



Re: Reported incidents of insecurity in Western Uganda

Dear Friends and Different partners from around the world, statement of the recently reported incidents of insecurity around the Kasese and Bundibugyo area in western Uganda.

Historically most of the area now known as Uganda as governed as a multiplicity of small independent kingdoms with own government. In the colonial times, many of the kingdoms were let to continue to exist already subdued and servicing the colonialist's objectives. During the struggle for independence particular kingdoms fought and lobbied for their own independence alongside the nationalist struggle end result was at independence, the nationalists won a republic and the kingdoms continued a desire to be independent with resultant conflicts of interests and a struggle for leadership within the kingdoms.

The central government reacted by abolishing kingdoms unfortunately eventually turned into a dictatorship of the 1st president Milton Obote later overthrown by the even worse and worldly known dictatorship of Idi Amin Dada. BUT the people resisted culminating the proper national resistance movement of the current President His Excellence Yoweri Kaguta Museveni which threw a 3 step process disposing Idi Amin Dada which established the governance that established peace and the developments we now see across the country. As a gift to people for supporting them the NRM reestablished the kingdoms giving them the sense autonomy but still subject to the central government

The Uganda government tends to be very sensitive in matters of security which is understandable considering they established themselves in a country in a state of war and had to deal with numerous armed and militant groups including the murderous one lead by Joseph Kony in Northern Uganda which is now fully and virtually defeated. In reacting to these kinds of incidents, they tend to be very decisive almost extremely strong armed with the support of citizens.

Recently a group of people in western Uganda strongly lobbied to establish and be recognized as a new kingdom and that was done. However, they immediately started to have expansion ideas leading to some people in the outlined areas to be resistant. For that or another reason, not yet established, a criminal gang of youth of the new kingdom armed themselves and attacked several government installations including a military barracks in 2 ways on 2 different dates. As expected forces in the barracks retaliated in a hard hitting manner killing instantly 51 of the attackers although they reportedly the government side lost 8 persons and some civilians all together totaling 65. The areas around western Uganda are heavily secured because they border on DR Congo and any threats would understandably be crashed hard.

Additional government security re- enforcements where sent to the area, a number of people have been arrested for further investigation for involvement and the situation has been completely brought under control. This was unfortunate but we also do not expect it to reoccur. All our guests as well as our selves have nothing to fear and although they might see an increased presence of security forces, it is in fact in our best interest. Please note that all National Parks are under protection by the Uganda Wildlife Authority and tourism activities are running smoothly.

We thank you and look forward to welcoming and hosting you in Uganda Pearl of Africa.

Great Lakes Safaris and Uganda Lodges Limited