

outh Affairs, Mpaka
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le space for engagement
ustainable youth financing

focused on supporting and
developing young people
to become positive and
productive citizens.

Govt to close coffee processing centres

By Moses Mulondo and John Odyek

The agriculture minister, Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja, has told Parliament that Government will continue closing coffee factories which do not adhere to the required standards.

The minister was responding to concerns raised by Bukomansimbi South County MP Deo Kiyingi and Bukoto South MP Haji Muyanja Mbabaali over the closure of coffee factories in Masaka, Lwengo, Kalungu and Bukomansimbi.

The MPs argued that the closure had affected the factory owners and farmers who have been supplying them, hence affecting their source of livelihood and money for paying school fees.

But the minister said Government had no option because the factories had failed to comply with the standards. Some of them factories had no licences and they were processing immature coffee.

Budadiri West MP Nathan Nandala Mafabi, who is also the chairman of Bugisu Co-operative Union, said, "I am a coffee farmer. I want to thank the minister for closing those factories which are not doing well."

Mafabi argued that once all stakeholders are compelled to adhere to the quality standards, Uganda will earn more from coffee exports.

Frustration

Conveying the frustrations of her voters, Bukomansimbi North MP Ruth Katushabe said Government should have sensitised farmers and factory owners on the required standards before closing the factories.

Mbale Municipality MP Jack Wamanga said the challenges of quality will be addressed by co-operatives once Government revives them.

The Nwoya Woman MP, Lilly Adong, proposed that if Government recruits enough extension workers and facilitates them well, they will guide farmers on the best farming practices.