

Sure Start Wows Tororo on Independence Day



Sure-Start demonstrating at King George Stadium Tororo

The 47th Independence Day celebration that brought together dignitaries, schools and organizations in Tororo district on the 9th October 2009, at King George memorial stadium also show cased the girl child empowerment project of MIFUMI.

The Sure-Start project that kicked off in 2008 with generous funding from Women Win has reached 578 children in 4 schools in Tororo district using Karate and taekwondo. The two sports are intended to build the confidence of girls in rural areas and instil in them discipline and self defence skills.

Clad in their white uniforms the girls demonstrated to over 1,000 people skills they have learned in the last year.

Present at the celebration were the Resident District Commissioner, Mpibaza Hashaka, the LCV Chairman, Emmanuel Osuna, Town Mayor, Jack Ogola, Woman MP, Grace Oburu, LC3 chairman Western Division, Yusuf Naleba, District Education Officer, Yona Gamusi Doya among others.

The guest of honour in his speech also commended the Sure Start project and assured MIFUMI of his continued support and he then

corruption. He also elaborated the achievements of the NRM government and appealed for support. The woman MP, Grace Oburu, appealed to the men out there to respect their wives. She commended MIFUMI for fighting Domestic Violence and advised the girl child to stay in school and out of danger.

The Sure-Start project has also trained 120 girls to become trainers in their communities.

The LCV in his closing speech commended MIFUMI for the work well done. He advised parents to encourage their children to stay in school instead of looking at small tokens they will receive as Bride price. He supported the idea of abolishing bride price and advised the people to support the view and stop spreading the seed of division. He advised people to embrace change because it is the way to go.

- Sure Start Independence Day Celebrations
- MIFUMI Training
- Health and Education
- More.

Becoming an all round leader

My name is Aketch Nanzirina. I am in primary Seven at Mifumi Primary School.

Many people in my community believe sports is for dull people and time wasting activity for pupils who should be reading their books

This is not true; karate has actually improved my performance in class. Karate has made me strong physically and mentally. It has built my confidence in class and around boys.

I was the best student in my mock exams a few months ago.

On Independence Day, for the first time I stood before a large crowd and led the karate team in a demonstration at the King George Stadium. I felt confidence that I had never experienced.

There were so many schools in attendance and all cameras were focused on me as I started the demonstration. My confidence did not let me down.



Domestic Violence Advisors trained on Domestic violence



Atuki Turner, the Executive Director of MIFUMI, spent three days delivering training to 23 independent domestic violence advisors on domestic violence.

The training kicked off with Atuki highlighting the international instruments that help in addressing the violations of women's rights and freedoms which included; Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, (CEDAW), The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights that led to the African Women's Protocol tackling cultural issues like the female genital mutilation among others.

She introduced MIFUMI to the women outlining its efforts to curb domestic violence and Bride Price related abuse.

The topics discussed during this training included; Understanding the nature and cause of violence,

Forms of subjugation, Identifying the impact of those affected by domestic violence, The context in which violence occurs and the role of different agencies in protecting women, the importance of addressing domestic violence, Guidelines to counselling survivors of domestic violence.

Atuki concluded the training by reminding the advisors that every woman and child had rights and freedoms that everyone around the world was entitled to such as; The right to Life, Education, Political Participation, Medical care (health care), Ownership of Property, Dignity and Equality in Marriage. She said Discrimination on the basis of sex denied women fundamental freedoms of Speech, Expression, Conscience and Association.

This is the message the advisors will carry to all women who they encounter in their line of work and in their communities.

Pictorial of the month



Tom Herriman Journalist from Seattle interviews Oboth Solomon one of the Bride Price Petitioners



Tom Interviews Fr. Deo Eriot of DRIDA on Domestic violence



BBC's Abraham Odeke interviews Atuki Turner, Executive Director MIFUMI

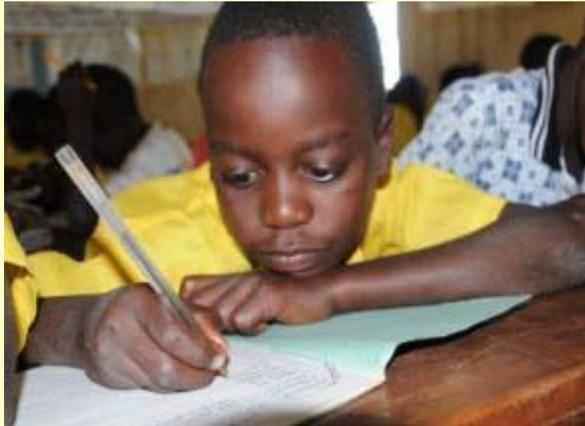


Carol Bongomin, Tae-Kwondo Trainer talks to Abraham about Tae-kwondo



The Sure Start team shows off their skills

MIFUMI Primary school



A pupil takes notes during a Hand writing and Spelling lesson P3 class

MIFUMI Primary school has a population of 568 pupils of whom 290 are girls and 278 boys. This goes to show that parents are realizing the importance of sending the girl child to school which is in line with the school policy of girl child empowerment. The term is promising with no registration of pupil drop out from school especially the girls who used to leave school frequently. Several school

programmes are responsible for this like guidance and counselling besides popular sports like karate and constant sensitization of parents and guardians. The children are generally in good health and they are clean/smart and in upbeat mood to learn all the time. Immunization was carried out at school for the pupils and the entire community.

MIFUMI Primary School selected as a sports model school in Tororo district



Pupils at a netball Game

The ministry of Education and sports has selected schools country wide to act as a model for physical education and sports.

The ministry believes physical exercise and sports develop children mentally, attributing poor performance to children being idle.

Sports has been on the school programme since the establishment of the school.

MIFUMI Primary School came second in the past season sports competition. The school has also registered improvement in the grades of the pupils' performance.

The major sports activities in the school include football, netball, volley ball and athletics.

Karate introduced by MIFUMI remains a popular sport at school with girls being the major beneficiaries.

The children and teachers are also venturing into a new sport, Rugby, introduced by Jae Edwards and Natalie Cole from UK Bristol when they paid a visit to the school in April 2009. The pupils really enjoy the game despite lack of a coach.

MIFUMI Health Centre Child Day plus



Though Child Days Plus were first established as routine maternal and child health interventions at all static health units and outreaches in Uganda, in 2004 it was decided that the Days be used to serve communities and schools with additional treatments of vitamin A to boost their immunity and albendazole, praziquantel and ivermectin to de-worm them every six months.

Last month MIFUMI Health Centre reached up to 1,000 mothers and children with the programme.

MIFUMI Health centre, one of the leading Health centres in the district has treated over 80,000 patients since its establishment 8 years ago.

Youth decry Bride Price and domestic violence in their music



Rita Namitala

I have personally experienced and witnessed many forms of abuse, ranging from domestic violence and Bride Price violations. At seven, I had become used to the almost weekly 86 stroke of the cane from my guardian for mistakes I don't remember.

A friend told me of a young man who sat next to his dead wife when one of the deceased's uncles asked him if they will get her bride price paid by him staring at the body. The uncle demanded that young man start figuring out how to raise the Bride Price lest he will be staring at the worms crawling out of his wife's body.

We have lived in fear of addressing many social injustices in our community; I have decided to take the chance to do so in my music.

I may not be able to do much but I am using my music to reach out to young people on their rights and access of justice; I also urge the elders to factor in love before material gain.

Rita, 22, Musician

If only MIFUMI had been in existence then, my mother would have had a chance to enjoy womanhood. She suffered in silence and never complained to any one

To me she is the best, most beautiful woman I have ever known though she lived her life in vain.

Even after the beatings, she woke up with a smile to make us breakfast to go to school.

I shun all forms of abuse of women and will make my wife and my children the happiest people.

Chris, 28, civil Servant

A friend of mine claims he is losing his mind. I have started to believe him because the once lovely gentleman with whom I cracked jokes has become highly irritable and distanced.

His house has become a boarding house for his wife's relatives and siblings. Since he was unable to complete the payment of their daughter's Bride Price, her parents had sent his wife's four sisters and three cousins to his house and he has been tasked to provide for them. Culturally it is rude to say no to your in-laws.

He plans to run away with his wife any time soon.

I am twenty seven. I have a girl friend but I am so scared of getting seriously involved with any girl. I don't have the money and I don't think I can stand that kind of pain.

Bryan, 26, Musician

I know of a prominent woman (civil servant) whose is abused daily by her husband (a business man).

He takes all her salary at the end of the month. He even determines how much of her money she can use. She has started lying to her friends about her bruises and swellings. She is not happy. I have seen the pain and suffering on the faces of her children.

I sang this song to address the existence of domestic violence in our society and call out to all women to speak out on domestic violence. There are laws in the country to protect them and there are agencies and human rights bodies ready to help the survivors of domestic violence.

Rachael, 17, Musician



Bryan aka Master Above

I am Messiah not Jesus; but just like Jesus I am taking the message of change to my people to stop culturally allowed abuse of women and children by addressing issues of domestic violence and child abuse. My message is of hope and I believe change is coming.

Julius, 27, Musician



Julius aka Messiah

MIFUMI's mission

Protect 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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