

RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION ON THE DELAY TO ISSUE REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE UGANDA WILDLIFE ACT, 2019

Background

At the 20th Sitting of the 3rd Meeting of the 5th Session of the 10th Parliament of Uganda, held on Thursday 18th March 2021, Hon. Kaberuka James Niringiyimana Ruugi (MP Kinkiizi County West) raised concern over the delay by the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to issue regulations for the operationalization of the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019.

He noted the escalation of human-wildlife conflicts in sub-counties adjacent to national games parks, notably Kihiihi, Nyanga, Kayonza and Mpungu.

Response:

I wish to inform the House through you Rt. Hon. Speaker that Sections 82 – 84 of the Wildlife Act 2019 provide for compensation for loss of life, property and injury caused by wildlife.

My Ministry initiated the process of developing Regulations to operationalise this and other clauses. I am happy to report that the 1st Parliamentary Counsel has finalized the drafting of the Regulations that will soon be gazetted to guide the compensation for loss occasioned by wildlife. Uganda Wildlife Authority has with the commencement of the Act on 27th September 2019 been setting aside 2% of the revenue collected from tourism services as compensation fund in line with the Act.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the tourism revenues and therefore what is set aside for the Compensation Fund. What is available cannot definitely meet demand for compensation claims. My Ministry will be coming back to this House to ask for appropriation to Uganda Wildlife Authority to operationalize the Compensation Fund.

Signed by:



Hon Martin Mugaara

State Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities