



President Museveni (holding hat) with the First Lady, some family members and religious leaders in Rubindi, Mbarara district yesterday. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssengendo

IMPORTANCE OF FEEDING

The President said once the children are fed, they will study well and perform better in class

By Abdulkarim Ssengendo

President Yoweri Museveni has called on parents to pack food for their school-going children when the term begins.

Museveni said the move will not only enable children to study well, but also allow the Government to concentrate on addressing other challenges faced in the education sector, such as building staff houses and classrooms in schools.

He noted that the Government will not be able to feed all primary school children who are more than nine million.

The President made the remarks yesterday while addressing people who turned up to attend New Year's Day prayers at St Joseph Rubindi Catholic Parish in Kashari North, Mbarara district.

The event also doubled as the official opening of the church whose construction cost sh650m. The Auxiliary Bishop of Mbarara Diocese, Lambert Bainomugisha, presided over the consecration of the church. On the same day about 130 couples were blessed in Holy Matrimony.

The President, who was accompanied by the First Lady and education minister, Janet Museveni, as well as other family members also encouraged parishioners to engage in income-generating activities to improve family income. He also asked Mbarara district leaders to monitor government-funded projects to ensure funds are put to proper use.

The President commended the people of Rubindi for transforming the area, which he

Museveni asks parents to pack lunch for children

said has changed greatly compared to how he found it when he first visited in the 1960s. He was earlier informed by the Rubindi Parish priest, Fr Felix Bikwasizehi, that the people of Rubindi are hardworking and many of them have built good houses.

Rubindi Parish covers the five sub-counties of Bucuro, Rwanyamahembe, Kashare, Kagongi and Rubindi. It also partially covers Rubaya and Bubaare sub-counties. The parish has a total population of about 150,000 people who grow bananas and coffee, and look after livestock.

The Member of Parliament for Kashari North, Wilberforce Yaguma, commended Museveni for the love and commitment he has for the people of Rubindi. Earlier, Bikwasizehi had told the congregation that President Museveni's support has enabled the parish to expand their banana plantation to 15 acres of improved bananas, giving them an estimated monthly income of sh6m. He was also commended for the 20 goats which he gave to Rubindi women's group that have since multiplied to over 300. The President also gave the parish a milk cooler with a capacity of 2,000 litres, among others.

President pledges support
Museveni gave the church sh20m and pledged sh30m more towards the construction of the

Museveni promised to give Rubindi parish a solar-powered irrigation system to enable them overcome water shortage during dry spells. He also promised to set up a Police post around Rubindi parish to protect people. His promises followed a report by Bikwasizehi that robbery was high in the area. Museveni also pledged to extend a three-phase electricity network to the area. The President was also requested to give them a lorry to assist in transporting farm in-puts and produce which he committed himself to provide, in addition to fulfilling his earlier pledge of chain-link to fence off and protect the parish's mango orchard against monkeys and thieves.

PROMISES

Blessed Virgin Mary's home, which is estimated to cost sh87m. He also promised to operationalise the establishment of a

demonstration centre for Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) at the parish. This was after Bikwasizehi informed the President that during a meeting for all religious leaders, which was held in Mbarara, they resolved that Rubindi Parish be made the demonstration centre for OWC.

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Yaguma requested the President to help them upgrade one of the health facilities in the area to a health centre IV, to enable people get better services.

He also asked him to give them experts who will skill residents in the area on how to profitably utilise their congested land.

The Mbarara district chairman, Caq Bamuturaki Tumusiime, congratulated the President on winning the 2017 Africa Liberation Prize, which is conferred by the African Liberation Award Committee.

The committee recognised the outstanding contribution of President Museveni to the continent. Museveni became the first personality to win the award after former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere, former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda, Bamuturaki also commended MPs passing the age limit Bill. In attendance MPs Nathan Itungo (Kashari South), C Ngabirano (Rwampara County) for Karisa (Ibanda Woman) and Je Tumuramy (Kashongi County).