

Museveni to pay off residents on Kale Institute land

Issue

On May 24, Education minister and First Lady Janet Museveni wrote to the Kisoro District LCV chairperson, saying the project of constructing the memorial institute had become very expensive as it requires compensation to the sitting tenants on the proposed site.

VOICE

"In the Kabale Chief Magistrates' Court we have a case of land dispute between us and Kisoro District Local Government while in the Kabale High Court, we have a case against Kisoro District Local Government for obtaining a land title of our land without our consent. Both court cases are going on,"

MR ORDON
NZABONIMPA,
CLAIMANT

BY ROBERT MUHEREZA
& LEONARD MBISHINZIMANA
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

KISORO: President Museveni on Wednesday promised to compensate all the people on the 164-acre Rwivovo land in Kisoro District to pave way for the construction of John Kale Institute of Science and Technology (JKIST).

The President made the promise during a rally at Gisorora Playground, following questions raised by the local leaders in Kisoro District during his ongoing wealth creation countrywide campaign.

"I have heard the mentioned issue of the John Kale University, we shall construct it and those people putting me under pressure for compensation of this land, I will give them money. We shall expand the Kisoro airstrip at an appropriate time," President Museveni said.

In October 2017, the President laid a foundation stone on Rwivovo land for the construction of JKIST in memory of John Kalekezi, the father of former Inspector General of Police Kale Kayihura.

Background

The construction of the institute was to be immediate and upon completion, it was scheduled to offer specialised degrees in agricultural engineering, textile engineering, mechatronics (a combination of mechanics and electronics), forensic and marine science, and information technology, among others.

But in March last year, about 78 residents led by Mr Ordon Nzabonimpa, lodged a complaint in court, claiming ownership of the land and demanded Shs24b compensation as per the government valuer's report.

Mr Nzabonimpa on Thursday, welcomed the President's gesture of compensating them before saying the costs they have incurred to pursue the court cases, be factored in the final compensation programme.