

... someone who was shifted to four different ... you be spreading the disease?" he wondered. its care and strongly condemns all forms of abuse. SO ... Sempa revealed.

Archbishop Ssemogerere launches drive to build elderly priests' centre

By Mathias Mazinga

The Archbishop of Kampala archdiocese, Paul Ssemogerere, has launched this year's Ssabasumba Annual Appeal Fund (SAAFU) fundraising drive with a call on the Catholic faithful to be more involved in the development activities of the Church. SAAFU is a special ecclesial self-reliance cash-pool, which the archbishop uses to implement projects of unique interest in his archdiocese.

The launch took place at St Francis Xavier Sub-parish Church, Bweya, Kajjansi town council, Wakiso district, last Tuesday. It was graced by a number of Catholic priests, Christian leaders and ecclesial development partners.

SH10,000 DONATION

The reigning chairperson of SAAFU, Edward Kanyike, encouraged every Catholic to donate at least sh10,000 into the pool.

"We are about two million Catholics in the archdiocese. If every Christian donated sh10,000, we would have sh20b at the close of the year. We no longer have any option, but to be self-reliant," Kanyike said.

About sh60m was raised in cash and pledges. Among the major donors

were Centenary Bank (sh20m) and Gayaza Catholic Parish (sh15m).

During the same function, Ssemogerere also officially launched the construction of the proposed elderly/sickly priests' centre, to which this year's SAAFU collection will be committed.

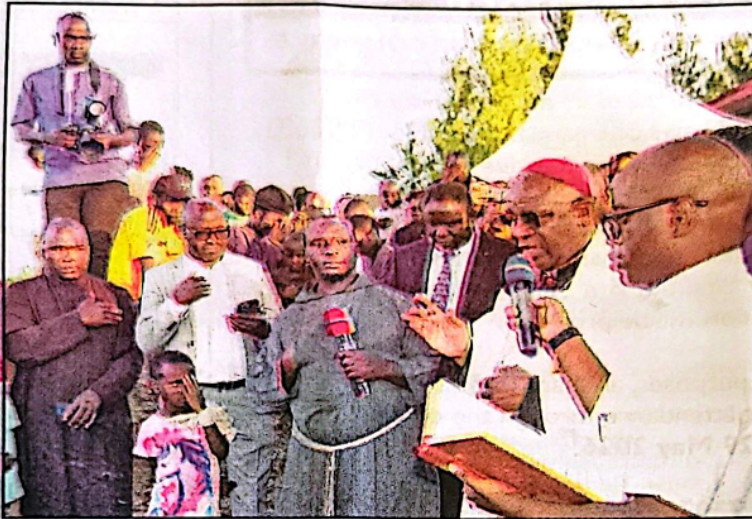
POPULARISING THE PROJECT

Ssemogerere asked the Christian leaders in all the parishes of his archdiocese to popularise the project and also encourage the Christians to donate towards its implementation.

He said the proposed rest house would not be for the ordained priests alone, but all people would have the privilege to benefit from its services.

Currently, we have two priests staying at Nalukolongo in Rubaga division, Kampala. One of them is from Hoima. We also have priests at Nabbingo. Some priests have also been taken to St Augustine Institute Nsambya. We also have a house at Nsambya that was built by Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala and Bishop Christopher Kakooza, where we have previously sent sick priests. But all those houses have serious limitations regarding age and health, which is why we came up with the idea of constructing a specialised facility here at Bweya," Ssemogerere said.

PHOTO BY MATHIAS MAZINGA



Archbishop Paul Ssemogerere (second-right) praying as he launched the construction of elderly, sickly priests' centre at St Francis Xavier Catholic-parish Bweya last Tuesday

23-ACRE SITE AT BWEYA SUB-PARISH

He added that the house will not be for priests alone.

"Lay people will also be at liberty to get the services of the facility at a fee that will be used to maintain the same facility. But still, even people in good health will have the privilege to come and rest from here," he said.

Ssemogerere thanked the pastoral executive council of St Padre Pio Catholic Parish, Kabulamuliro (led by Engineer Andrew Sserunjogi and Fr Remegio Kasibante) for allowing him to give away the land at Bweya sub-parish church, on which the facility will be constructed. He also lauded them for their project support.

Ssemogerere later asked the priests and pastoral council leaders in the archdiocese to do greater mobilisation among the Christians to ensure the facility is put up during the next couple of years, to give way to the implementation of other projects.

Earlier, Fr Vianney Ssekalaala, one of the architects, briefed the stakeholders about the facility's master plan and assured them of the suitability/viability of the 23-acre site.

As a gesture of launching the project, archbishop Ssemogerere unveiled the foundation stone of the proposed elderly priests' house.

He later operated a backhoe at the site flanked by area church leaders.

EBOLA SECURITY TIPS

During the same function, Archbishop Ssemogerere regretted the cancellation/postponement of the celebration of Uganda Martyrs Day.

He said that, much as the development was painful, the Government had decided with the right intention of protecting Ugandans and other pilgrims from being infected by the deadly disease.

He said each bishop would arrange for the Christians in his diocese to celebrate the day and that the respective arrangements would be communicated.