

Nadduli pledges to fund fish farming

By Tom Gwebayanga

The Minister for General Duties in the office of the President, Al Haji Abdu Nadduli, has stormed Busoga to preach the gospel of fish farming. He said fish farming will help Busoga to overcome poverty.

Nadduli said Busoga is endowed with many wetlands including Lumbuye, Mpologoma, Chiko, which snake through the districts and flow all the year round, which could have made the region the wealthiest in eastern Uganda if Basoga had embraced fish farming. The region also has River Nile, Lake Kyoga and Victoria, in which farmers can practise cage fishing.

"I have come to preach the gospel of fish farming. It is a gold mine, a lucrative business. You will not regret," said Nadduli, who was flanked by a team of agriculturalists from Buganda region.

Promising to offer technical and financial support to the 'converts', Nadduli added: "Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) project and State House has the funding such innovations need."

He made the comments



Nadduli (wearing kanzu) inspecting farmers' produce. Photo by Tom Gwebayanga

at Muira Primary School in Nambaale sub-county, Iganga district, where he went to announce the "battle against poverty" in Busoga.

"I have come to chase poverty out of Busoga. In case you do not take heed of my advice, blame yourselves when the tide of poverty beats you and your grandchildren," Nadduli said.

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He started with training the More Organised Cultural Foundation of Uganda Ltd, (MOCFUL), a rural farmers' group and the general public on Sunday.

He said it was time to stop relying on OWC decisions, when the Uganda People's Defence Forces co-ordinators decide the inputs to give them.

*Good
business*

●The Minister for General Duties in the office of the President, Al Haji Abdu Nadduli said fish farming is so lucrative that once the pond is dug, filled with water and fingerlings availed, a farmer starts harvesting money between five and six months with each pond earning sh2.5m. This implies that in a single year, a farmer earns sh5m.

Nadduli said the beneficiaries need to be consulted, instead of distributing inputs such as mangoes, oranges and coffee seedlings while most of them do not have land.

"This is why many abandon the inputs in their backyards because it was not their choice. Wealth is hidden in fish farming," he said.

Residents welcome idea
Responding to the MOCFUL chairperson, Stephen Kaigo, lamented about the challenge of the high cost of constructing ponds, getting fingerlings and fish cages, among other logistics, Nadduli said: "I work in the Office of the President, which funds such innovations. This is not a joking matter. I do not advocate for unworkable things."

Nadduli said now that MOCFUL rears hundreds of birds, fish farming is easier because chicken droppings are fish food.

The headmistress of Muira, Heron Babirye, called on schools in Nambaale sub-county to embrace fish farming for income generation and better diet for pupils.

"With the meagre UPE funds, this can help us overcome some challenges, like my school which has no kitchen to prepare porridge," Babirye said.

The co-ordinator of Bugaga United Farmers' Co-operative Society Ltd, Kamuli district, Sarah Igoyoola, said: "Perhaps it was God's plan to get the gospel now, but we have been in deep slumber.



Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry