



ALCOHOL BAN

Police enforce law on alcohol

Police officers in Napak District, Karamoja sub-region, pour away waragi worth Shs70 million. This comes after the district council banned sale and consumption of illicit brew. PHOTO BY STEVEN ARIONG

Women abandon sex trade, embrace fish business

Income. Ms Kevina Naigaga, 35, says she currently earns Shs20,000 daily which can sustain her family.

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BUSIA. A group of 250 former sex workers in Busia District have found solace in fish business after years of peddling their bodies for survival.

Ms Sarah Wesonga, the team leader, says the new venture, where they are given fish on credit to vend has changed their lives.

"We are happy because our lives have changed for better. We can ably fend for our families," Ms Wesonga says.

The 40-year-old confesses to have been engaged in commercial sex business for the last 10 years.

She says commercial sex business is addictive and abandoning it has

proved hard to those minting money from it. "I tried to convince them it's possible to live a meaningful life by doing other small odd jobs without engaging in prostitution," she says.

Prostitution is illegal but it is being practised in various parts of the country more so blossoming day and night at border points.

Ms Kevina Naigaga, 35, another group member, says is now assured of daily decent income.

She says the new business venture has helped her do away the painful experience of sleeping with multiple men to earn a living.

"I currently earn more than Shs20,000 per day which is enough to sustain my family," she says.

Ms Janet Naiga says they have been rescued from poverty.

The group is being supported by Geosy Company Limited, a private company which deals in cage fish farming.

KEY ISSUES

Addictive. Ms Sarah Wesonga, the team leader, says commercial sex business is addictive and abandoning it has proved hard to those benefitting from it.

Illegal. Although prostitution is illegal, it is being practised in various parts of the country, more so blossoming day and night at border points.

The Company distributes fish to them on credit and they pay back after selling. However, Ms Naiga says the company should increase the fish supply in order to create employment opportunities for more women.

"Many of our colleagues who had refused to quit prostitution, have started joining us and more will join very soon," she says, adding that this is an initiative government should adopt to support women.

Mr Georwel Emanu, the company director, says they came up with the initiative after realising that a big number of girls were dropping out of school to get quick money in prostitution.

"We wanted to come up with something that could engage unemployed women including girls who are out of school because prostitution was the readily available job opportunity in

briefly

Leaders to transform town

KAMULI. Kamuli municipal council authorities have vowed to transform the town to be more appealing by getting rid of wandering animals, undeveloped plots, dilapidated structures and ensuring proper garbage disposal next year. Speaking at a stakeholders meeting on Saturday, the municipal planner, Mr Thomas Ikanga, said with the physical and development plans being enacted, there will be enhancement of local revenue and infrastructure development. [Sam Caleb Opio]

Priest challenges parent

KAMULI. The Busota Parish priest, Rev John Koosi, on Sunday challenge parents to sacrifice for their children's education and support school co-curricular activities. Rev Koosi, who made the call during the graduation 115 nursery children of Trinity Junior School, in Kamuli, cautioned parents against impeding their children's potential and family communication saying children are a gift and blessing from God to be taken care of.

Former sex workers make a living from vending fish

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Voices

"We acknowledge the support and we wish that more women are recruited into the venture. This will protect them from sinful acts and help them earn a living."

HASSAN BWIRE, BUSIA MUNICIPALITY MAYOR

"Many of our colleagues who had refused to quit prostitution, have started joining us and more will very soon."

JANET NAIGA, FORMER PROSTITUTE

"We wanted to come up with something that could engage unemployed women including girls who are out of school because prostitution was the readily available job opportunity in this area."

GEORWEL EMANU, GEOSY COMPANY LIMITED DIRECTOR

this area," he says.

Mr Emanu says the beneficiaries have now become financially stable to meet their family needs and pay school fees for their children. "Our objective was for them to earn a decent living and be able to fend for themselves. We are glad it's happening," he says.

Mr Emanu says the company plans to increase the number of cages from the current 50 to 100 before the year ends, and in the near future increase the cages to a million in order to guarantee constant fish supply to the women group.

Each cage is stocked with 10,000 fish which takes six months to mature.

He, however, appealed to government to refocus development initiative to target women in slum areas, saying they are often times neglected.

"Government must target these vulnerable groups in order to address challenges of prostitution, domestic violence and bring to an end all sorts of their dubious activities," he says.

Mr Amos Seguya, an elder in the area, says the idea has helped streets to get rid of prostitutes.

"We applaud such development ideas because they help to make this world a better place for all of us. The government should come in and support it," he says.

The Busia municipality mayor, Mr Hassan Bwire, says they appeal to other non-governmental organisations to join hands and launch programmes that empower women in the area.

PROSTITUTION

Malaba and Busia, both border towns between Uganda and Kenya, are used by thousands of truck drivers every day, making them hotspots for prostitution. Many unemployed women turn to commercial sex where both income and potential risks like HIV/Aids are high.

briefly

Leaders worry over GRV

NAMU...