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KAMPALA. Former army commander and State minister for Works, Gen Katumba Wamala, has said they will engage Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) to equip pupils with military drills in order to build a cadre of patriotic Ugandans.

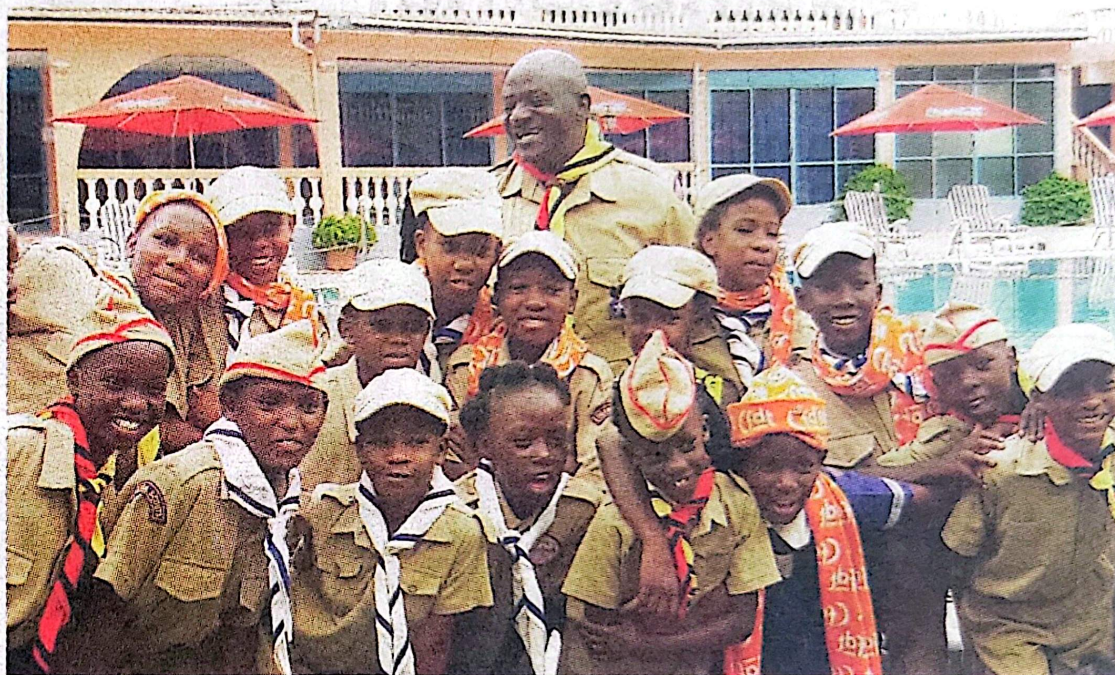
Speaking at a breakfast meeting in Kampala aimed at raising funds for this year's annual scouts camp scheduled for this weekend at Kazi in Wakiso District, Gen Katumba said it is important to equip scouts with military drills because there are a number of positive traits to learn from the military.

"I will use my contacts to ensure that we popularise the scouts movement in the country again because it had gone down. This would be a way of building good soldiers for the UPDF," he said.

Brig Phineas Katirima, the director of education in the UPDF who represented the army commander, said introducing military skills to pupils at an early age creates a genre of people who have love for their country and are able defend it from vices such as corruption and external aggression.

"First you learn to love yourself, to help community and eventually the love for the country develops. We are ready to support Uganda Scouts Association if they approach us because there is something to learn from the military," he said.

Govt to equip pupils with military drills



Light moment. Gen Katumba Wamala, the chief commissioner for scouts (far centre), shares a light moment with scouts during the breakfast meeting in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO BY STEPHEN OTAGE

Mr Richard Okello, the executive secretary of Uganda Scouts Association, said they have revamped the association with creation of a new board and are targeting at recruiting five million scouts by 2025.

"We have Gen Katumba who is the chief commissioner for scouts and he reports directly to President Mu-

seveni who is our patron. We have Mr David Bahati, there is a good leadership structure to steer the scouts movement," he said.

Mr Okello said there are various activities to be conducted at the camp which include urban farming, nutrition, computer and leadership skills trainings, among others.

ENGAGING UPDF

Reason. Gen Katumba, has said they will engage UPDF to equip pupils with military drills in order to build a cadre of patriotic Ugandans.