

Govt impounds fake seeds, pesticides in Gulu

GULU

By Arnest Tumwesige

The agriculture ministry has impounded fake agricultural inputs being sold by dealers, a move that is geared towards saving farmers from making losses.

The operation was led by David Wanyama, the agricultural inspector for seeds and chemicals from the department of crop inspection and certification.

Wanyama said it was important for the farmers to buy quality inputs. He said this called for such operations to weed out the fake ones since some dealers may want to make quick money.

Wanyama said all chemicals manufactured in Uganda and those imported must also be registered by the Government.

Ability to perform

"They should be tested by our scientists first and should be labelled before they are put on the market," Wanyama said on Friday.

The operation did not only take into consideration the quality of the inputs, but also the premises where

they are sold from, so that they are not exposed to high temperatures.

He said conmen purporting to be manufacturers sell the inputs to dealers at the beginning of the farming seasons.

When asked why such conmen could not be apprehended, Wanyama said sometimes it was the dealers who contacted the conmen for the supplies, making it hard to fight the problem.

Police swing into action

Also in the operation was Hilary Odoch, the commandant of agricultural Police unit, who encouraged farmers to report any suspected fake inputs to Police and district agricultural officers.

Odoch said previously, the technical team would face a lot of resistance from the dealers whenever they carried out operations.

The commandant asked for sincerity from the dealers, saying as Police their duty was to protect farmers.

"All seeds and chemicals in the market must be registered so that dealers can verify them before buying," the officer added.

t



ulu

the
ig at
nt to
nd to
carry
object
acing