



PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**ALLEGED EVICTION OF NATIONALS FROM KYANGWALI
REFUGEE LAND CURRENTLY CAMPED AT THE OFFICE
OF THE RDC KIKUBE DISTRICT**

BY

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REFUGEES**

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

1ST JUNE, 2022

PRESS BRIEF ABOUT THE ALLEGED EVICTION OF NATIONALS FROM KYANGWALI CURRENTLY CAMPED AT OFFICE OF RDC KIKUBE DISTRICT.

Date: 1ST June 2022

Preamble;

The purported eviction is stage managed by some people who want to depict the Ministry for Relief Disaster Preparedness and Refugees negatively for their selfish interests.

There is a wider conspiracy than what ordinarily we see playing out at the Office of the RDC Kikube.

The people seen clamoring for land are heavily sponsored to come and lodge at the Office of the RDC, forge stories of eviction, suffering, hunger etc mean while they are being transported, fed well and protected by forces who think such a strategy can arm twist Government to whatever their objectives are. It will not work.

Back ground

1. Kyangwali Refugee Settlement was established in 1960 following a land offer by Bunyoro Kingdom on 20th April 1960 **there is a copy of the offer to Government.**
2. The offer letter clearly defined the boundaries of the Settlement as Lake Albert on one side, River Nguse on one side, Bugoma Forest Reserve on the other and Kabwoya to Kyangwali Road. The land the encroachers are claiming to be theirs falls within above boundaries.
3. The people agitating as land owners had encroached land close to River Nguse and Lake Albert which are within the boundary of the settlement.

4. The encroachers came on the land post 1995 return of Rwandan Refugees and following the 1997/99 attacks by ADF which forced the remaining refugees camp at Kasonga base camp leaving the rest of the land vacant and vulnerable to encroachment.
5. Most of the encroachers are from neighboring sub counties of Mpefu and Ruganshari in current Kagadi district. They were resettled there by Government after they were evicted from Mpokya Forest reserve.
6. In 2012; following a large influx of Refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo through Bundibugyo Government decided to settle them in Kyangwali and the encroachers were requested to vacate Government land voluntarily and they did so.
7. They were remobilized to come back on the land by some local politicians to get votes from them.
8. There have been a number of investigations and reports produced including by the Late General Julius Oketa, General Stephen Oluka, Col. Damurila, The land Inquiries Commission, The Presidential Affairs Committee of Parliament, the IGG, President's Office Anti corruption team and many others. All these have found OPM to be on the right side of the law.

The durable solution for Kyangwali Settlement land problems

9. In 2016 H E the President directed then Prime Minister to find a lasting solution to the Kyangwali Problem which had become protracted since 2012. It was then decided that we cede off land and settle thereon the landless encroachers. This was concluded in December 2020 and over 10,000

people in 1786 House Holds have been settled on 8 square miles of Kyangwali land. We have a list of beneficiaries.

10. In April 2019 Cabinet approved UGX 6.2 Billion but this project has not taken off because of sabotage from some leaders in the area who threaten development partners and contractors with violence.
11. The next planned activities included, construction of three Primary Schools, one secondary school and a vocational institution, construction a Police outpost to ensure law and order in the newly resettled area, a Health Centre 3, markets, and Administrative unit.
12. Government also plans to provide the resettled people with resettlement packages in form of agriculture tools, iron sheets and other building materials and avail a communal land title to the resettled people not to be parceled for 20 years.

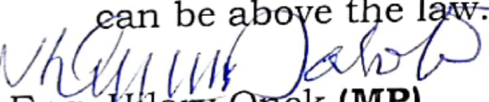
Challenges

13. The main challenge has been sabotage from bigger encroachers who continue to make false claims to grab and own the refugee land.
14. Endless investigations and inquiries without of objective analysis of complaints that hinder our planned activities because every time we want to commence work we are told to stop until investigation x or y is concluded.
15. There is a lot of dishonesty on the part of some Government Officials and some leaders.
16. Lead encroachers who are happy with the endless Kyangwali problem because they benefit from it as a

fundraising strategy. They force people to pay them money allegedly to defend their interest.

Way forward

17. OPM to work with Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development to avail the resettlement funds worth UGX 4.2 billion to conclude resettlement.
18. OPM will not entertain any more issues concerning land ownership of Kyangwali Land as this has been settled via the Kingdom allocation letter that defines settlement boundaries.
19. Government will isolate and deal with the perennial saboteurs of the resettlement exercise including more so the Office of the RDC and DPC Kikube for inciting a rebellion against Government.
20. Government will continue to fight encroachment of Refugee Settlement Land with the assurance that no one in Uganda can be above the law.


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