



The calf rhino and its mother grazing at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary in Nakasongola

New addition to endangered Rhino

NAKASONGOLA

By Frederick Kivanuka

The July-August season has turned out to be a rhino baby boom for Uganda after yet another baby rhino was born at the Nakasongola-based Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary on Saturday.

The Saturday morning birth, which brings the number of the highly endangered rhinos in the country to 21, comes a few weeks after the birth of the 20th one last month. Last month, a male baby rhino was born at the same sanctuary.

Angie Genade, the executive director of Rhino Fund Uganda, the NGO that runs Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, said the new calf was born to Laloyo, a five-and-a-half-year old female and Moja, a 17-year-old male.

Genade said the latest birth, which is Laloyo's

first calf, was the 16th to be born at the sanctuary since it was opened in 2004.

Rhino Fund Uganda, which has been running the 7,000 hectare Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary since 2004, aims at re-introducing the highly endangered rhinos into the Ugandan national parks through a breed-and-release programme.

Initially, six breeding rhinos were brought in from the US and Kenya. An excited Genade noted that the number of rhinos at the sanctuary had in a period of only 13 years increased to 21 from the original six that were imported into the country in 2004/2005.

She said the short inter calve interval was due to the safe environment and excellent grazing throughout the year.

Rhinos had become extinct in Uganda as a result of poaching and the wars. Many of them were killed both for meat and their horns.