

Tarehe Sita: Soldiers clean Entebbe streets, hospital

By Julius Luwemba

Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) soldiers in Entebbe on Saturday cleaned the municipality's streets as part of activities to commemorate Tarehe Sita Day. It is the day the National Resistance Army (NRA) launched its armed struggle in 1981.

Led by Col. Peter Chandia, soldiers spent much of Saturday cleaning areas of Entebbe. They cleaned the streets of Abaita Ababiri, Entebbe General Hospital and Entebbe town before proceeding to Comprehensive Secondary School, Nakiwogo where a medical camp was set to give free treatment to residents.

In his remarks, Col. Chandia, said given this year's theme, 'Reaffirming the contribution of armed forces towards integration for our strategic security, development and prosperity,' Africa is currently looking forward to re-integration as a resurrection from the past colonial policies.

The Entebbe mayor, Vincent de

Paul Kayanja, applauded President Museveni for ensuring discipline in the army. He welcomed an idea of integrated East Africa with a united army.

Entebbe resident district commissioner (RDC) Rose Kirabira commended the commitment and discipline always exhibited by the UPDF soldiers.

The Tarehe Sita celebrations week, which was officially launched on Wednesday, will reach climax tomorrow with the national celebrations in Butaleja district, eastern Uganda.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State for Works, Gen Katumba Wamala, has urged residents of Budaka district to constantly clean their environment so as to safeguard themselves from diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, dysentery and trachoma.

Gen. Katumba made the call while launching the 37th UPDF Tarehe Sita civil-military activities at Budaka Health Centre IV where the UPDF medical team is involved in free male circumcision, free



UPDF soldiers cleaning the streets of Abaita Ababiri in Wakiso on Saturday. Photo by Julius Luwemba

HIV/AIDS counselling and testing. Other services offered are free dental and eyecare checks and maternity works, among other medical services, according to a defence ministry statement.

The minister applauded UPDF for stabilising the country and reminded

them not to forget their primary role of co-operating with the civilian community.

Gen. Katumba thanked the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Gen. Yoweri Museveni, for laying the foundation of an army that is hardworking and disciplined that can

be used as a vehicle in strengthening the EAC integration process — where a bigger market will be created and labour will move freely.

He cautioned parents not to send indiscipline children into the army, saying that this would jeopardise the already secure environment.