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Posted by Samuel Kaweesi
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President Museveni has maintained his position once again of stopping a Shs96 billion sugarcane project in Lwabyata Sub-county in Nakasongola District, saying it will displace hundreds of residents.

The project was being established by Tirupati Development Uganda Limited.

During his visit to Lwabyata last week, the President said although the sugarcane plantation and factory would be good for the development of the district, the land that was allocated to the entrepreneurs was not suitable for the project, adding that residents have small pieces of land which makes it difficult for them to be outgrowers.

"This is a private mailo land on which there are so many squatters who cannot just be evicted as they are protected by the land law," Mr Museveni reassured the residents.

Residents protest

The President's directive comes on the heel of the managing director of Tirupati, Mr Miraj Barot, revealing that their company bought 9,500 acres of land in Nakasongola purposely for the said project. The revelation had prompted the residents to organise a demonstration and petitioned the President last year over the same matter.

He advised the residents to make good use of the land instead of lamenting all the time that they are going to be evicted from their land.

"We shall allocate the land to Tirupati elsewhere to grow his sugarcane, so you better concentrate on development so that you increase on household income," he said.

The residents number about 500.

In November last year, Tirupati Development, a real estate developer in the country, announced a \$40 million sugar project, which would see a production capacity of 2,500 tonnes of sugar daily.

The company said it had acquired a vast expanse of land in Nakasongola amounting to over 9,500 acres and another 200 acres in Najjera in Wakiso District for a sugar factory, adding that Trade and Industry minister Amelia Kyambadde had granted them operation licence.

Tirupati

Tirupati Development is famed for major real estate projects spread across the country with a total investment of over \$288 million. The company is currently constructing a \$30 million modern business park at the Northern Bypass that will have a complex of 253 warehouses targeting more than 5,000 small and medium scale enterprises.

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