

Farmer uproots OWC coffee to plant cane

MAYUGE

By Betty Angatai

The Police in Mayuge district have arrested two men for allegedly uprooting coffee planted under Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) to create space for sugarcane growing.

The officer in charge of criminal investigations, Abdul Nasser Mulimira, identified the suspects as Robert Waiswa, 38, a resident of Mayuge town and Robert Dhikusooka, 39, of Mpungwe village.

The coffee seedlings were allegedly given to Emmanuel Kirunda in 2015, a resident of Kyoga village in Mpungwe in 2015. The coffee was due for harvest in a few months time.

Mulimira said Kirunda leased out his five acres of land to Waiswa at sh3m to grow sugarcane.

"After hiring the land for five years, Waiswa employed people to clear the coffee. They uprooted about two

" Mulimira said



Kiggundu (right) with members of Mayuge coffee buyers and sellers association in the uprooted plantation. Photos by Betty Angatai

owner of the plantation is on the run.

John Kiggundu, the officer in charge of OWC in Mayuge, regretted the incident.

Jamir Nzigu, the chairperson of Mayuge coffee buyers and sellers association, who is also

condemned the act.

"How can one hire out his coffee plantation to be cleared for sh3m for five years?

Why do people want recycle poverty?" Nzigu wondered. He ordered Police to arrest Kirunda so that he faces the

uprooting coffee was an offence. I ask for forgiveness," Waiswa pleaded, adding that it was Kirunda who approached him and offered the land for hire.

"He told me he wanted about sh3m to pay tuition