Residents assured on compensation

By Frederick Kiwanuka

The Ministry of Defence says the ongoing expansion of Nakasongola army barracks is in preparation for the proposed transfer of the airbase from Entebbe to Nakasongola.

The chairman of the army land board, Maj. Gen. Joram Mugume, said the barracks will be expanded from 23 to 43 square miles.

“We need more space because we are going to have all the aircrafts at Nakasongola,” Mugume said on Friday.

By Vicky Wandawa

Activists support orphanage centres

A five-member team sets off today to climb Mt. Rwenzori to raise sh5m to buy 100 mattresses for orphans.

The team will donate the mattresses to 40Days Over 40Smiles Foundation (40-40), a Kampala-based youth-led charity organisation, which will in turn hand them over to three orphanages.

Jacqueline Asimwe, one of the climbers, said the journey to and from the summit of the 5,109 metre high mountain, is estimated to take seven days.

The foundation will donate mattresses to Elohim Child Development Centre (Bombo), Munama Children’s Home, Kampala and St. Noah’s Orphanage, Wakiso.

The founder of 40-40, Esther Kalerezi, said the beneficiaries were selected after a survey.

Uganda, South Sudan partner on dam project

By Gerald Tenywa

Uganda and South Sudan will benefit from a multi-purpose water project expected to irrigate up to 5,105 hectares in both countries and generate 350kW of electricity.

The project will be based on River Aswa in northern Uganda and River Nyimur in South Sudan.

The initiative to be located on River Aswa in Lamwo district in northern Uganda and Magwi county in Equatorial Province, South Sudan, was launched yesterday at James Hotel, Juba.

The water state minister, Henry Bidasala, described the project as a pilot that will partly address the challenges of poverty and famine among residents.

“The multi-purpose water project will improve the socio-economic livelihoods of people, promote industrialisation in a place that has suffered wars,” Bidasala noted.

Kumba said countries have been co-operating under the Nile Basin Initiative and had not realised tangible benefits at the grassroots level.

The construction of irrigation and power dams, according to Kumba will partly address the challenges of poverty and famine among residents.

The acting commissioner in charge of the electric power department in South Sudan, Henry Bidasala, described the project as a pilot that is significant for irrigated agriculture and small-scale industrialisation, particularly agro-processing.

“If we have small-scale projects of this nature, we will cover a big part of the country,” he stated.

Bidasala added that the energy ministry is supporting the construction of the dam, but the leading role is being played by the water ministry.

He said 350kW is equivalent to 0.35MW and that will support cottage industries in Uganda and South Sudan.

The regional co-ordinator of the Nile Equatorial Subsidiary Programme, Eng. Elicad Elly Nyalubeey, said the intervention will contribute to sustainable development in Uganda and South Sudan.

He said in addition to generation of electricity and irrigation, the multi-purpose water project and provide water to the people living in the Aswa River Basin. The project will also contribute to mitigation of floods, fisheries development and sanitation.

The principal water and sanitation engineer of Africa Water Facility (AWF), Francis Bougaine, said studies will be undertaken prior to the construction of the dams. The studies, expected to cost about two million Euros, will be funded by the AWF under the Africa Development Bank.

The project will consist of a community-based irrigation scheme, a water reservoir and soil conservation components.

Graphic by Brian Ssekamatte

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