

Produce more children to fill idle land - Acholi chief

BY JAMES OWICH

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GULU. The Pageya clan chief has urged residents in Acholi to produce as many children as they can so as to fill up "vacant" land in the sub-region.

Rwot Yusuf Okwonga Adek said large chunks of land in the sub-region have remained vacant due to low population.

Rwot Adek argued that the move will also help resolve the escalating land conflicts in the area.

"The young people who are of child-bearing age should marry and have as many children as they can. The current intentions to grab land in Acholi are because land is vacant characterised by sparse settlement," he said in an interview at the

weekend. He also advised youth to shun modern family planning methods, arguing that God has never intended to control birth.

Argument

Rwot Adek also said the high population is an asset to the country in form of more taxes and market for goods and services.

Amuru District Woman MP

Lucy Akello, however, said producing more children to fill unutilised land in Acholi is not a solution to the land problem in the sub-region.

"We as Acholi need to have a strategy that will bring us together and come up with modern technologies utilise the land productively," she said, adding that the Acholi cultural institution can spearhead the drive.