

Daily Monitor

MONDAY,
JUNE 13, 2016
www.monitor.co.ug

Police arrest boda-boda cyclist. Boda-boda cyclists in Arua District have slammed police for being harsh while arresting them over traffic offences. According to one of the cyclists who preferred anonymity, the police always impound motorcycles without number plates and this paralyzes business in the area. The police publicist for West Nile, Ms Josephine Angucia, said the move aims at maximising revenue and reducing crime. [Clement Aluma, Monitor].



Acholi leaders too greedy, says chief

BY JOHN OKOT & OWEN ODONG

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GULU. The Acholi Paramount Chief, Rwot David Onen Acana II, has lashed out at Acholi leaders, accusing them of being "greedy" and only good at insulting him.

"Many of our leaders only wait to fault me and the institution yet our education and healthcare system are in a dire state," Rwot Acana said.

He was speaking during a two-day meeting dubbed, "Wangoo" (evening fire discussion) at St Monica Tailoring School, last Friday. More than 300 leaders from the sub-region attended the meeting aimed at discussing issues affecting the community.

The chief said there was need for unity among the Acholi, especially after the war that plagued the region for nearly two decades.

"We tend to unite only during times of trouble. I hear there are leaders who are permanently staying in Kampala," Rwot Acana observed.

Acholi prime minister Ambrose Olaa

appealed to leaders in the sub-region to stop nursing grudges against the cultural institution.

Gulu Archdiocese Vicar General Msgr Mathew Odong, who represented Archbishop John Baptist Odama, appealed to the Acholi community not to re-elect leaders who fail to perform.

Aswa county MP Reagan Okumu appealed to leaders in Acholi to focus on service delivery rather than self-aggrandisement.

"As leaders, we should advocate for social services because we are still recovering from the post-war trauma," he said.

In a telephone interview, at the weekend, Gulu District LC5 chairperson Martin Ojara Mapenduzi, concurred with Rwot Acana.

"The chief's message should be taken seriously. Our people are languishing in poverty because of greedy leaders whose self-interest overrides the public good," he said. He, however, noted that remarks from the Rwot were generalised, adding that some leaders are performing their duties.



Rwot Onen Acana II, addresses Acholi leaders in Gulu Town last Friday.

PHOTO BY JOHN OKOT

Police foil demo against Amongi

BY BILL OKETCH & PATRICK EBONG
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LIRA. Police deployed heavily in Lira Town last Friday to avert a demonstration by National Resistance Movement (NRM) supporters who are protesting the appointment of three opposition members to Cabinet.

The deployment followed intelligence reports that a section of NRM youth from Lango sub-region had planned a demonstration against the appointment of Oyam South MP, Ms Betty Amongi (UPC), as minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

Ms Amongi was appointed together with the former Kole MP, Ms Ruth Aceng, who was named state minister for Fisheries and DP's Florence Nakiwala Kiyangi, who was appointed state minister for Youth and Child Affairs.

Ms Amongi and Ms Aceng belong to the UPC faction led by Lira Municipality MP Jimmy Akena, the son of UPC founding president Dr Milton Obote.

Legislators back Latigo for APG post

BY JAMES OWICH
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GULU. Prof Morris Ogen-ga-Latigo, the Agago North Member of Parliament, has stood out as the favourite to be elected as the new chairperson for Acholi Parliament Group (APG) in the 10th Parliament.

APG is a caucus that brings together MPs from the Acholi sub-region. Aswa County MP Reagan Okumu was the chairperson of the group in the 9th Parliament.

Latigo (FDC), who was Leader of the Opposition in the 8th Parliament, last Friday, expressed interest in the position while addressing political, religious and cultural leaders in the region at St Monica Tailoring School in Gulu Town.

"I am willing to lead the group drawing from my experience as Leader of the Opposition in Parliament," Prof Latigo said.

MPs Hillary Onok (Lamwo County), Gilbert Olanya (Kilak South County), Polly Phillip

Okin Ojara (Chua West) and Lucy Akello (Amuru Woman MP), all backed Prof Latigo's bid, describing him as the right man for the job.

Mr Onok says Latigo is experienced and will help unite MPs from the sub-region while Mr Olanya and Ms Akello described him as a tolerant person who is open to divergent views.

MP Olanya, who served as general secretary for the group in the 9th Parliament, said Prof Latigo is an elder with vast experience.

APG members will also elect three other executive members who will serve on the national Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP) committee.

The committee was launched by government at the end of the two-decade LRA rebellion to help the region catch up with the rest of the country.

There are 25 MPs from Acholi sub region. Elections for new APG leaders is scheduled for June 14.

Dokolo

Child neglect up

Dokolo District has registered more than 120 cases of child neglect in a span of two months, according to police. Child and Family Protection Unit in-charge, Mr Joe Otim, said 62 cases of child neglect were registered in June while 67 cases were reported in May. He attributed the increasing cases of child neglect to marital breakdown.

[Joseph Ongeng & Emmanuel Opio]

Gulu

Muslims urged

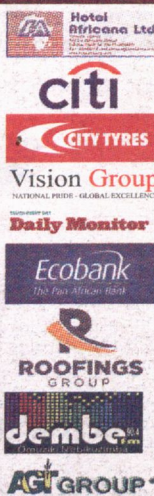
Muslim women in Acholi sub-region have been urged to engage in development projects. The call was made by Hajati Faridah Nambi Bbaale, founder of Muslim Women Union in Gulu District, over the weekend. Ms Nambi was addressing about 200 Muslim women who met under their umbrella organisation, Union Of Muslim Women and Organisation in Uganda (UWMOU).

One of the beneficiaries, Ms Zebenda Akello, noted that the union is timely as it will help address some of the challenges Muslim women face. [Cissy Makumbi, Monitor].

UGANDA SICKLE CELL RESCUE FOUNDATION



4TH ANNUAL SICKLE CELL CONFERENCE



Date : June 19th World Sickle Cell Day

Venue: Kaunda Grounds, Gulu District.

Activities: Free sickle cell screening, free medication, Sickle cell education and counselling, Sickle cell walk through Gulu town.

Theme: "Sickle Cell a concern for all"

Free food, Free Drinks, Lots of fun-filled activities for everyone

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