

Batwa's livelihoods improve after getting resettled in Kisoro

KISORO

By Job Namanya

The standard of living of the Batwa communities in south-western Uganda is steadily improving, following their resettlement in Kisoro district.

The Batwa were originally forest-dwelling hunters in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa.

The Batwa are said to have migrated to Uganda from Ituri forest in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, in 1991, they were evicted after Mgahinga and Bwindi Impenetrable national parks were gazetted.

They, thus, became squatters. According to Abel Bizimana, the Kisoro district LC5 chairperson, the lifestyle of the Batwa has changed since they got land for resettlement.

Bizimana said the land in Gitebe, Kanaba sub-county, where some Batwa have settled, was offered by the

"With the new settlements, the Batwa have started adapting to modern ways of living." Bizimana

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), which procured 84 acres of land for the minority group.

"With the new settlements, the Batwa have started adapting to modern ways of living and are now recognised in community," Bizimana said.

He noted that the Batwa are also learning some important skills that have improved their welfare.

"They are now earning a living from some of the skills



The Batwa dancing to celebrate improved livelihood. Photo by Job Namanya

they were trained in by ADRA, such as music, dance and drama, modern farming, art and craft and tour guiding,

among others," says Bizimana. Muyove village in Buhozi parish, Busanza sub-county is one of the areas where the

Batwa have settled.

Antelli Gasambi, the Moyove village LC1 chairperson, said the Batwa have contributed to

the development of the area through their various activities.

"We have planted crops for food and sale," Gasambi said.

Gasambi also credits ADRA for improving the tourism potential of the Batwa.

He said since its inception, ADRA had been supporting Batwa settlements in Kanaba Bukimbiri, Nyabwishenya, Gatera and Busanza sub-counties.

Godfrey Turinawe, one of the successful agriculturalists, said ADRA's training in agriculture helped him get a job at Mutolere Hospital Food and Nutrition project.

"When I applied for training in the project, I got employment immediately after my training. I attribute all this excellence to the guidance and mentorship I got from ADRA," Turinawe said.

Pascasia Nyiraburonde said: "I am proud to say that I can now eat a balanced diet and also live in an iron-roofed house."

Leaders in Tororo take education by the horns

TORORO

By Faustine Odeke

Local authorities in Osukuru sub-county, Tororo district have combined their efforts in an attempt to improve the education standard in the district.

No candidate has passed with first grade in the government-aided schools in the recent past and Tororo was rated among the worst performing districts in the country, according to a recent assessment conducted by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

The campaign that is championed by the chairperson of the sub-county, John Paul Okanya, has seen pupils in the candidate classes being zoned in four centres where they are taken through vigorous lessons

BETWEEN THE LINES: Extra lessons and facilitation

Under the programme which is fully sponsored by the Osukuru sub-county chief, James Don Were, pupils are provided with lunch and the teachers are facilitated to conduct extra lessons and set and mark examinations.

over the weekends. During the lessons, pupils freely interact with teachers to help them with subjects which they find difficult.

Under the campaign that is fully supported by the sub-county chief, James Don Were, pupils are provided with midday meals and the teachers are facilitated, too.

The sub-county also sets its own trial examinations and pupils are given past papers from schools in Kampala to revise.

Okanya appealed to the

pupils to appreciate and utilise the programme, saying its purpose is to prepare them to be successful citizens.

He said as leaders, they will not be happy to lead an uneducated population who will be a burden to the nation. He urged the pupils to prepare to be key players in the development of the country.

Okanya called upon the pupils to work hard so they can take up positions of leadership and be relevant in the job market, especially now that Tororo has become an

investment destination.

He said they would liaise with other development partners to ensure that needy but bright children can be supported further in their education.

Okanya cautioned the girls against being lured into prostitution and early marriages.

Were urged the pupils to work hard in order to be able to pass the forthcoming Primary Leaving Examinations.

He said as a sub-county, they are committed to making education more appealing and productive, instead of apportioning blame. He said the success of the programme will encourage them to cover the funding gaps.

The teachers and pupils said it was a timely programme, and pledged to give it all their best to achieve its purpose.

Kyambadde calls for mindset change on UPE

MPIGI

By Simon Ssekidde

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives, Amelia Kyambadde, has called on parents with children in UPE schools to fulfill their responsibility of providing basic requirements for their children.

She said some parents have neglected their role, which has sabotaged the government programme.

"There is need for parents to change their mindset about UPE schools. Parents think their responsibility is only to send their children to school. This is wrong," Kyambadde said.

She made the remarks while commissioning Freedom Primary School and Orphanage Centre, Nsumba in Kammengo sub-county, Mpigi district.

The minister thanked the school proprietor, Richard Kiwanuka, for lobbying for the school, which was set up with the aim of offering education to the disadvantaged children, such as orphans and street children.

"I pledge to lobby so that this facility gets clean piped water, electricity and infrastructure to enable it give quality education to children from the community and the disadvantaged children," Kyambadde said.

Freedom Primary School has an enrolment of 190 children who are got from the streets and disadvantaged families. It was started in 2013, with the support of the Norwegian community and Mariane Rieber.

Kiwanuka said he started the facility to rehabilitate street children into responsible citizens.

He called upon the community of Kammengo, Mpigi to own the project by giving it support.



Rosemary Seninde

Minister Seninde's foundation trains 3,000 women

WAKISO

By Job Nantakiika

State minister for primary education and Wakiso district Woman MP, Rosemary Seninde, has started training over 3,000 women to equip them with technical skills.

While speaking to some of the trainees at Gombe division offices on Friday, Seninde said it is the second

time they were conducting the training.

The Seninde Foundation started training women in catering and hospitality, tailoring, bakery and making paper bags, piggery, making charcoal briquettes from garbage and also training in hair dressing.

Seninde urged women not to cry about poverty when they complete the courses but to immediately start working.

ON THE GROUND

Josephine Lule, the head of the women being trained, said the programme will improve their economic status.

She pointed out that the training is not discriminative. "This training is for all

Wakiso district residents and it does not discriminate people along political lines. Our aim is to give you skills to fight poverty in your homes," said Seninde.

The course is for three-and-a-half months. The minister appealed to the women to persevere and complete the training.

On the other hand, she noted that getting learning materials was a big challenge.

Josephine Lule, the head of the women undergoing training, hailed the minister for the programme, saying it will have a positive impact on the economic status of women.

Lule appealed to all politicians in the country to emulate Seninde and provide technical skills to their electorate, saying it is a good legacy for a politician to leave in their constituency.