

# Ministers want tough climate change law

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**KAMPALA.** Ministers have demanded deterrent punishments in a proposed law that seeks to regulate activities on natural resources.

Without identifying the penalties, the ministers said the punitive measures will form a basis for the government to fight the devastating effects of climate change in order to achieve social-economic transformation and middle class status.

State minister for Local Government Jennifer Namuyangu said the new climate change law must provide for penalties against professionals under whose watch, forests, wetlands and other natural resources are destroyed.

"We must make it mandatory (under the law) that every urban centre must have a green belt, avenue and forests to act as carbon sieve the high rates of pollution in town centers. All developers putting up structures must put up rain harvesting facilities to avoid running water that destroys infrastructure such as roads," Ms Namuyangu said.

## Proposal

**Key item.** The proposed law empowers the High Court to issue orders to prevent, stop or discontinue the act or omission that is subject to the case and also to compel government to take measures to reverse the act that was omitted.

The ministers were speaking at a consultative meeting on the draft Bill, which was organised by the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change Uganda (PFCC-U) in partnership with Cordaid in Uganda.

### Compensation

According to the National Climate Change Bill 2017, polluters of the environment will be liable to compensate people who suffer loss or damage as a result of their acts and omissions.

State minister for Works Edward Katumba Wamala said: "Climate Change is a big security threat that we need to ask for more money to protect the environment. The issue of *Kaveera* (polythene) ban was announced but it was never implemented yet the *Kaveera* is killing the environment," Gen Katumba observed.

The chairperson of PFCC-U, Mr Lawrence Biyika Songa, said the proposed law will be tabled in