Govt moves to secure Matanda irrigation project land

BY ROBERT MUHEREZA

KANUNGU. The government has stepped up efforts to secure land earmarked for the Matanda Irrigation Scheme under the Irrigation for Climate Resilience Project in Kanungu District, despite new complaints from a compensated Project Affected Person (PAP).

Christine Joy Tusiime, who acknowledges receiving more than Shs521m in compensation, claims the valuation and consent process was marred by irregularities and wants the exercise repeated.

"I want the process to be started afresh with trusted and independent surveyors opening the boundaries of the land and valuing it to determine the actual cost," Ms Tusiime said in a WhatsApp call.

She added that although the money was deposited on her bank account, she has kept it as evidence and intends to refund it at an appropriate time.

Ambrose Amanyire Mwesigye, the Kanungu Resident District Commissioner, said Ms Tusiime was fully compensated in the presence of her lawyers and was advised to seek legal redress if dissatisfied.

Mr Mwesigye also disclosed that the district security committee resolved to deploy security personnel to protect the government-acquired land.

He warned that Ms Tusiime risks facing charges of obtaining money by false pretence for allegedly failing to declare the caveat before receiving compensation.

Authorities maintain that the land was lawfully acquired for public infrastructure development and insist the project will proceed as planned.

The Matanda Irrigation Scheme is part of broader government efforts to enhance climate resilience and boost agricultural productivity in the region.

BACKGROUND

The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries with support from the World Bank. It includes construction of a main pipeline, and de-