

Kween MP accused of land grabbing

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MBALE. Residents of Kween County in Kween District have accused their area Member of Parliament, Mr Lawrence Mangusho, of allegedly grabbing land and evicting hundreds of people in Ngenge and Kiriki sub-counties.

The chairperson of landless community in the district, Mr Siraji Chebet, said at the weekend that Mr Mangusho allegedly connived with district leaders and grabbed more than 20,000 acres of land.

"We were shocked to find out that our MP and two others were claiming ownership of our land and yet we have never sold

it to them but when we investigated, we found out that they connived with district leaders to forge the titles," Mr Chebet said.

While appearing before the commission of inquiry into land matters last Friday, the affected residents said they are now homeless.

"All these families are now landless after they

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Justice Bamugemereire said the commission has found that politicians and business people are the most land grabbers in the country. "They get land by fraud. There are multiple titles and forged ones in the area," she said.

were evicted and have nowhere to go. They sleep in the trading centres," Mr Chebet told the commission chaired by Justice Catherine Bamugemereire.

He said the most affected parishes are Sikwo, Cheptere, Chepsukunya, Kapterit, Lyilit, Korit and Alarm.

However, when contacted, Mr Mangusho denied the allegations, saying residents have always accused him of grabbing land.

Mr Chebet also accused the Resident District Commissioner, Mr Kennedy Adhola Otiti, of aiding land grabbing, an allegation he denies.

However, Mr Otiti acknowledged that there are many cases of land grabbing and fraud in the district.