

Prime Minister lauds Adventists' agency for supporting refugees

WAKISO

By Lawrence Mulondo

Prime Minister Dr Ruhakana Rugunda has praised the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Uganda for supporting refugees and other underprivileged groups in the country.

In a speech read for him by the state minister for Karamoja affairs, Moses Kizige, Rugunda said in 2003, the agency resettled people that were evicted from Hoima district who at that time had camped at Lugogo.

"ADRA has since then conducted a series of refugee settlements, such as at Rwamwanja settlement in Kamwenge district and the Adjumani settlement," he outlined.

The remarks were made on Monday during an event, where ADRA celebrated 30 years of service in Uganda.

ADRA is a Seventh Day Adventist Church-based and a non-profitable organisation assisting humanity in areas of health, water and sanitation,

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Alice Nyamihanda, beneficiary of ADRA education fund: There are many other children currently benefiting from the education programme, including schools, such as Mabuyemeru Primary School in Kireka.



Francis Sembagari, resident of Kisoro district: The agency bought me a piece of land and taught me how to read and write. My children were given goats, which they are rearing to earn money to support themselves.

Grace Onda, South Sudan refugee at Nvopi Camp, West Nile : We were living in the camp with no clean water until ADRA intervened and got us boreholes with clean water.



disasters, livelihood and others.

The event that was organised under the theme, "30 years of changing lives in the Pearl of Africa" was graced by ADRA international representatives from Sweden, Canada, Kenya and the

Netherlands. Rugunda said the Agency today demonstrates dependability in partnering with the Government towards a transformed society from a peasant to a modern and a prosperous country within 30 years.

Rugunda applauded the agency for identifying and strengthening indigenous communities

He said since April 2003, the agency has integrated over 7,500 homesteads in Kamwenge district, mainly Ugandans, who were expelled from Tanzania.

Rugunda applauded the agency for identifying and strengthening indigenous communities, such as Batwa in south-western Uganda, complementing the Government efforts to ensure that all Ugandans participate and benefit from programmes aimed at developing the country. ADRA Uganda country director Charles Aguilar attributed the agency's success to committed workers

and a friendly working environment.

Aguilar promised that they will continue serving humanity as they respond to whoever is in need, especially in the education and livelihood sectors.

The board chairperson for ADRA Uganda, Dr Daniel Matte, thanked the Government for providing a good working environment, that it has enabled them serve humanity.

While delivering the speech of the Katikkiro of Buganda, Charles Peter Mayiga, the kingdom deputy speaker, Ahmed Lwasa, commended ADRA for their contribution towards the country's health sector.

Mayiga further called upon the organisation to be transparent and accountable, adding that most non-government organisation give different reports from what is always on the ground.

On behalf of the ADRA Uganda funders, ADRA Sweden country representative, Siri Karlsson, said the money the agency receives is from taxes, adding that it should be used for whatever it is meant to do.