

Police destroys marijuana gardens

BUIKWE

**By Emmanuel
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The Police in Wakisi division, Buikwe district have destroyed over three acres of marijuana and arrested four people for growing the illegal crop.

The arrests followed a tip-off by residents of Kalagala and Byabuku cells.

The crackdown was done at night and the suspects were identified as Juma Masinde alias Wanyanyabulo, 40, a resident of Atale village in Bunambutye sub-county Bulambuli district, Abdalamani Najimensi, 29, and a couple; Sarah Nabirye, 30, and Abdulatif Magubo, 34, all residents of Kalagala cell.

The suspects had marijuana in their stores and gardens around their homes. During the search, Police landed on another one-and-half acres of marijuana belonging to a one Asadi Wanyonyi.

By the time, the Police surrounded Asadi's home, residents had already tipped off the wife and she had escaped.

However, Zainah Muduba, Wanyonyi's daughter, told Police that their mother, Zaituni Mukwasi, left the house when they were asleep.

"Daddy is not here. He stays in Kangulumira sub-county in Kayunga district," Muduba said.

During the operation, the Police found marijuana gardens fenced off with banana fibres and dried maize stems.

Abdallah Mofanane, a resident, revealed that most of the harvested marijuana is sold in Busoga region, Njeru-Buikwe and Kayunga districts.

He explained that even

the children have started taking marijuana and other substances, including kuber at an early age and most of them have abandoned school.

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The suspects asked Police to forgive them: "Alande, we are no longer going to engage in either cultivating or selling marijuana because we have now learnt a lesson, kindly let us out of the cells," the suspects pleaded.

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Christopher Kiggundu Katumba, the Njeru division Police commander, thanked the residents for co-operating with the Police to eliminate the growing and selling of marijuana within the district.

Katumba said they were searching for Wanyonyi and his wife and that all the suspects would be charged with possession of marijuana in court.

He narrated that most of the crimes recorded at Police stations within the district are as a result of using marijuana, opium, khat, kuber and other harmful drugs.

"This is just the beginning. We are going to step up these operations until Buikwe becomes marijuana-free," Katumba said.