

We are too few to embrace family planning, say Banyoro

HOIMA

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Bunyoro leaders have expressed reservations about a campaign to raise awareness on family planning aimed at improving the socio-economic status of residents in Hoima district.

During a meeting aimed at expanding partnerships to meet Uganda's family planning goals at Kijungu hill Hotel in Hoima on Monday. The leaders said accelerating family planning in Bunyoro is unwise because they are a minority tribe. The meeting was organised by Engender Health Uganda.

The 2014 national population census revealed that the Banyoro are 960,000 out of the over 35 million Ugandans.

Jackson Mugenyi Mulindambura, the Hoima district secretary for health and education, said Banyoro are among the ethnic groups that are on the verge of extinction.

Mulindambura, whose submission generated a lot of debate, said even the Omukama of Bunyoro does not encourage his subjects to use family planning because over 2.4 million Banyoro were killed during the colonial period.

He said Bunyoro scores poorly in most health indicators because of the migrant communities who are multiplying fast unlike the indigenous Banyoro.

The kingdom's premier, Norman Lukumu, said the population of Banyoro is estimated to be about 2.5 million people and that the figure generated by Uganda Bureau of Statistics survey was not accurate. Bunyoro comes third countrywide in poor contraceptive use.

Hoima has a population of 617,000 with a 4.2% growth rate and 5.4% fertility rate.

The dialogue was supported by the Advocacy to Action project.

Iddi Mugenyi, the public relations officer of the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council in Bunyoro district, said Muslims believe that God will provide for any child and so reducing the number of children through family planning is unacceptable.