



Kusasira, Ocan and Kavuma during the handover ceremony in Mbuya, Kampala. Photo by Abou Kisige

Wazalendo SACCOS funds UPDF hospital

By Abou Kisige

The army Savings and Credit Co-operative Society (SACCOS), Wazalendo, has contributed sh130m towards the construction and renovation of a maternity centre at Bombo Military Hospital in Luwero district.

Wazalendo chairperson Brig. Samuel Kavuma said the move is aimed at saving children and mothers from dying due to pregnancy-related complications.

"Saving life is a fundamental part of Wazalendo and we are committed to serving our community through corporate social responsibility," Kavuma said.

He noted that the contribution provides an opportunity to build better relationships with their stakeholders by paying close attention to their needs.

Wazalendo is one of the biggest SACCOS in the country worth billions of shillings. The SACCOS also contributed sh4m to the Chiefdom of Education, Culture and Sports to help support sports activities within the Uganda People's Defence Forces.

Kavuma urged members of Wazalendo to continue practising the culture of saving because it is crucial for economic development.

He noted that the only way to solve human needs is through collective effort, rather than doing it individually. He added that the state can offer help to collective effort.

The chief executive officer of Wazalendo SACCOS, Brig. Simon Nicholas Ocan, said there is no country in the world, which has developed without people saving.

"Donor countries have developed because they embraced a saving culture," Ocan said.

He noted that President Yoweri Museveni's concern is the 68% homesteads that are still practising subsistence agriculture.

"As we save as officers in uniform, there is need to encourage, educate and teach the public to embrace the saving culture to transform their communities," Ocan said.

The director of medical services, Col. Dr Stephen Kusasira, appreciated Wazalendo the contribution.

He said Bombo Military Hospital is a big catchment area for the country.

"When you enter the hospital, it is like the United Nations of Uganda because patients come from any part of the Great Lakes region," Kusasira said.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

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Bombo Military Hospital is the largest military hospital in Uganda and also serves civilians from the districts of Luwero, Wakiso, Kampala and Mukono, among others.

Kusasira said the exercise to expand and renovate the maternity ward is a timely intervention. The centre had been designed to hold about 10 beds, but monthly, the centre receives about 700 patients for antenatal care of which 300 deliver from the facility. About 80 deliveries are by C-section, with 10 daily deliveries.

Kusasira said the figures are worrying and, sometimes, they are forced to improvise by allowing mothers to sleep on the floor.

The director of the chiefdom of culture and sports, Brig. Phinehas Katirima, said the sports activities within the UPDF have the objective of enhancing soldiers' fitness.

Katirima thanked Wazalendo for supporting UPDF sports activities.