

MIFUMI a hit at National NGO Fair



The Uganda NGO Forum organised a Civil Society NGO Fair which took place on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th at Hotel Africana People's space. The reason for the fair was to showcase the contribution of NGO's to Uganda's Development.

MIFUMI participated and exhibited a number of IEC Materials about her work. She was commended by a number of participants for her unwavering support for women's rights and fight to prevent violence against women and children in rural Uganda.

MIFUMI's campaign against domestic violence and the bad practices in the payment of Bride Price particularly got noted by most of the visitors to the stall.

The MIFUMI stall received many visitors.

The fair acted as a platform for NGOs to interact, learn and share ideas with each other.

The participants were presented with the opportunity to network and get listed in the national NGO directory. The fair drew about 50 participants from all over Uganda.

This Month's Issue:

- *MIFUMI at NGO fair*
- *MAKO- MERE New series*
- *JFS rugby team to visit disadvantaged*
- *The Sure start Ambassador*

MIFUMI National Domestic Violence Helpline enables women in Uganda to contact someone more easily and conveniently in case of emergency, information to link her to immediate help in her community and counselling.

0800 200 250

Mako-Mere SECOND SERIES OUT



L-R: Clive Brill, Atuki Turner and Shalom recording scene from MAKO-MERE

In a recent venture to further her efforts in tackling social-cultural issues that perpetuate and condone violence against women and children, MIFUMI has completed the recording of the second series of local radio soap Mako-Mere. The informative and humour packed soap draws on various issues like bride price violations, property right, corruptions, the law and justice, polygamy and all other forms of human rights violations.

With Mako-Mere, MIFUMI urges communities to participate in the prevention of the many forms of violence against women as change in behaviour can only be realised if we collectively realise that it needs to be addressed.

Mako-Mere brings to life real issues affecting women and children using characters the Ugandan audience can relate with. Mako-Mere is an inclusive and participatory Radio soap that provokes dialogue and discussion.

MIFUMI is also using Mako-Mere to give hope to her target groups while revealing the benefits of violence free homes and communities to her listeners.

Mako-Mere which lightly translates as 'Making Friends' is cast on location in an imaginary village *Awendo* in Uganda.

The scripts for Mako-Mere are written by Ugandan writers schooled by international Award Winning Novelist and Playwright, Professor Jane Rogers of Sheffield Hallam University. The first episodes of the soap are available at the MIFUMI website (www.mifumi.org) and running on local radio stations in Uganda.

MIFUMI as an organisation believes that change in policy and practice can be achieved through advocacy and engagement of communities and their leaders using the community advocacy against violence model.

MIFUMI REVIEWS PAST YEAR, PLANS AHEAD

The MIFUMI team took 3 days off for an in-house annual review and strategic planning meeting that was held in Kampala early last month.

The meeting that ran from the 12th - 15th May 2011 brought to a close the previous MIFUMI financial year and ushered in the new one.

In attendance were the MIFUMI Board members (Dr. Anthony Okoth, RoseMary Rwanyange, Father Deo Eriot, and Charles Bwenvu), Directors and staff team.

The meeting was opened with a speech from the executive director of MIFUMI, Atuki Turner who applauded her team for the good work and unwavering team spirit in the previous year that, she added, was responsible for the previous year's achievements. She also called out to her team to take on new challenges with the same spirit now that MIFUMI has been identified to spearhead lobbying and advocacy for the passing of the Marriage and Divorce Bill.

The team reviewed the past year highlighting their achievements, challenges, high and low moments; and went on to plan for the next financial year.

Team heads presented their work-plans for the New Year to which the rest of the team made contributions.

Doctor Anthony Okoth, who stepped in for Chair of Board Algresia Akwii, commended MIFUMI's innovativeness in the electronic systems that have made her work easily accessible by many stakeholders around the world.

Rosemary was impressed with the multi approach of MIFUMI in her work to prevent gender based violence. She also acknowledged the Millennium Development Goal 3 (MDG3) award towards women empowerment and equality. She noted that Atuki has achieved so much within a short time and she has always done MIFUMI proud.

Renowned boys Rugby team to visit Uganda

A team of 15 renowned Rugby players from The John Fisher School (JFS) in Surrey, UK will arrive in Uganda for a two week interactive visit. The boys aged 16 years; whose main reason for the visit is charitable, will interact with children in orphanages for whom they have brought gifts.

They will also take time off to identify and support with the establishment two teenage rugby teams in the district of Tororo and go sight seeing in various parts of the country.

The brains behind the visit are 16 year old Richard Mosinghi and Guy Seaward, who together with the rest of the team wanted to do something to help others.

JFS is well known for its excellent rugby team. It reached four national finals between 1997 and 2008 earning them the college award in 2003 and is still one of the top rugby schools in UK.

The sporting highlight will be on Tuesday 12th July when the UK team will play Uganda's under 16 National team. Among the spectators will be the Queen of Buganda and Juliana Kanyamozzi, a well known singer here.

AMBASSADOR FOR SURESTART

When I joined secondary school, I instantly missed my Primary school Sure Start club. I spared thirty minutes after classes to practice all the karate skills and disciplines I had learned while in primary school. Some of my friends seemed interested in this sport. However each time I urged them to join me they shied away. I had also realised that this shyness extended up to class and during other extra curricular school activities.

All this was familiar and reminded me of the old me. Immediately I knew I had to do something about it. Every thing I learned and had become came flooding back. I knew I had to help these girls become like me; confident.

I set out on a plan of how I was going to do this. I had been trained in karate and gender relations to become a trainer and this was my opportunity to share this knowledge with other girls like me.

First I spoke to the girls who showed interest. I had also noticed that many of them did not know some of their human rights. So I wrote down on a sheet of paper some of the children's rights I know.

I wrote a letter to the school administration seeking permission to train the girls. After listening to me, the headmaster approved my proposal.

I started by training 10 girls and later on fifteen more girls joined the training and we're still counting. The most successful moment in my life was when we were invited to speak about our club and demonstrate at the school Parents and Teachers' General Meeting (PTAM).

My trainees did very well and all this is attributed to the MIFUMI Sure Start Project working in community schools.

Sarah Awor

About Sure start

The sure start club uses sport (karate) to instil confidence in girls. The club also strives to eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development by increasing awareness of their needs and potential through gender training around community schools in Tororo. To date the project has trained 1651 girls. Our impact in our community has been recognised by international sports associations. The project was also nominated in 2010 Beyond Sports Award for best New Project -Sport for Social Change Award received in Chicago in September 2010.

MIFUMI's mission is to Promote protection of women and children from domestic violence and abuse and secure for them basic rights through education, Health Care and economic self sufficiency.

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