

Fishing communities decry limited access to government schools

BUIKWE

By Doreen Musingo

Fishing communities living on the shores of Lake Victoria in Buikwe district have decry the lack of government-aided schools, saying long distances to the available education institutions are affecting children's learning, increasing school dropout rates.

The concerns were raised on Tuesday during a community engagement organised by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) with leaders of fisheries committees from various landing sites in Buikwe. The meeting aimed at assessing challenges affecting vulnerable communities in fishing areas.

The leaders told officials from the commission that some pupils trek between 5km and 10km daily to reach the nearest Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools, while those seeking secondary education face even greater hardships due to the absence of Universal Secondary Education (USE)



EOC's Muziransa

schools in the landing sites.

"We are suffering because our children do not have schools nearby. Some leave home very early and return late, exhausted. Others end up dropping out because the journey is too long," John Kamyamba from Nalyazi landing site said.

Kamyamba added that the available school from Nalyazi to Lugoba landing site is far away, yet they have children starting from three years of age who are interested in learning.

Ramathan Kayuwa from Buweera said the nearest school from Buweera to Namusanga village is about 5km. He added

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Antony Ssentamu, a resident, said the absence of nearby government secondary schools has left many children stranded after completing Primary Seven.

"Most parents cannot afford private secondary schools. Children complete primary education and remain at home because there are no USE schools within reach," he said.

Ssentamu appealed to the Government through the Equal Opportunities Commission to lobby for the establishment of more UPE and USE schools for landing site communities. Buikwe district education officer Kizito Musasizi admitted that accessibility to government schools is a challenge.

"We have 73 UPE and seven USE schools in the whole district, however, Kiyindi town council lacks a USE school," he added.

BETWEEN THE LINES

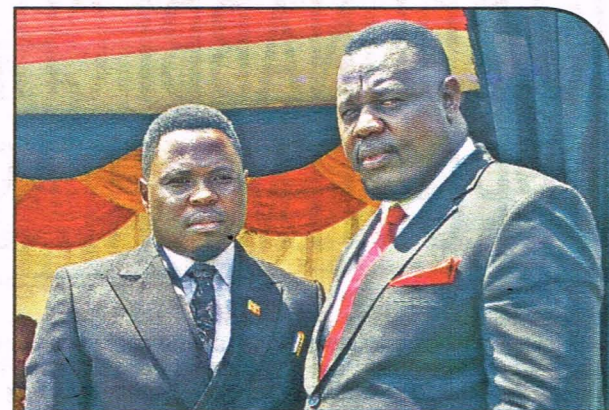
Officials from the commission acknowledged the challenges faced by fishing communities and pledged to present the concerns to relevant government authorities.

that many families depend on fishing for survival and cannot afford transport costs or fees in private schools, forcing

their children to study far from home.

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The EOC spokesperson, Yusuf Muziransa, said education remains a fundamental right for all children, regardless of where they live, and they deserve equal access to quality learning opportunities.



MP Zaake with Mukambwe at the swearing-in ceremony for the Mityana municipality leaders

Mityana municipality appeals for road unit

MITYANA

By Luke Kagiri

Mityana mayor Faustin Mukambwe has appealed to the Government for a road unit, to enable the municipality to construct more community roads currently in a bad state.

Speaking shortly after swearing-in as mayor for a second term, Mukambwe asked Members of Parliament to lobby for the equipment.

About the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) programme, where more roads, taxi parks, and markets are to be worked on, Mukambwe asked the people

of Mityana to co-operate and embrace the initiative.

"USMID has come to improve and change the image of our town. So, whoever is affected should bear with it," he said.

Mityana Municipality MP Francis Zaake promised to work with the municipal leaders to ensure that the people of Mityana get services.

"We shall lobby, monitor and follow up on everything to ensure that our people live a better life by getting the services they are supposed to get," Zaake said.

He warned the municipal leaders to avoid bribery and corruption to serve all people well, which he said would further enable them to fulfil their duties.