



THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE



RESTORATION OF LUBIGI WETLAND CONTINUES IN A JOINT OPERATION

KAMPALA, 13th February, 2025: In a joint operation with the Environmental Protection Force, Environmental Protection Police Unit, Territorial Police, and the Uganda People's Defence Forces, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), has successfully restored a degraded section of the Lubigi Wetland System at Kigwanya Zone, Busega Parish, Lubaga Division. This operation was conducted under National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) SD 19/26/11/2024.

The exercise targeted an area illegally occupied and degraded under the purported leadership of Robert Kiiza, Shafick Manooti, Lukwago Musumba, and Cissy Kayongo.

During the operation, the following environmental violations were documented:

1. Illegal subdivision of plots in the wetland
2. Presence of makeshift structures constructed using tree bark and iron sheets
3. Backfilling of sections of the wetland with murram
4. Artificial drainage channels created to divert water from the wetland
5. Agricultural activities covering more than 3.5 acres, including the cultivation of banana suckers, yams, maize, and cattle keeping

Subsequently, the following actions were taken:

1. Destruction of more than 54 makeshift structures using power saws and casual labour, rendering them uninhabitable
2. Removal of all foreign plant species that had been introduced in the wetland
3. Sensitization and warning of the local community to prevent further degradation

NEMA remains committed to protecting Uganda's wetland ecosystems and calls upon all stakeholders, including the community, to support conservation efforts. Any attempts to re-encroach on the restored section of Lubigi Wetland will be met with strict enforcement measures.

Notes to the Editor

Wetland degradation is a crime under Section 55 of the National Environment Act, Cap 181, and is punishable with a fine not exceeding UGX 600 million or imprisonment not exceeding 12 years or both.

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