

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO DEGAZETTE WAMALE CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE, KIULA CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE IN KAYUNGA DISTRICT FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PARKS

(Moved under Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament)

WHEREAS currently in Uganda, Government has gazetted 506 Central Forest Reserves in Uganda, three of which, namely, Wamale Central Forest Reserve, Kiula Central Forest Reserve and Bajo Central Forest Reserve, are located in Bbaale sub county, and Galiraya sub counties in Bbaale Constituency in Kayunga District;

AWARE THAT Wamale Central Forest Reserve, Kiula Central Forest Reserve and Bajo Central Forest Reserve have a combined acreage of 6,625 hectares;

NOTING THAT land constituting Wamale Central Forest Reserve, Kiula Central Forest Reserve and Bajo Central Forest Reserve has been heavily settled on by residents, numbering about seventy thousand households, resulting in the establishment of four trading centres, seven parishes and twenty nine villages in two sub counties;

FURTHER NOTING THAT Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development has issued land titles to residents on land belonging to Wamale Central Forest Reserve, Kiula Central Forest Reserve and Bajo Central Forest Reserve who continue occupying the said land as lawful occupants and have established communities, schools, hospitals and places of worship;

RECOGNISING THAT due to increased urbanization coupled with the availability of agricultural output that can be used as raw materials in agro processing industries, the land currently occupied by Wamale Central Forest Reserve, Kiula Central Forest Reserve And Bajo Central Forest Reserve

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Kayunga District is suitable for establishing industrial parks which will in turn create more jobs, ease accessibility of land for investments, introduce new research, technologies and skills development as well as boost Uganda's exports;

FURTHER RECOGNISING THAT Kayunga District, where Wamale, Kiula and Bajo Central Forest Reserves are located, is a densely populated district, with a total population of 368,062 as found by the National Population and Housing Census, 2014 and a total land mass of 158,800 hectares, which cannot ably sustain the ever growing population in the District, resulting in increased land conflicts, especially in the sub-counties of Bbaale, Galiraya, Kayonza, and Kitimbwa Sub county;

CONCERNED THAT due to the high population density in Kayunga District, land belonging to Wamale, Kiula and Bajo Central Forest Reserves have been heavily and irreversibly degraded, making the areas gazetted as forest reserves, in title with little or no tree cover to make the forest reserve viable;

FURTHER CONCERNED THAT unless the land belonging to Wamale, Kiula and Bajo Central Forest Reserves is degazette to allow human settlement, the seventy thousand households currently occupying that land will continue having no security of tenure on the land and the continued land wrangles and land evictions in the district are likely to continued un abated;

COGNISANT THAT Wamale, Kiula and Bajo Central Forest Reserves can only be degazetted by Government, through presenting a motion for a resolution of Parliament, in accordance with sections 7 and 8 of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, upon satisfaction of various other requirements, including providing alternative land for the establishment of a new forest reserve as well as carrying out an environmental assessment;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by this House that the Minister responsible for Water and Environment, considers degazetting Wamale, Kiula and Bajo Central Forest Reserves in Kayunga District for human settlement and establishment of industrial parks.

I beg to move:

MOVER:

Tebandeke Charles (MP)

BBAALE COUNTY, KAYUNGA DISTRICT

SECONDERS

Nsanja Patrick Kayongo (MP)

NTENJERU COUNTY SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

Zijan David Livingstone (MP)

BUTEMBE COUNTY