

## **POLICE IN KOTIDO DISTRICT POUR OVER 4,000 LITERS OF CRUDE WARAGI WORTH 15 MILLION SHILLINGS .**

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A disgusting odor covered most parts of Kotido town as Police in Kotido district poured over 4,000 liters of local potent gin (Waragi ) worth over 15million shillings.

The waragi contained in 156 abnormal blue 26 Liter Jerri cans was destroyed late Friday afternoon 24/4/2020 six days after it was impounded at Kotido central police station in the presence of District leaders and members of the local community.

The waragi which meandered through the trenches of the town for over two kilometers like a river, left most residents in shock as some of them rushed to scoop some of it using open buckets and basins only to be stopped by Police.

The Officer in-charge District Criminal Investigations Department Kotido ASP Innocent Dusabe who led the pouring exercise says the waragi was impounded on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> in Kotido municipality in vehicle registration number UAQ521E.

" We received a tip from one of the community members of a lorry entering town loaded with waragi; but as soon as we approached them, both the driver and owner of the waragi jumped off the truck and vanished leaving it in motion", Dusabe said.

He said the pouring of waragi publically was a sign of transparency and a warning to all those dealing in waragi adding that police will continue to fight the illegal activity .

He says the suspects are still on the run but will soon be brought to book .

Peter Logiro the Kotido Resident District commissioner while speaking during the exercise urged the communities to desist from consuming Warigi saying it is illegal and harmful to their health.

"Under the Ugandan law you are not supposed to deal in enguli, for many reasons, including it being harmful to peoples health. Then to the consumers: if you stop drinking waragi, it will have no market and the trade will die on its own" Logiro said.

He says consumption of waragi had led to many deaths in Karamoja, increase in domestic Violence high rates of divorce and immorality .

Logiro however blamed the local council one chairpersons in the municipality for harboring and hiding these illicit dealers urging them to liaise with the security agencies to wipe out the vice.

Ismael Muhamad Lomwar Didi the mayor Kotido municipality encouraged business men to choose business ventures that are in line with the law to avoid loses.

"There are very many ventures you can venture in to. U can bring for us beans, sorghum, maize we can buy. 15 million is being poured, if you had brought for us 15million of beans it would be finished in one week. I urge the business community to do business that are not conflicting with the law" Didi

Charles Alir the chairperson Kotido business forum has asked business Persons to desist from invest in illegal products such as waragi and charcoal but rather re-channel their money to profitable business.

"I would encourage my fellow traders to desist from selling waragi and charcoal. We rather put money in beans and sorghum. In this situation of covid 19 there is no need to throw away money. The waragi which is being poured is worth 15millionshillings that's abig loss. lets look for good source of income and start doing the right business" Alir told the new vision in a phone interview this morning.

The Kotido district council last year passed the anti -waragi by law prohibiting the sale and consumption of crude waragi and imposing a fine of 2,000,000= or imprisonment not exceeding six month.

The Enguli (Manufacture and Licensing ) act 1966 also prohibits dealing and consumption of waragi and imposes a fine not exuding three thousand shillings or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both.

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