

Netherlands, Wakiso district to improve urban centres

WAKISO

By Job Nantakiika

Wakiso district has gone into partnership with Utrecht city in the Netherlands to develop and improve its urban centres.

The revelation was made during a meeting between the district chairperson, Matia Lwanga Bwanika; the chief administrative officer, Luke Lokuda; the district planner Ruth Nakatudde as well as two representatives from the city of Utrecht.

Representatives from the Netherlands include the advisor for economic affairs in Utrecht city, Evelyn Van Batenburg and the programmes co-ordinator for the city of Utrecht, Etienne de Jager.

In the meeting which was held in the office of the district chairperson on Wednesday, it was decided that Kajjansi town be developed and that it was to act as a model town in the district.

Capacity building is one of the aspects that will be emphasised. According to Bwanika, three people from Kajjansi town council will be given a chance to visit the Netherlands cities and see how towns are organised.

According to Etienne, the development of Kajjansi town will depend on the people's needs and how they want to see their town look like in next 20 years.

During their interaction with the people of Kajjansi, the officers realised that the main problem affecting the town is waste management.

"In the Netherlands, there are stakeholders who can invest in this waste at Kajjansi and produce bricks out of it. The bricks can be used for building houses for Kajjansi residents and produce more items out of the garbage," Etienne said.

Nakatudde asserted that waste management is a big challenge in the whole district and they are now looking for a dumping place and collection centres for easy management.

However, Bwanika expressed fear, saying the district has ever got many companies showing interest in developing the waste, but they have been frustrated by the Government bureaucratic tendencies.

Richard Okuku, an economist from Uganda Local Governments Association said the structural plan of Kajjansi is going to be considered and they will start with the Kajjansi junction. He said once the junction is organised, Kajjansi town council will earn more revenue out of the parking yard.