ey have now
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documented

used by Bunyoro Growers for years, but at some point, it seems the farmers handed it over to Uganda Investment

has been smooth, but I do not have more details because I don't speak for Centum Investment," he stated.

Forty-eight hospitalised over poisonous cassava

By Jeff Andrew Lule



Kasingye

The Police in Kasese are holding four people in connection with selling poisonous cassava flour.

A total of 48 people, according to the Police force spokesperson Asan Kasingye, were admitted to Bwera Hospital after consuming the poisonous cassava.

"Our investigations followed an incident in which the 48, including two children, became ill after consuming the suspected poisonous flour," he said during the Police weekly press briefing at the Police headquarters in Kampala yesterday.

Last year, nine people were also reported dead and 14 hospitalised in the districts of Bugiri and Tororo district as a result of consuming poisonous cassava, according to a statement presented to Parliament last week. Agriculture minister Vincent Sempijja told Parliament that close to 80% of the cassava varieties grown in the two districts is a local bitter variety commonly known as *Magana*, with only 20% of improved varieties. *Magana* is also grown in Tongolo in West Nile and nothern Uganda, *Rutuga* and *Kalinga* in western Uganda.

Sempijja explained that the safe way to process *Magana* into flour involves peeling, slicing and keeping the cassava for five to seven days to allow fermentation to breakdown the cyanide.

He explained that cassava poisoning can occur when *Magana* is harvested as fresh roots and then boiled for consumption.

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