year and it is at the same event reduce signs of emotional

NFA to open Budongo forest boundaries

BULIISA

By Priscillar Nyamahunge

The National Forestry Authority (NFA) is set to reopen boundaries of Budongo Forest.

Budongo Forest was gazetted in 1932 and covers about 82,530 hectares. Its total boundary length is 281km.

Budongo Forest is shared among three districts; Buliisa with 47% cover, Masindi 35% and Hoima 18%.

While meeting LC1 chairpersons for areas neighbouring the forest at Budongo sub-county headquarters over the weekend, Stephen Galima, the NFA co-ordinator of natural forests, said there has been a challenge of encroachment which the authority wants to eliminate.

"Some people are illegally cultivating the land in the reserve and cutting timber. Some have even settled on the land reserved for the forest and claim they are not aware of the boundaries," Galima said.

He said reopening the boundaries was aimed at creating harmony between both parties.

Jackson Ram, a resident of Budongo, said some people had been depleting the forest because NFA had taken long without demarcating the area.

Francis Opus, another resident, said reopening the boundaries would give residents a chance to grow sugarcane.

"The factory's management would not allow us grow sugarcane because they were not sure if the land was genuinely ours. NFA will now clear us and we shall be able to engage in business," he said.

Kenneth Nyendwoha, the LC3 for Budongo sub-county, urged residents to desist from depleting forests, saying such acts were the major cause of climate change and its accompanying negative effects, such as droughts.

CamScanner