

MPs to discuss plight of Mubende gold miners

By Moses Mulondo

Members of Parliament from Mubende district are collecting signatures to recall Parliament from recess, to discuss the plight of thousands of gold miners, who were recently evicted by the army and the Police.

On August 4, the army evicted over 60,000 people from the gold reserve areas in Bukuya sub-county, Mubende district, after giving them a notice of vacating the fields within 12 hours.

The MPs want a special sitting of Parliament to pass a resolution, which will stop the eviction and reinstate the artisan miners back to work.

The exercise of gathering signatures is spearheaded by Patrick Oshabe Nsamba (Kassanda County North) and Gaffa Mbwaterkamwa (Kasambya County).

The MPs also want Parliament and the Government to empower residents in Mubende district to be involved in the gold mining activity, which is their main source of livelihood.

About a month before they were evicted, a delegation of Mubende artisan miners met the Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, asking for

Parliament's intervention into the matter.

Simeo Nsubuga (Kassanda South) appealed to President Yoweri Museveni to visit the area and empower residents in mining gold.

"The investor was given over 200 square km, but is using less than 20km. We want the President to give part of the land to the residents to also mine the gold, since it is their source of livelihood," Nsubuga told *New Vision* yesterday.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The MPs want a special sitting of Parliament to pass a resolution, which will stop the eviction of the miners by the army and the Police and reinstate the artisan miners back to work.

He said they also want the Government to organise the miners by registering them and ensuring they weed out foreigners, who are said to have come from Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania.

Nsamba told *New Vision* that they had so far gathered 70 signatures, out of the 125 required by Parliament to recall the MPs from recess.