

MPs decry cruel practices

AMUDAT

By Olandason Wanyama

A section of lawmakers have urged communities in Amudat district to replace the negative cultural practices with better and positive ideas that will develop them.

The legislators urged households still practising female genital mutilation (FGM) to abandon the ancient culture and embrace modernity.

The function was celebrated under the theme, 'Community to community outreaches, effective means to promote FGM/C abandonment.'

The Amudat Woman MP, Rose Nauwat, who was the chief guest at Polot culture day, held at Alakes Primary School in Amudat on Friday, said FGM has increased maternal mortality and fistula among women.

"We have lost many women due to this negative practice and we need to do away with it order to save lives," Nauwat said.

She urged the communities to join hands to ensure that FGM is eradicated.

Nauwat also encouraged residents of Amudat to embrace government programmes such as Operation Wealth Creation, saying it is aimed at ensuring that households earn at least sh20m annually.

"The Government has put in place measures to ensure people's income improve so that hunger and poverty are history. Let us support the cause," she said.

The Luuka County MP, John Bagole Ngobi, who also attended the celebrations, urged residents to think of new cultures.

Christopher Akorikirimoe, the Amudat MP, revealed that there was progress in eradicating FGM in the district, saying



Pokot women entertain guests at the ninth Pokot Cultural Day in Amudat district

In Karamoja, 96 villages were declared FGM-free out of 225

most girls were now reporting to Police whenever they are forced into the vice.

"We have registered several girls attending school. At least communities have seen the bad side of the practice," he noted.

The United Nations Karamoja region area co-ordinator, Sati Mohamed, said his organisation was honoured to be part of

the movement, where girls and women stay uncircumcised.

"In Karamoja, 96 villages were declared FGM-free out of 225. Amudat has 9,634 villages. This is a big step towards ending the practice in Amudat and Karamoja," he said.

The Amudat district chairperson, Francis Kiyonga, appealed to the United Nations Children's Fund to take the function to villages prone to FGM.

The district resident commissioner, David Ssempe, vowed to arrest FGM perpetrators, advising the surgeons to think of other alternative means of survival.

He said the Government was holding talks with Kenya to ensure that FGM becomes history.