

Kasese ordered to cancel titles on Mubuku land

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KASESE. The Justice Catherine Bamugemereire-led commission of inquiry into land matters has directed Kasese District Land Board to cancel all titles issued on the Mubuku Irrigation Scheme land. The commission noted that titles were issued in error.

The directive came after the district surveyor, Mr Francis Mugisa and Mr Uria Baluku, the land board chairman, failed to explain why they issued titles to individuals on government land yet the Attorney General had advised the land board not to survey the said land.

"My Lord I admit that it was an oversight and hope to correct the errors. But as the dis-

trict land board, we don't have clear boundaries of Mubuku Irrigation Scheme land even the gazette that has been presented to you was produced in 2015. We were not given a copy indicating exact boundaries of government land," Mr Mugisa explained.

He said they continued issuing titles to different entities because those who applied for lease noted that the land was not part of the irrigation scheme.

Mr Mugisa told the committee that the fraudulent acts done could possibly be cancelled since many of the leases were customary.

The land titles in question were secured for Rukoki Batataka Cooperative Association and Siwarana Commercial Farmers Group which occupy more than 82 acres on the irrigation farm.

Kasese District is a hotbed of

ethnic and land wrangles that have left many people dead, crops destroyed and animals killed.

During the opening of the land probe in Kasese on Monday, the district chairman, Mr Geoffrey Bigogo, said land matters are the main cause of conflicts in the area.

83 acres

Occupied. The acres of Mubuku Irrigation scheme land that have been illegally occupied by residents in Kasese

He appealed to the commission to urge government to register all its land in the district in order to end the continuous land conflicts. "The biggest land in Kasese belongs to government,

locals in the district occupy only 33 per cent of the total land and the population keeps growing which forces people to encroach on government land. As leaders we have failed to settle or cancel titles since the complainants keep asking us to produce documents," he said.

During cross examination Mr Thembo told the commission that people have occupied land in Bigando, Kyabatukura, Kisanga, Rwehingo, Nkoko and Kabukero areas which have no clear boundaries and titles but belongs to government.

He observed that even when court made a ruling that no development should take place on Mubuku land, many people connected to the prominent in society took advantage to evict farmers since they are highly guarded by police.

Tomorrow.
Chance of rain.
High: 21C
Low: 18C



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101