

## National

# ADF agrees to talks with government

ADF killed civilians in western Uganda

They were also blamed for bomb attacks in K'la

Grace Matsiko  
Kampala

The Allied Democratic Forces rebels have agreed to enter into formal peace negotiations with the government, the International Organisation of Migration said on Saturday.

In negotiations mediated by the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), the rebels have agreed to the repatriation of 300 women, children and disabled ex-combatants to Uganda from eastern DR Congo, the agency's chief of mission in Uganda, Mr Jeremy Haslam, said.

"After months of dialogue between the ADF and the government of Uganda, the ADF Command Group has committed to enter a formal peace process," Mr Haslam, who has been the facilitator of the process for the last

nine months said.

"We have achieved an important milestone in the process. However, all parties are under no illusion that there is considerable work still to be done, which is complicated by the challenges created by the current crisis in the DRC," he added.

In his first public statement following private discussions

**'It has been a long process. We are ready for Peace talks with the government of Uganda,'**

Jamil Mukulu  
ADF leader

facilitated by IOM, the ADF leader, Sheikh Jamil Mukulu said, "It has been a long process. We are ready for peace talks with the government of Uganda."

"The ADF leadership has consistently said that they want to talk peace with the government of Uganda" Jus-

tice Peter Onega, Chairman of Amnesty Commission said. "We now need to move fast and repatriate the people they are prepared to release as soon as possible," he added.

By agreeing to hold talks with the government, the ADF seem to be drawing from the experiences of the Sudan mediated negotiations between LRA led by Joseph Kony and the government. Though the peace talks with LRA have stalled, they are expected to create confidence among other rebel groups including ADF to come to a negotiating table.

The ADF, engaged in a guerrilla war against the government in the Rwenzori Mountains in western Uganda since November 1996, were responsible for killings, looting and abductions of civilians. They were also blamed for the terror attacks in Kampala between 1997 and 2001.

ADF, according to the Ugandan authorities, was trained and armed by Sudan with support from Bin Laden, the Al-Qaeda leader.

# Uganda not prepared for climate changes - Minister Mutagamba

Evelyn Lirri  
Kampala

Uganda is ill-prepared to deal with effects of climate change, Environment Minister Maria Mutagamba has said.

Ms Mutagamba said this is largely because the country has been slow and has made inadequate preparations for managing emerging environmental challenges including attracting carbon funds for Uganda.

"We are not yet prepared to deal with climate change. We saw things happening that we didn't understand. Now that we have things like floods,

we have realised the need for preparations," Ms Mutagamba said.

Speaking at a two-day workshop for MPs on the Natural Resources Committee in Kampala on Saturday, Ms Mutagamba said tackling environmental challenges is key to achieving sustainable future of Uganda's economy.

"While Uganda has good laws to deal with the problems of climate change, implementation has been the biggest setback," she said.

Uganda is a signatory to a number of climate-related conventions including the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, where countries were urged to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases they emit.

Ms Mutagamba said that to be able to deal with the situation, a climate unit has been formed in the ministry to handle with all climate-related problems.

Climate scientists have predicted that Uganda will be one of the countries that will bear one of the grave effects of climate change.



NOT READY: Mutagamba

## Briefly

### I will rule for a single term - Mao

The DP presidential candidate, Mr Robert Mao, has said he will rule for only one term if he is elected as the President of Uganda come 2011 general elections. Speaking during a political rally at Makerere University on Friday, Mr Mao said will not cling to power like the other African leaders. "I will rule for only one term and handover power if am elected," Mr Mao said. He said African leaders want to consolidate power because of the bloodshed dictatorial and corruption they have committed. He said Uganda has had bloody regimes and time has come for Ugandans to change power peacefully.

### World Vision launches LRA war play

World Vision on Friday launched a play, "Butterflies of Uganda" to reflect on the children abducted and forced to fight alongside the LRA. The rebel attacks that began in 1986, prolonged for over 20 years and left northern and eastern Uganda ravaged with more than 20,000 children abducted and over two million displaced. "The intention of this play is to give children a voice, to advocate against the use of child soldiers in general and to campaign for the end of war, specifically in northern Uganda," Ms Rudo Kwaramba, the World Vision National Director, said.

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