

By Isaac Nuwagaba

Alliance for National Transformation (ANT) presidential candidate Maj. Gen. (rtd) Mugisha Muntu has promised to build a public university in Adjumani district and resolve the Apaa land conflict once he is elected president in next year's general election.

Muntu made the pledge while speaking to residents of Central village in Dzaipi sub-county, Adjumani district, yesterday.

"People in areas where minerals have been discovered live under fear due to land grabbing by the rich class or soldiers. We shall address corruption in the lands ministry and ensure justice once I am elected in next year's general election," he said, while responding to residents who had asked him to explain his solution to the Apaa land conflict.

The conflict, which revolves around the ownership of a 1,000sq.km of forestland, has resulted in loss of life, displacement and economic disruption.

Over the last 15 years, the conflict has claimed scores and displaced 30,000

# Muntu vows to resolve Apaa land conflict, build varsity in Adjumani

PHOTO BY ISAAC NUWAGABA

people in clashes between the Madi and Acholi communities in Adjumani and Amuru districts, respectively.

In 2023, President Yoweri Museveni established a judicial commission of inquiry, led by former chief justice Bart Katureebe, to investigate the dispute, but residents told Muntu that team has not made any progress.

"We are tired of waiting. We need a lasting solution to this conflict. We urge Muntu to help us because the Acholi always burn our houses and kill our people. We have lost over 150 people since the conflict started," Palma Azireo, a resident of Central village in Dzaipi sub-county, said.

Sebit Assusa, another resident, revealed that the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) government had failed to address their conflict with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

"UWA and the National Forestry Authority claim that it is part of Zoka Forest conservation area yet this is our land," she claimed.



**Muntu (left) speaking to residents of Central village in Dzaipi sub-county, Adjumani district, yesterday.** (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

Muntu also pledged to build a public university in Adjumani, with the aim of imparting skills in young generation. The ANT presidential

candidate made the pledge while campaigning in Central ward, Pakile town council in Adjumani district.

"My government seeks to empower

citizens in terms of development. That is why the ANT government shall emphasise skilling of our people by adopting the education model of Japan which emphasises industrialisation," Muntu said.

He lashed out at the NRM Government, accusing it of neglecting the education sector.

"We still pay school fees in government schools yet President Museveni tells us that those are meant to uplift the poor from poverty. Our children are always sent home for school fees," Julius Agbalaka, a resident of Mgbwere parish in Dzaipi sub-county, said.

The ANT president also promised to solve problems such as youth unemployment, poverty and the understaffing in government health facilities.

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