

## Katumba as role in al fishing

By Namutebi

There are no big shots in government who are involved in illegal fishing as alleged by some members of the House of Defence (HD), Gen. Katumba was appearing before the committee on agriculture yesterday. He clarified that key officials in the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were involved in the illegal fishing activities, he said. He also clarified that the committee is not an order from the government to promote immature fishing, the CDF told the committee chaired by Gen. Katumba (NRM). He pointed out that the committee has been compelled to look into the fisheries in the country as a concerned citizen and that there are some programmes, a said the

By Henry Sekanjako

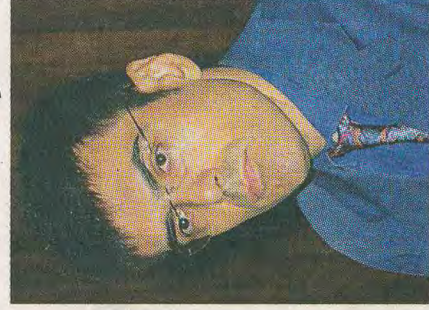
MPs across the globe under their body umbrella Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) have asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to set up regional courts around Africa to try individuals who commit crimes against humanity.

The MPs said having only one court at the Hague was not enough to deal with the increasing cases of crimes committed against humanity.

"The current ICC is too small to deal with the many cases. So, we need to establish regional courts and strengthen local courts so as to be able to deal with these cases," said Dr. David Donat, the secretary general of PGA.

Donat, who was in the company of chairperson PGA

(Ugandan chapter), Stephen Tashobya, yesterday told journalists at Parliament, that opening regional courts in Africa would reduce on the case backlog. He said the court would also have a chance to interact with a number of locals who



are willing to share their experiences as evidence to prosecute the accused perpetrators of crime.

"This will not only save the court time, but also create a pattern of evidence where the court can collect public statements and material to

prosecute those accused," said Donat.

Mark Pritchard, the executive board member PGA also UK MP (House of Commons) said the ICC needed to engage African heads of state on establishing these courts to ensure justice for victims of crimes against humanity.

He also urged the court to not only concentrate on crimes in Africa, but the rest of the world too where people are committing crimes against humanity.

"It is our obligation to protect women and children. Justice shall prevail because it matters to all of us," he stated. Meanwhile, Tashobya said the forum has organised an international conference starting today on international justice. They will discuss the fight against impunity for

serious crimes of concern to humanity.

The ICC is an international court set up to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

It was created by the Rome Statute, which came into force on July 1, 2002.

The court, based in the Hague, Netherlands, has a membership of 122 countries. "The parliamentary conference is to give full effect to the principle of complementarity in Uganda and DRC. We shall analyse existing obstacles to the implementation of the Ugandan transitional justice policy and look for concrete measures on how to address and overcome them," said Tashobya.

# Legislators want ICC regional centres

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Rogers Kalenzi: Once again Africans are marketing their weaknesses and inabilities. That only gives foreigners a merit against us.

Hannibal Ayebare: I don't think that's an urgent issue to come up now. Let me hope that MPs are not among because they failed to deliver what they were voted for.

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## POLITICAL FEEDBACK

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### IN THE LINES:

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