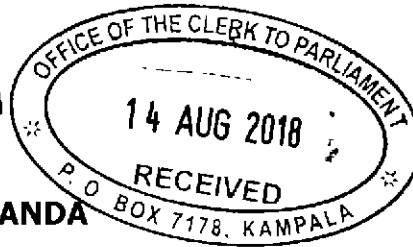


THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS ON SECURITY MATTERS RAISED BY HON. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Rt. Hon. Speaker,
Hon. Members

In the course of debate in this august house on the 26th July 2018 and 31 July 2018, Parliament asked me to make statements on alleged brutal arrests of citizens in Bukoto South Constituency, the fatal shooting of one Mr. Oundo Moses in Busitema forest and the shooting and injuring of two people in Bukooli Island.

Hon. Members, I want to respond to the above matters as follows:

1. Arrest of Suspects in Bukoto South Constituency

In regard to this matter, I want to report that there is a land dispute in Kyasonko village, Busubi Parish, Bukoto South Constituency involving many people including those that were arrested by the police on Tuesday 24th and July 2018.

Residents of this area have a long running land dispute over a playground which they claim to be theirs yet someone else by the names of Mr. Matovu Augustine claims the same.

When Mr. Matovu Augustine came to use the land in question, some residents attacked him together with his workers and some were injured. A tractor and other items were damaged in the process.

A complaint was lodged at Central Police station in Lwengo. Subsequently, the following suspects were arrested: Ssensiko Joseph, Musulira Yereimia, Bukenya Julius and Kayanja Devewills. They have since been charged and have appeared in court at the Masaka Chief Magistrate's court, sitting at Masaka on two counts of attempted murder and malicious damage to property.

They appeared in court and were granted bail till 11th September 2018 when they will reappear before the same court.

It should be on record Hon. Members, that there was no brutality meted out during the course of the arrest.

2. Shooting of Wanainchi in Bukooli Island

During the recent local council elections conducted on 10th July 2018, in Lolwe Sub County, Bukooli Island in Namayingo District, violence erupted in some villages, prompting the Electoral Commission to postpone the exercise. Among the notable villages where supporters of candidates turned violent is Kadange. The contest between Mr. Odwor George (NRM) and Mr. Mukabire Sulaiman Gaboine (Independent) regrettably evoked tribal-sectarian sentiments. To contain this violence, a joint force of UPF and UPDF was deployed to calm down the violent situation.

During the process of containing the violent situation, unfortunately, two rioters were injured namely, Mr. Ocheng Kevin (injured in the thigh) and Ms. Acheng Damalie (injured on her finger). The injured were evacuated to Namayingo District Health Center for first aid and later referred to Bugiri Hospital for further medical attention. They have since been discharged.

3. Alleged Shooting of an Illegal Logger and Resident of Busitema

Hon. Members, government continues to face challenges of illegal logging and environmental degradation in many of our protected areas. The National Forest Authority (NFA) supported by sister security forces have continued to conduct operations against such illegal activities. However, the encroachers have continued to violently resist such operations.

For example, in September 2016, one UPDF soldier, RA/214146 Private Tusiime Amos was attacked and seriously injured by illegal loggers in Kasongore, in Hoima District.


In August 2017, Police Constable Mbayaye Elly was brutally murdered in Bugoma Forest Reserve by illegal loggers taking away his weapon. The same was later recovered.

In November 2017, a UPDF Soldier, Private Okello Vincent attached to Kagombe Forest Reserve in Kibaale District was attacked while on routine patrol and injured on the head. He was later evacuated for further medical attention. The soldier has since lost his mental stability.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, it is such groups that on 19th July 2018 attacked our security personnel while on duty in Busitema Forest Reserve. These gangs attacked security forces wielding pangas and axes. In self defence, the forces responded and in the process, a bullet unfortunately hit and killed Mr. Moses Oundo. The soldier who discharged the bullet has since been arrested and investigations are ongoing.

Hon. Members, my appeal to you is to join the campaign of protecting and preserving our forest reserves. It is important to fight this problem of illegal logging and attacks on our security officers on duty. It is also important to allow the law to take its course without undue interferences. I implore you Hon. Members to go out to sensitize citizens against provocation of security forces on duty and to teach them their roles and responsibilities especially in the protection of our natural resources like lakes, wetlands and forests.

I thank you Hon. Members.
For God and My Country.



Hon. Gen Odongo Jeje
Minister for Internal Affairs

SECRETARY GENERAL

14th August 2018