did not have a formal education, planted in the last century, were cut down.

He added that women and children are seen digging up the roots for firewood, adding that there are no more mvule trees.

Kabwaka faulted the district authorities for failing to protect the trees and arrest residents who cut them down.

He said that they are in touch with the concerned ministry and Uganda National Roads Authority for guidance, adding that they have asked the works and environment ministers to officiate at the launch of programme.

He said the date for planting trees will be communicated, adding that the Bagwere cultural leader will be the chief guest.

Kibuku district health officer Mohammed Bumba noted that the youth forum is not only planting trees, but has also conducted health camps and donated scholastic materials to schools.

ON THE GROUND

Mvule trees planted