

iko address



Swaria district leaders, watering a tree he planted during competition at Swaria Primary School

# Soroti MP launches school environmental conservation competition

By Godfrey Ojore

Soroti municipality MP Edmund Herbert Ariko recently launched a schools' environmental conservation competition in his area.

According to Ariko, the campaign is aimed at making Soroti a clean and green town. The competition will feature 32 primary schools in Soroti municipality. The winners will get prizes and visit tourist sites in the country. "Involving children in pioneering issues of conservation is one way of safeguarding our environment. These children can help in reaching out to our communities to preserve the environment," Ariko said during the launch of the competition at Swaria Primary School.

"We want to see children plant trees on all the roads leading to their schools and that can be possible with the support of the teachers," Ariko explained.

The competition will last four months. It will involve schools beautifying their compounds by planting flowers, having a garden and a forest.

"The environmental clubs that emerge number one and the runners up will win a trip to nature conservation sites and visit parliament," Ariko said.

The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) donated seedlings to primary schools in the municipality.

"We have cut down trees to build beautiful

houses, yet in actual sense we are doing a disservice to the next generation," Persis Basemera, the senior environmental education officer at NEMA, said.

Basemera thanked Ariko for the initiative to involve children in the drive to restore the environment.

The Soroti town clerk, Emmanuel Banya, cautioned residents against keeping animals in town, saying they litter it with dung.

"Teachers are also rearing animals in town. I call upon you to take your animals to your villages before law enforcement officers swing into action," Banya warned.

He instructed local council leaders to convene a meeting with residents over the issue of domestic animals in the town.

Ariko also procured a machine which will collect and manage garbage and waste in the town. The machine is yet to be installed.

Soroti mayor Paul Omer expressed optimism that the competition will change the face of Soroti because children will attain knowledge and use it in their communities.

Soroti district chairperson Girigori Mikairi Egunyu appealed to NEMA to supply the district with seedlings to be planted at all Government institutions such as sub-counties, schools and hospitals, among others.

Teachers welcomed the initiative and promised that within a short period of time,

their school environment would not be the same.

"Trees make a compound beautiful on top of providing shade and fruits. We thank Ariko for partnering with NEMA on this," Nicholas Ojacora teacher of Swaria Primary School said.

Pupils of Goshen Primary School reading the Newspapers in Education pull-out Photos by Godfrey Ojore



Pupils of Madera Boys School



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Pupils of Swaria Primary School during the launch



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