

He also challenged the management of funds under the Parish Development Model (PDM). The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Ethics and Integrity, Dunstan Balaba, is to serve all people regardless of political affiliation," Balaba said. between campaign pledges and available resources often leads to frustration among planning and effective service delivery.

HOIMA

By Wilson Asiimwe

The Deputy Chief of Defence Forces, Lt. Gen. Samuel Okiding, has met leaders, technocrats and residents in the Albertine region to communicate new presidential directives aimed at curbing illegal landing sites and unlawful extractive activities on Lake Albert.

Yesterday Okiding chaired a regional meeting at the Hoima Youth Centre, bringing together LCV chairpersons, Resident District Commissioners, District Police Commanders and fisheries officials from across the Albertine region to discuss measures intended to streamline fishing activities on the lake.

RESTORING ORDER ON WATER

He announced that all illegal and ungazetted landing sites have been closed with immediate effect. He also said all sand mining activities within the lake and its buffer zone have been suspended as part of broader reforms aimed at restoring order on the water body.

Under the new guidelines, only

30 fishing boats will be licensed to operate at each gazetted landing site, while no individual boat owner will be allowed to hold licenses for more than five boats.

Lt. Gen. Okiding, who later addressed residents at Kaiso Landing Site in Hoima district, said the directives are intended to restore sanity in the fishing sector and ensure sustainable management of the country's water resources.

He emphasised that similar directives are being enforced on all major lakes across the country to strengthen regulation of fishing activities.

TIMELY INTERVENTION

Gerald Okello, a fisherman, welcomed the reforms, saying they will help improve operations on the lake.

"We are happy with the

intervention by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF). This is timely because we have faced many challenges on this lake," Okello said.

Godwin Angalia said security agencies are intensifying operations to address persistent security threats on the lake.

"We have had many security concerns on this lake and as security agencies, we are moving in to address them," Angalia said.

INTENSIFIED OPERATIONS

He added that peace has gradually returned to the waters of Lake Albert following intensified operations by various Ugandan security agencies.

"We want to assure our

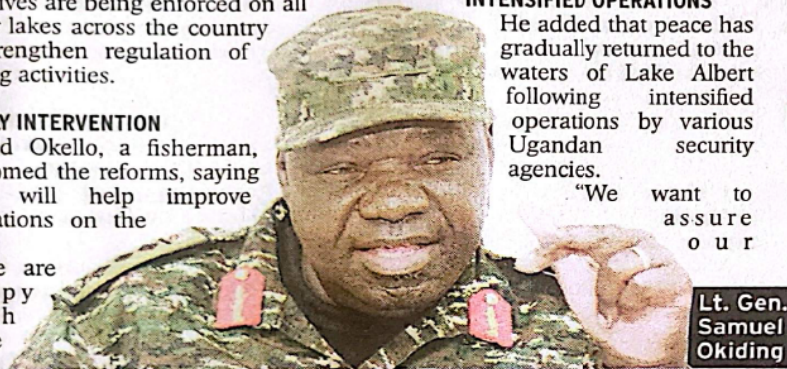
people on the lake that security operations and patrols will continue to guarantee lasting peace. We also caution fishermen to remain vigilant and promptly report suspicious individuals to security authorities for immediate action," Angalia said.

POLICE ASSURANCE

Recently, Kituuma Rusoke, the spokesperson of the Uganda Police Force, assured communities living along the shores of Lake Albert of enhanced surveillance both on the water and along the shoreline.

He said police is in the process of

◀ **The deployment of the UPDF Marine Unit has improved peace on lakes nationwide.**



Lt. Gen. Samuel Okiding

acquiring modern marine equipment including new police boats, to strengthen emergency response and combat attacks by suspected militants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Heightened patrols by the Uganda People's Defence Force Marine Unit and other security agencies in Hoima and Kikuuba districts have significantly reduced attacks on fishermen.

IMPROVED SECURITY

Vincent Opio said regular patrols which began in December, have greatly improved security on the lake.

"The deployment of the UPDF Marine Unit and other security personnel has played a pivotal role in protecting fishermen and there is currently relative peace on the lake," Opio said.

Fishermen including John Opar of Sunzu Landing Site and Gilbert Kyalisiima of Sebigoro Landing Site said no attacks have been reported since January, attributing the calm to the increased military presence and intensified patrols on the lake.