

ARUA LC5 BOSS HAS BLAMED THE LEADERS FOR GREED AND FORGETTING ABOUT THE MORE NEEDY BENEFICIARIES

By Robert Ariaka

# Arua leaders share out wealth creation heifers

Top district leaders in Arua have been accused of greed after they shared the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) dairy heifers among themselves.

Several youths and interest groups have complained about the criteria used to distribute the cows. Arua district on June 28, received 77 heifers as part of the 2016 batch.

In 2016, the district was allotted 200 heifers but 77 were not delivered.

Several beneficiaries who missed out were waiting for new deliveries but were shocked to see the leaders share some of the heifers among themselves.

Geoffrey Bakole, the chairperson of the district youth council, demanded to know how the animals were being distributed.

He said the people should benefit in an equitable manner.

Nesma Ocokoru, the LC5 chairperson Arua Hill division and Khemis Muzaid, the LC5 chairman River Oli division, both raised the matter after beneficiaries in their divisions failed to get any of the heifers.

According to Ocokoru, his office has never received the animals, arguing that one of his staff benefited without any documentation. He blamed the leaders for being greedy and forgetting more needy beneficiaries.

"We have information that some of the leaders got the heifers and we need serious investigations since they are not transparent. The Ministry of Agriculture under which Operation Wealth Creation falls should come down and investigate the leaders who shared the heifers," Ocokoru said.

Muzaid noted with concern that his office did not receive the heifers and he is surprised to hear the leaders have shared the animals.

He said the leaders are fighting their



One of the heifers distributed. Capt. Twaha Ewama the OWC Officer Arua. Above, is Muzaid Khemis

own government yet they should have helped the locals benefit first.

Captain Twaha Ewama, the OWC officer Arua, confirmed that he and other leaders got the said heifers.

He said the animals went to people who can maintain them arguing that those who can't will not be given.

"We give the animals to people who can manage. We can give all the animals to one person, provided they

can manage them," Ewama said.

Meanwhile Sharban Ayile, the OWC officer Arua municipal Council, is under fire for receiving a heifer. The division chairperson, Ocokoru has threatened to close his office.

Ayile said he received the cow but is not aware of the reasons it was given to him.

Arua Peter Dibebe, the RDC of Arua, recently boasted to farmers in

Abi ZARDI that his OWC heifers are doing well and that the first cow he got now produces 15 litres of milk. Dibebe received the second heifer recently.

Elaborating on who the rightful beneficiaries are, Richard Karemire, the Uganda People's Defence Forces spokesperson, said leaders should not be denied the opportunity to benefit just because they are leaders," he told *New Vision* via telephone, recently.

## LEADERS WHO GOT HEIFERS

- Capt. Twaha Ewama, the OWC officer
- Peter Dibebe, the RDC
- Genesis Acema, the LC5 vice-chairman
- Steven Dravu, deputy DISO
- Sabo Camilo, secretary finance
- Gertrude Badaru, agricultural officer
- Sharban Ayile, OWC officer (Municipal)
- Sefan Andeku,\* district statistician
- Susan Ocokoru, extension officer Dadamu
- Evelyn Obiale, wife of Col. Nelson Obiale, regional OWC officer
- Rt. Reverend Charles Collins Andaku, Bishop of Madi, West Nile,
- Angiriyo Eliaza Onaa, the Bishop of Zion Methodist
- Jesla Ayikoru
- Andrew Yekka
- Godfrey Avuni
- Carolyn Aribaku
- Steven Aribaku