

Uganda Martyrs Namugongo SS to mark 50 years

By Nicholas Kajoba

A charity visit to Kira Health Centre on Saturday was one in a series of activities launched over the weekend as Uganda Martyrs Secondary School Namugongo (UMSSN) marks 50 years of existence.

The school has for decades posted excellent academic results and maintained its position among the top three schools in the country.

The climax of the celebrations will be held on July 22, when a new multi-million and multi-purpose office block will be unveiled.

During the visit to the health centre, located in Wakiso district, the headteacher, the Rev. Fr. Henry Kasasa, student leaders plus the alumni led by Aaron Semakula, handed over medical equipment to enhance services and household items for staff.

"We solicited for funds among ourselves and bought the items we have handed over today. Over the years, we have been sharing our success with communities associated with the school," he said.

Dr Charles Mupere, the officer in charge of the health centre, hailed the alumni for



Rev. Fr. Henry Kasasa

the donation, saying it will improve service delivery. Mupere appealed to the Government to upgrade the centre to hospital status because of the huge population it serves.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The school that has over 1,000 students opened doors in 1967 with only 20 students, (all girls) until 1991 when it admitted boys.

Kasasa hailed the alumni for caring about the underprivileged in the society and appealed to them to maintain the spirit of giving.

One of the patients found at the facility, Christine Nanyonga, said she did

not have soap and sugar.

"We have not had sugar for the past one week. I want to thank the students who have donated these items," she said.

Kira mayor Julius Mutebi, who pledged to lobby for the upgrading of the centre, said:

"We are working towards upgrading the centre. The two-storeyed building, which will create enough space is almost complete."

Owned by Kampala Archdiocese, Uganda Martyrs Secondary School Namugongo, sits on six acres and accommodates over 1,000 students and staff. It opened

its doors in 1967 with only 20 students, (all girls) until 1991, when it became a mixed school.

Four friends; Monsignor Lawrence Mbweza, Jeremiah Munyigwa, Joseph Mugerwa and Hellen Namazzi started the school.

The current state minister for higher education, Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo, was the school's longest-serving headteacher, who served between 1992 and 2010, when he handed over to Fr. Kasasa.

Muyingo is credited for having played a great role in helping the school attain its academic glory.