

encouraging the residents people had originally festive season, Kibabere order to allow the wetland to

Mubende launches operation to protect wetlands

MUBENDE

By Luke Kagiri

Mubende district leaders have launched a special operation, to evict all those who are encroaching on wetlands.

This follows the increasing rate of environmental degradation in the district, where many wetlands have been encroached on and forests cut down.

The district security committee has resolved to work with the district political and civil leaders during the operation.

Ronald Lotet, the district environment officer, said the operation named 'Environment Week' will always be held in January every year.

"We decided to put in more efforts so that we save the environment because the practices are becoming dangerous to people's lives. Rivers and swamps are drying up as others are being cultivated in. Wells are also drying up," he said.

Lolet said they are moving all over the district to meet residents in wetland areas, to teach them about environmental laws and warn those involved in environmental degradation.



Some of the district leaders visiting the wetlands in Kibalinga sub-county which have been encroached on. Photo by Luke Kagiri

The operations started in Kitumbi and Makokoto sub-counties, before moving to Kibalinga sub-county on Monday.

"Where we have been, the situation is alarming. It is bad that some people were once arrested and charged over

these practices, but they resumed as soon as they were released," he added.

Lolet said in Makokoto and Kitumbi sub-counties, they have ordered the residents to clear all the crops wetlands in less than a week and nobody will

In Makokoto and Kitumbi sub-counties, residents have been ordered to clear the crops in a week's time

be allowed to tamper with the river or wetland.

During this operation, the district leaders were joined by the resident district commissioner, Florence Beyunga, the Police plus some district top civil and political leaders.

While at Kibalinga, Beyunga urged the Police to work with the residents and ensure that some of the prominent residents growing crops in wetlands are arrested.

However, none of them was around by the time the team visited the wetlands.