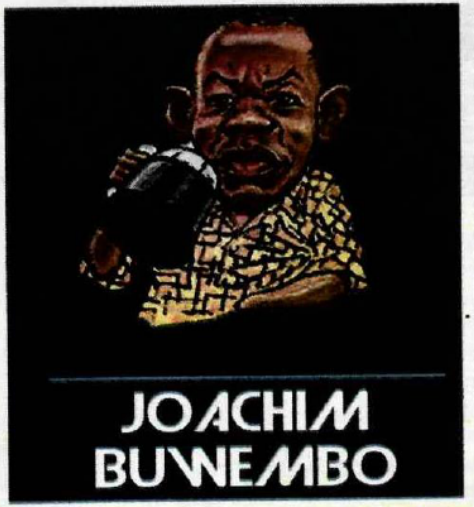
Funny if you can drive a car but cannot swim in Uganda!



Maid: Imagine, this report says 3,000 people drown in Uganda every year!
Mzee: You thought they were more, that 3,000 are too few?
Maid: Of course not! 3k are too many! Let me see on the calculator, that is 8.2 people per day. Where do they drown from? And are the 0.2 those still in the womb when their mothers drown?
Mzee: Don't be silly, and I won't answer that. As to where they drown from, well, everywhere you turn there is a water body. One-fifth of our country's surface is water, if you have forgotten your local geography. Kampala itself is a coastal city, though many people in this town barely realise they live on the shore of Lake Victoria, the second largest fresh water body in the world. But they seem to think the lake is so far away. Yet Kampala Capital City Authority has square miles and square miles of open water under its management.
Maid: I don't remember, I mean, a fifth of Uganda being open water!! It doesn't feel like it! You mean of every hundred acres twenty are water?
Mzee: If you count the rivers and wetlands as well.
Maid: Then we should all be good swimmers if there is sooo much water around!
Mzee: The report doesn't say what percentage of Ugandans can swim, but I would expect everybody living near a water body to be able to.
Maid: I understand the role and importance of the mind first. Second?
Mzee: The report doesn't say what percentage of Ugandans can swim, but I would expect everybody living near a waterbody to be able to.
Maid: You just said Kampala is on the shore of Africa's largest fresh water body, actually the world's largest tropical fresh water body; so how many of the five million people in Greater Kampala can swim?
Mzee: You will be lucky to find ten thousand who can
Maid: Is that one percent?
Mzee: No, a tenth of one percent, meaning one in a thousand.
Maid: So only a thousandth of the people on the shore of the largest fresh water body can float and propel their bodies in water? Yet how many can drive a car and we do not even make cars?
Mzee: Correction, we make state-of-the-art electric buses. But how many people in Greater Kampala can drive a car? If there are maybe half a million cars in Greater Kampala, then if there is one driver per car, that is half a million people. Which is 10% in a population where 70% are minors.
Maid: : So, in a community where everyone should know how to swim, only a microscopic fraction can, yet a third of the adults can drive a car? Isn't that a shame?
Mzee: So what should be done about it?
Maid: Maybe make it a condition to get a national ID, for the first time applicants.
Mzee: Isn't that an abuse of human rights, the right for a human to be identified and registered?
Maid: No, it is like immunisation. Should people have a right to refuse being immunised to avoid possible death by drowning?

Drowning is avoidable especially in a lake where if you can keep afloat for half an hour chances of surviving a sinking boat are high.

Your body was created with ability to swim once you learn. Refusing to learn to swim is as bad as refusing to get immunised against killer diseases.

Mzee:: Ah, thank God I don't have to make decisions affecting the public.