

Museveni honours late Prof. Aniku, pays 50 cows dowry for nephew

By Robert Ariaka

President Yoweri Museveni has advised the people of Uganda to marry from outside their clans in order to mix genetically, arguing that Ugandans should not be like whites who marry their cousins.

He said marrying outside one's clan also helps to extend relationships and in fighting tribalism.

He was on Saturday speaking at the memorial service of the late Prof. Jacob Robert Francis Aniku, in Ogoko sub-county, Moyo district at the deceased's home.

Aniku, who studied soil science and became one of the outstanding scientists in handling soil analysis for crop production zoning in Uganda, died in 2005 at the age of 62.

The President hailed Aniku as a good man. He also said he had come to the deceased's home to "domesticate the children of the late Aniku who have taken long without staying in their home village of Degia, Ogoko sub-county".

Addressing thousands of people who attended the function, the President also said he had come to pay the dowry of Joan Okia, who is married to Joseph Okia, the son of Museveni's sister, Violet Kajubiri. He paid 50 head of cattle as dowry and appealed to the two clans to work together for development.

The president warned men who mistreat women to stop it, arguing that without women, such men would not exist. He lamented that Africans do not care about girls, a practice which he described as a bad culture that needs to be changed. "The NRM government has come in to promote and educate people on how to treasure their girls, so that they can be respected," he said.

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PRESIDENT WARNS MEN



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Daughters of the late Aniku lay a wreath on his grave on Saturday. Left is President Yoweri Museveni and widow Rebecca Aniku (second-left). Photo by Bosco King

Aniku, described her father as a man who treasured education for his children and empowered girls.

On the issue of development, the President reiterated his promise to elevate Inde Technical School to a diploma awarding institution, in memory of Aniku, who started the institution. He also promised to construct a road from Pakwach to Obongi, all the way to Difule in Moyo



Ismail Ogama Alli

district, to help promote tourism and ease deployment of the armed forces.

He also promised to deliver four tractors for the two counties of lower and upper Madi, to promote large-scale farming. The President was concerned over the lack of electricity in the lower belt of the Nile and directed his secretaries to consider the issue of electricity, saying it needs to be addressed with urgency.

On the issue of water, Museveni said the Government can help pump water from River Nile and supply to the people using gravity scheme system.

Ismail Ogama Alli, the Member of Parliament for Lower Madi, described Aniku as a kind man, who championed the socio-political transformation of the people of Madi county then. Aniku also represented Madi in the Constituent Assembly.

Ogama reminded the President about the sub-counties of Ewanga and Rigbo, which have no secondary schools. He also requested for tractors, which the President said would be given soon.

He commended President Museveni for solving the long-standing Ewanga sub-county conflict between Arua and Yumbe, where the President said the colonial map be used, which now places Ewanga in Arua district.