

Government launches eco-friendly strategy

By Wilson
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The National Planning Authority (NPA) has launched a 14-year eco-friendly development plan.

The Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy is expected to cost \$11b (sh39.7 trillion).

According to Ronald Kagwa, the head of production and trade planning at NPA, the project mainly focuses on climate-resilient methods, waste recycling, maintenance of human capital and job creation.

Kagwa, who presented the plan at the 8th national development policy forum at Imperial Royale Hotel, yesterday, said the money for the project will come from the national budget, development partners and the private sector.

"Over 60% of the funding is within our national development plan. Therefore, implementing our development plan means implementing the green growth strategy; but we shall need some additional money," he stated.

It is hoped that the country will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28%, realise 10% GDP growth and have the cost of infrastructure construction by 13% by 2030.

The First Deputy Prime

Minister, Moses Ali, who represented the Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, noted that in 27 years, the country's forest cover will have dwindled from 24% to 10% if deforestation is not controlled.

"We are having one of the highest population growth rates in the world and this is threatening the current economic growth. We must embrace low-carbon development pathway that safeguards the integrity of our environment," Rugunda said in a speech read by Ali.

"I urge NPA to ensure that all government sectors and ministries integrate the green-growth in their budget statements. Transition to middle income status will require the Government to strengthen policies," he stated.

Tom Okurut, the executive director of the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), explained that people need to change mindsets on environment protection.

NPA executive director Dr. Joseph Muvawala said by the time he joined the authority in 2014, Uganda was the only East African country without green growth.

He noted that the severe drought that hit the country at the beginning of the year was one of the signs of climate change effects.