



مجلس الشباب العربي والإفريقي
AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL (AAYC)
Conseil de la Jeunesse Arabe - Africaine

AERABIA *Magazine*

WIDENING NETWORKS



19TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversary Theme:
**Healthy Youth,
Wealthy Nations**



Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba, Secretary General AAYC paid a courtesy visit to the President of Kenya H. E. William Ruto.



Hon. Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahwegi, President AAYC, meeting with Hon. Maj. Jessica Alupo, Vice President of The Republic of Uganda

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COUNCIL (AAYC)

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His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni with Hon. Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahwegi, President AAYC

Foreword

Celebrating the 19th anniversary of the Afro Arab Youth Council under the theme ‘Healthy Youths, Wealthy Nation’ is a great achievement.

Despite the setbacks brought by the Arab Spring, the Afro Arab Youth Council has been able to bounce back and leverage on its mission and vision: To remobilize and empower the youth of Arab and Africa to achieve peace and development! As Afro-Arab Youth Council, we are committed to pursuing the youth empowerment

agenda to ensure that youth are well nurtured and mentored towards the right channels of peace, unity and development through apt skilling and education

Due to the shared history, values, culture and norms, both Arab and African regions are faced with new influences at a global level disguised as human rights and freedoms that pose a threat to our societies. This can only be resisted through concerted efforts of both parties under their leaders.

Afro Arab Youth Council is focused on organizational stabilization with priority given to construction of the headquarters complex in Uganda. We have so far acquired land, fast tracked the signing of the Host Country Agreement with the Ugandan government and handled expert staff recruitment.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Patron of Afro Arab Youth Council, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the continued support and revamping of the Afro Arab Youth Council. The efforts of the staff in their respective capacities towards achieving our goal and mission are also appreciated.

Please enjoy as you traverse through the 19th anniversary celebration journey of Afro Arab Youth Council. ■

Brief on the 19th anniversary

It is now 19 years since the Afro Arab Youth Council was founded on a solid vision of youth, peace, unity, and development.

Since its inception, we have witnessed the growth and achievements of this organization including but not limited to; providing a foundation and platform for the expression of youth issues, mentoring leaders at different levels and buttressing the different governments' efforts in empowering youth.

Recently, the Afro Arab Youth Council signed the Host Country Agreement with the Government of Uganda which was the pending event to initiate the headquarters' fundraising strategy, spear headed by H.E Y.K. Museveni,

the President of Uganda and Patron of the Afro Arab Youth Council.

We have been able to fast track and acquire land for the construction of the five projects International headquarters (i.e. an Office block, a Stadium, a Hotel of International standing, a University of Science and Technology and a Cultural Heritage center) and the fundraising process is underway.

We aim to promote the ideology of commonality of interests as opposed to the politics of identity, promote cooperation and networking for jobs, investments, markets, scholarships etc. between the different African and Arab investors & entrepreneurs, and to act as a lobby group that advocates for youth in the different countries.

Afro Arab Youth Council also endeavors to avail space and opportunity for youth to



*Hon. Dr. Agaba Abbas
Secretary General*

engage in the developmental agendas of their countries.

I therefore implore you to join in and support the Afro Arab Youth Council through renewing our memberships, re-awakening our strategic allies and partnerships in the region and diaspora for the posterity and empowerment of the African and Arab youth.



Hon. Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahweji, President of AAYC with Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba Mugisha at Busoooko falls.

19TH ANNIVERSARY DIALOGUE AT KIU

“Every year, the AAYC celebrates its Anniversary with a series of activities that emphasize specific thematic areas. In 2023, the anniversary celebrations took place on March 9th, featuring a Dialogue at Kampala International University (KIU) to commemorate the 19th anniversary under the theme **‘Healthy Youths, Wealthy Nations.’**

During this event, the Afro Arab Youth Council KIU Chapter was inaugurated by the AAYC President and Vice Chancellor of KIU, Dr. Mouhamad

Mpezamihigo, along with AAYC Secretary General, Hon. Abbas Agaba. Guests included Libya’s Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Ibrahim Ahmed Sultan, delegates from Sudan, Morocco, Libya, South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria attended the dialogue, with the guest of honor being the Deputy Ambassador of Morocco to Uganda, His Excellency Elhoussaine Rahmouni who sits at Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania.

Dr. Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, the Vice Chancellor of KIU, extended a warm welcome to the AAYC executive delegation. Some of the ideas discussed included offering scholarships to KIU students and finding ways for the organization to collaborate with the university.

As a youth organization, we extended invitations to several schools to participate. Students from Mengo Secondary School, Kibuli Secondary School, Kampala International University, and Cavendish University joined us. This gathering brought together youth representatives, researchers, policymakers, and development practitioners from Africa and the Arab regions to deliberate on recent advancements in youth health and nation-building in the Afro-Arab region.

The first session focused on evaluating the effectiveness of ongoing Agenda 2063 flagship programs in addressing youth health and empowerment issues in the Afro-Arab Region.” ■



Pictorial moment with the KIU board members and the AAYC executive board at the 19th Anniversary Dialogue-KIU



Hon Phiona Nyamutooro the National Female Youth MP addressing during the 19th AAYC dialogue at KIU



AAYC President Dr. Hon. Abdul Haddi Lahweji with Dr. Ibrahim Ssali, the Moroccan Consular to Uganda at KIU.



Kibuli SS students with the Dept. Amb. of Morocco to Uganda H.E Ibrahim Ahmed Sultan.

AAYC's Impact on the Community

The AAYC in partnership with the Makerere university Red Cross chapter organized a community give back to the people in and around Makerere University to celebrate with the AAYC Makerere University 100years of existence. AAYC has a very active AAYC chapter and these were at the forefront of implementing this activity.

The giving back exercise included; tree planting at Makerere Police Station, cleanup in Katanga community, and three schools from Katanga were given scholastic materials like books, pencils, pens etc. which included Emirates Nursery and Primary School, Rosalio Primary School and BCD Nursery and Primary School plus Wandegeya Muslim Primary School. With the help of 7 hills organisation, the teams were able to clean the Katanga's trenches, community and within its corridors thoroughly.

The Launch at Makerere Police Station.

The event started at the Makerere Police Station where a team of Makerere Red Cross Chapter and a team of Afro Arab Youth Council Makerere Chapter and AAYC secretariat staff members cleaned and scrubbed the Police Station from 7:30am to 9:00am.

The guest of honor Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba Secretary General of Afro Arab Youth Council and the Patron of Makerere Red Cross Chapter Dr. Nassozi Muwanga arrived at 9:00am and planted trees at the Police Station to support the climate change and environmental protection agenda.

The Secretary General of AAYC appreciated the efforts of the youth towards improvement of sanitation and hygiene for better standards of living. He then flagged off the activity and the mass of participants headed to Katanga community with the help of 7 hills services, both teams from AAYC and Makerere Red Cross Chapter cleaned and donated scholastic materials, sanitary pads and clothes to the three school. At about 11:00am, both teams headed to Wandegeya Muslim Primary Schools where a counselling team from Makerere Red Cross Chapter sensitized the students and encouraged them to protect themselves from killer diseases, including Ebola, HIV AIDS, Cholera, Covid 19 and scholastic materials were donated too.

Excerpts from the Speech of the AAYC Secretary General at the give back to the community project. Hon. Dr. Agaba Abbas

“On behalf of the AAYC, I appreciate the fact that the youth are thoughtful of the community which is a positive sign for peaceful coexistence.



*MS. AMINA HILMI
Deputy Secretary General, AAYC*

We are thankful to God for this day, as we give back to humanity. It's important to always thank God when we still have an opportunity and capacity to do so.

Allow me give a brief background about the AAYC and most importantly our recent milestone where the AAYC Patron H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni offered land in Nakawuka for the construction of the headquarters and it will be called the AAYC Village.

The AAYC Village will house the office block, stadium, cultural heritage Centre, a five star hotel, recreation facility and University of Science & echnology! welcome all of you young people present to pay us a visit at the AAYC secretariat in Bunamwaya just below Aggrey Memorial secondary school, so you may learn more about the organisation and opportunities available for you.”

Excerpts from the speech of the Chairperson Makerere Red Cross Chapter Prof. Nassozi Muwanga

“I am excited for the thoughtful partnership with Afro Arab



Guest of Honour Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba, Secretary General AAYC, being welcomed by Dr. Nassozi K. Muzwanga, Patron of Makerere University Red Cross Chapter and Executive Director Julius Nyerere Leaders with Makerere Students Red Cross Chapter.

Youth Council to give back to the community as we mark 100 years of existence of Makerere University. Because we are the community, giving back to the community is giving back to humanity.

The greatest proponent of such an act of humanity was Mwalimu Julius Nyerere one of the founding fathers of Pan Africanism. The idea of giving back is a way of building for the future and I thank the students and AAYC staff for the positive energy, spirit and excitement while giving back and cleaning Katanga Community.

The Ubuntu culture as advanced by another iconic leader Nelson Mandela is a pivot for society to thrive and co-existence. It is part and parcel of our African culture, it is within our values and should not go away. I appeal to us all that this activity should be done annually.

I welcome AAYC to Makerere University, I am sure many of you went through the gates of Makerere university and you are products of this great institution. Feel at home as we go through the activities of the day.” ■



AAYC Secretary General Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba planting trees to launch the give back to community activity at Makerere University Police Station.



AAYC Staff carrying out a community cleanup at Makerere.

KATANGA COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



AAYC led by Hon. Mariam Nalubega the Manager AAYC Liaison and the Makerere Red cross Chapter Staff handing over scholastic to the Headmistress Miss. Jane Nambale of Emirates Nursery School Katanga Community



Wandegeya Muslim School welcomes AAYC and Makerere Red Cross Chapter.



The head girl Wandegeya Muslim School receiving scholastic Materials from AAYC and Red Cross.

Taking Stock of the Agenda 2063 (10 Years Now)

African Heads of State and Government signed the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration during the Golden jubilee celebration of the formation of the AOU/AU in May 2013.

Ten years by now, (10 years) every active Citizen would have heard of Transforming our World; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or, simply the SDGs' and every active Citizen would have also heard of African Union Agenda 2063. Whereas the SDGs' goals apply to the world in its entirety and did not distinguish between Nations whether developed or developing, Agenda 2063 is very specific to African Nations, It's a strategic framework for development of the African Continent with, a vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force of hope."

This is the African Blue print and Master Plan for transforming Africa into a global power house of the future. It's the Continent's Strategic Framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and a concrete manifestation of the Pan-African drive for Unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity persuade under



***Mariam Nalubega (Hon)**
Manager Youth And Civil
Society
Afro-Arab Youth Council
Secretariat*

Pan Africanism and African renaissance.

The African Heads of States affirmed their commitment to support Africans' new path for attaining inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development marking a re-dedication of Africa towards the attainment of the Pan-African vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa in the International arena. Agenda 2063 is the concrete manifestation of how the continent intends to achieve the vision within a 50 year period i.e. from 2013-2063 as it was presented by Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma the former Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The Agenda 2063 also identifies key activities to be undertaken in its '10years' implementation Plan so as to deliver both quantitative and qualitative transformation outcomes for Africa's people. It is also well linked to the SDGs' as highlighted in its objectives and mission such as maintaining and preserving peace and security through

a united Africa (federal/federation) by promoting democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law, toward peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, transforming economies by promoting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with full and productive employment and decent work for all and many etc.

Africa has the youngest population in the world with more than **400 million** young people aged between age 15 to 35 years. This young population calls for an increased investment in economic and social development factors, in order to improve the development index of African Nations. The youths have a big role to play in the flagship projects of the African Union and the world at large, and there is need for the continent to harness the demographic dividend of the greatest asset (youth). The Agenda 2063 intrigues for a youth, **Action-oriented led leadership** movement that strives for participation, development and leadership of African youths to transform and achieve their rights to peace. Equality and social justice, stand for Africa's Values **'Ubuntu**, self-determination, Integrity, accountability in each of its endeavors. The youth's role in agenda 2063 begins with **grassroots implementation** which shall give meaningful involvement and participation coupled with youth co-operation, determination and self-drive. **"You will not be called on table simply because you are a youth"** the Africa we Want is the Africa we must build. ■

KITAGWENDA DISTRICT

Kitagwenda District was curved from Kamwenge District Government in the FY2019/20, with estimated population of 177,000 of which 51% are female and 49% are males. The District Political Leadership is headed by chairperson LCV and Chief Administrative Officer as head civil service.

The Department of Health is managed by the District Health Officer (DHO) - Dr. kahimakazi Irene, and in-charges of specific Health Centers. The District has Ntara Health Center IV, Kanara Health Center III, Mahyoro Health Center III, Kicheche Health Center III, Nyabbani Health Center III and Kakasi, Buhanda Bukurungu and Rwenjaza Health Center IIs.

These offer the following services; HIV services, Antenatal Post-Natal, Deliveries, In-Patient services, Outpatient Department, Laboratory services Dental and Ophthalmology services. Despite the above, we still face challenges in the Health Centres as follows.

The above-mentioned Health Centers (HCs) are inaccessible and even not allocated as per Ministry of Health guides: which recommends atleast each Sub-County or Town Council to have a Health Center III.

The Antenatal services in the District and general health issues still get challenges due to distance furthest facility is at 50kms and nearest is 18km.

Comparison of deliveries

Items	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
No. of deliveries from Health Centers	1706	3807	4884
No. of deliveries from home	157	1425	126
No. of premature	40	27	16
Total	1,903	5,259	5,036

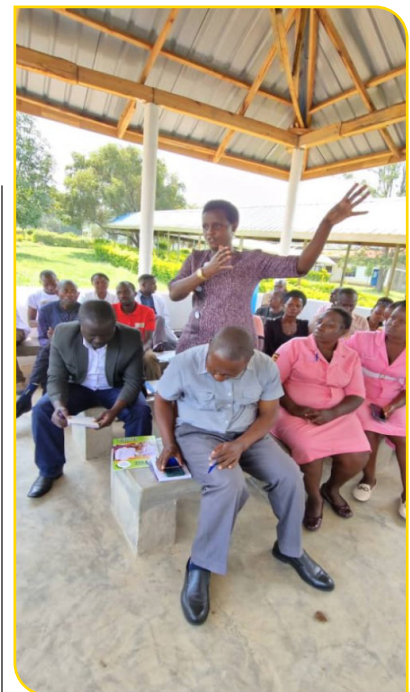
Conclusion

The health seeking behavior of the community in the District is positive, however, the outstanding challenge is mostly due to unavailability of drugs and drug stock-outs. More so the referrals to other referral medical facilities like Mbarara Medical Referral Hospital, Buhinga Referral made by the Health Centres is tideous due to lack of ambulance services.

This makes all referrals to common people challenging and end up seeking service of traditional birth attendants. Thus increase of post-natal infection and child deaths. ■



Speaker of the Kitagwenda district Council gives remarks during the second preparatory meeting of the health camp at Ntara Health Centre 4.



Councillor Doreen makes Her remarks at Ntara Health Centre 4 in a meeting held between a team from AAYC headquarters, the Kitagwenda District Local Government, and the leadership of Ntara health centre 4.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND AAYC JOINT HEALTH CAMP

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, AAYC had organized a medical camp slated for 5th-7th march, 2023 at Ntara Health Centre IV, Kitagwenda district.

It was projected that a surgical camp team of 30 specialists to conduct an inaugural AAYC regional medical/surgical camp in Tooro/Kitagwenda from 7th to 8th March 2023.

Specialists that comprise of surgeons, anesthesiologists, Obstetricians gynecologists and nurses were to be mobilized through AAYC partner organisations in Morocco, Egypt and Nigeria and other AAYC member countries; the Uganda medical interns association; the Kampala International University Medical school; Red cross Uganda, Makerere University Medical School and

the Ministry of Health.

Purpose of the camp

To foster Afro-Arab Cooperation in bridging knowledge and skills gap in the region through the pooling of regional expertise.

Rationale

Medical camps are an effective way to provision of medical care to people in rural area and have the added benefit of reducing costs incurred by both the health care system and the patient, reduce morbidity and mortality, enhances the image and high esteem held for physicians in the minds of the public.

Specific objectives of the medical camp.

- To offer free specialized medical and surgical services, thereby contributing to the alleviation of the existing disease burden and helping to address the SDGs

- To provide continuous medical education (CME) to health care workers
- To teach basic surgical and clinical management skills to health care workers possessing no specialized surgical training, but who may be required to provide surgical services in their hospitals.
- To eliminate or defray the financial costs associated with transferring patients to a referral hospital
- To provide the highest possible level of medical and surgical care to patients

However, in consultation with the International Executive Committee of AAYC, the Medical Camp was Postponed to a later date (to be communicated) to allow for proper preparations, processes and protocols for registration and clearing of doctors and also allow clearance of the equipment they may come along with. The medical Camp shall still be held together in partnership as had been planned. ■

THE HEALTH DIALOGUE:

Background:

Around 1.2 billion people, or 1 in 6 of the world's population, are Youths aged 10 to 19 according to WHO reports.

There is still substantial premature death, illness, and injury among young people. Illnesses can hinder their ability to grow and develop to their full potential. Alcohol or tobacco use, lack of physical activity, unprotected sex and/or exposure to violence can jeopardize not only their current health, but also their health as adults, and even the health of their future children.

Africa has the youngest population in the world with more than 400 million young people aged

between the ages of 15 to 35 years. Such a youthful population calls for an increase of investment in economic and social development factors, in order to improve the development index of African nations. There is need for the continent to harness the demographic dividend of the greatest asset, the youth and at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the vision of a "just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met." The SDGs call for action by all countries to end poverty and promote prosperity while protecting the planet. These core objectives must be pursued in tandem with strategies to foster economic growth and address a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting the environment. ■

HEALTH RUN IN TOORO SUB REGION KITAGWENDA DISTRICT



AAYC President Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahweji flagging off the health run in Kitagwenda district.



International Delegates Picture moment with children at the health Run

Scores thronged Ntutu playground on 6th March 2023 for the AAYC 19th anniversary health Run that was flagged off by King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, in Kitagwenda district.

This year's run, centered around the theme "Healthy Youths Wealthy Nations," aimed to instill a culture of well-being among both the young and elderly population of Kitagwenda district. The event witnessed a remarkable turnout, with over 500 enthusiastic participants eagerly flagged off by King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, including women, esteemed legends and elders, as well as individuals falling within the general category (15-40 years) along with spirited children at the vibrant Ntuntu Playground.

The highlight of the AAYC 19th Anniversary Celebrations Health Run in Tooro was the presentation of a heifer to the overall winner, symbolizing vitality and prosperity. Additionally, runners in various categories were rewarded with an array of exciting prizes, ranging from high-quality TV screens and bicycles to goats, comfortable mattresses, phones, and a host of other valuable gifts. Every participant was also acknowledged for their contribution with a commemorative T-shirt, making this event an inclusive and memorable celebration of health and community. ■



Health Run Involved school children at Ntutu playground.



Men getting ready to running off



AAYC Secretary General and President handing over a heifer



Representative of the president Mr.Longino Bahebwa handing over a bicycle



Group photo together with international delegates in Kitagwenda



MPOMA SCHOOL

Mpoma School is an, “O”And “A” levels girls only school with arts, science and vocational disciplines. The importance of girl education cannot be emphasized enough. This is what the founders of Mpoma School had in mind.

Mpoma School's Vision, is to be a modal girl's school of excellent academic standards and physical facilities that enhance honorable conduct and self-reliance.

They set out to groom responsible and God-fearing citizens by providing an education that would shape value and opportunities of individual girls. We are aware that a quality education can dramatically change the lives of girls and everyone around them, thus the school motto 'Toil for quality and Success' Our motto, “Toil for Quality and Success” can only be achieved if we take into consideration of the girl Child.



AAYC Executive visit to Mpoma Secondary School.

AFRO ARAB YOUTH AND ICT

The Afro-Arab region has an under estimated but growing youth force. Almost half the world's population is under the age of 25 and nearly a quarter are aged 12 to 24, of those aged 12-24, nearly 40% live on less than two dollars in a day (nations, 2022).

Clearly, issues and policies relating to young people are in dire need of attention at the International level and governments. Conspicuously missing from poverty reduction strategies of the past, the problems faced by young people have been overlooked and neglected.

However, the young people are increasingly earning recognition from governments and the International Community as powerful agents of change whose inclusion in politics is vital to improving economic processes.

Technology- specifically ICT has played a central role in young people's rise to prominence on a global scale. It has helped them to mobilize, collaborate and given them voice where there was none. It

has brought them together in response to social concerns.

Young people are rising to the challenge by pioneering the use of ICT and driving trends in what is a dynamic and major growth industry. While the good news is that they are using ICT challenge to inspire them in changing their world in a positive way.

Although under the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals on building infrastructure, promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, Youth have had limited domestic support on Technology development, research and innovations in most developing countries. This has affected the ICT environment for industrial diversion and value addition on products.

National and International policy and regulatory bodies can help by recognizing and encouraging the accelerated use of Information and communication technologies in development strategies and frameworks for the future. With ICTs playing a crucial role in application across the world and either end of the development spectrum, and with such a high impact on young people, their explicit



*Kansiime Amuza
Resource Centre and ICT
officer, AAYC Secretariat*

reference in such strategies is essential.

Therefore as we celebrate 19 years of the Afro-Arab Youth Council, it is important to bring together all relevant stakeholders including governments, civil society and the private sector by encouraging them to work together to provide an environment that fosters the development of young people and enables them to realize their potential in the Information Society. ICTs will always help the youth in promotion of dialogue and mutual understanding for their development. ■

Africa has the youngest population in the world with more than 400 million young people aged between age 15 to 35 years. This young population calls for an increased investment in economic and social development factors, in order to improve the development index of African Nations.

AFRO ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL @ 19

The young people represent the future and heritage of every society. They are full of energy, potential, creativity, thrill, and are agents of change and transformation of our different localities. The youth need guidance and assurance that they are not part of the problems affecting them but rather part of the solution available to mitigate these challenges. While opening the Afro Arab Youth Festivals 2008, the President H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni remarked “its unfortunate Africa was colonized, and we can never be proud of this. It is in our means now as Africans and Arab to insure the future of our own people, and this insurance is only in the African and Arab integration”

On 9/03/2023, the Afro Arab Youth Council will make 19 years since its establishment in 2004 in Khartoum. It has been great and gigantic steps taken by this young organization ever since Ms. Alice Kaboyo (then Permanent Secretary youth and now Minister for Luwero Triangle), led the Ugandan team to this meeting that had been organized and attended by over 2000 youths from all over the African and Arab countries. Uganda later took centre stage in the organization by hosting the 2nd Afro Arab youth festivals in Munyonyo during which the youth gathering then decided that the international headquarters of this young organization then be built in Uganda, to give it a permanent home. President Museveni became the new patron of the Afro Arab Youth Council and donated land for the construction of such a complex to house the International headquarters.

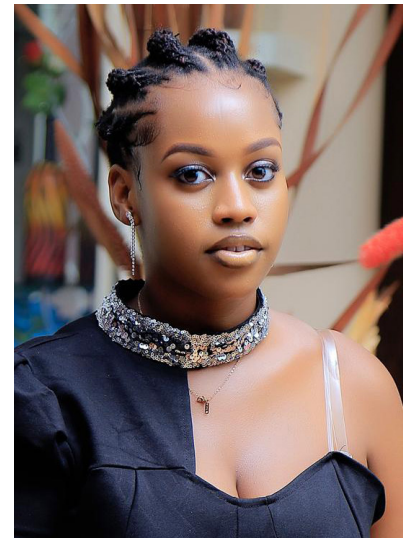
The organization has prepared week-long activities aligned with the theme ‘Healthy Youth, Wealthy Nations’ in honor of

this hallmark. The celebrations will be held in Tooro sub-region, Western Uganda, to transit awareness and support the health sector and the youth.

With the current 77% youth population that is expected to double over the next 25 years, the stresses on education, health, and protection systems will grow affecting youth and children. This affirms the need to improve the health sector within our communities and Uganda as a nation.

The Afro Arab Youth Council has organized a health run on 4th March and a medical health camp from 5th to 7th March both to be held in Kitagwenda, Tooro sub region aimed at promoting good health and wellbeing. The objective of these activities is to alleviate the existing disease burden in Uganda and address SDGs 3 and 8 “to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages while promoting inclusive, sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all”.

Taking advantage of the



Ahabwe Noella
Volunteer AAYC

existing cooperation between the African and Arab worlds, AAYC has called in a team of specialist doctors from the Arab world to partake in the health camp providing knowledge and assistance to the people of Kitagwenda. In cohort with the medical officers in Kitagwenda, Afro-Arab Youth Council hopes to bridge the knowledge and skills gap in the region while relieving some of the general health challenges of the community.

The medical camp has also been organized in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Private Sector Foundation, Red Cross Uganda, and Kampala International University medical school.

The 19th Anniversary celebrations will be climaxed by a dialogue on 9th March at Kampala International University, Kampala campus.

The AAYC warmly invites all interested individuals and parties to participate in these celebratory activities as we recognize 19 years of service to the African and Arab youth.





KITAGWENDA DISTRICT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Afro-Arab Youth Council @ 19

Congratulations to
H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
The President of the Republic of Uganda
and the AAYC Patron, upon this mileage.
We celebrate your strategic leadership
and guidance to this Organisation.

A successful AAYC 19th Anniversary Celebration



Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba, AAYC Secretary General with the Vice Chairperson, Kitagwenda District, Mr. Peter Asaba and the Chief Administrative Officer.



AAYC Executive Committee with the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Busoga Kingdom Owek. Machora Kito at Skyz Hotel, Kampala

DIALOGUE AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM

“Enhancing Food Security through Innovations and Planetary Health: The Role of Youth”

The AAYC Dialogue took place at the Auditorium in Makerere University. Our strategic partner RUFORUM greatly helped in coordination and organizing this activity. The AAYC 18th Anniversary speeches at the dialogue included speeches from: Uganda National Students Association (UNSA), National Youth Council (NYC), the Youth Member of Parliament, AAYC Delegates, AAYC Secretary General, AAYC President, Minister of State for Youth in Uganda, the Chief Guest, Hon. Kahinda Otafiire who represented H.E. The President of Uganda

An exhibition of products and businesses by the empowered youths also took place in the tents outside the Auditorium. All visitors visited the stalls and this sent a great message to other youth at the University that it was possible to start small in any business endeavor.

A dialogue was attended by Secondary schools and team leaders, UNSA, Student leaders from across universities to participate in the dialogue, General university students, Parliamentarians,

International delegates from different member states, Government officials from different MDAs, Different Panelists to participate in the dialogue, National Youth Council, Delegation from different diplomatic core and embassies.

The Theme for the dialogue was; **“Enhancing Food Security through Innovations and Planetary Health: The Role of Youth”**.

The Key note speaker was Dr. Fred . Muhumuza, a senior lecturer from School of Economics, Makerere University who presented a paper on state of Agriculture and food systems policies in Africa: Implication for the Afro – Arab partnership and opportunities for the Youth. Other Dialogue panelists included Mr. David Gonahasa, Managing Director Tripesa, Ms Monique Sognigbe, Regional Nutrition, Sensitive and Livelihood Officer, Andre Foods International, Professor Goretti Nsubuga Nabanoba, Principal, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University, Hon Ebenezer Olaolu Mechizedek Oyetakin, Deputy President, AAYC and H.E Dr. Abdul Haddi Ibrahim Mohammed Elhwegi, AAY President.

The dialogue covered the following; overview/ highlights of the presentations, background, notable issues and policies and possible interventions.

WELCOME REMARKS FROM AMINA HILMI DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, AAYC

Amina Hilmi, Deputy Secretary General, AAYC welcomed everyone including executive colleagues from Makerere University and African and Arab world. She appreciated the organizers of the dialogue for having selected one of the five top Universities in Africa. The importance of 9th March in the Afro Arab history is that the first Afro Arab summit was held on this date where Arab and African youths met in 2004 to share the same space, concerns and dreams, aspirations. She further called upon the youth not to be used as tools for fighting battles but rather propel development and prosperity. She also urged the youth to struggle for cooperation, and that “Guns should be taken back to the museum”, in order for a positive change to happen, as far as development is concerned. Furthermore, she called upon the youth to struggle and change the impression exhibited between Africans and Arabs, as this would change history once they unite to build themselves. She called upon everyone to work hard to portray love and mutual respect and not subject each other to hard conditions that manifest Africa as a field of weapons.

She implored Honourable ministers and distinguished guests who were present, that an AFRABIA fund for partnership is needed to support different schools in different parts of Uganda which we visited and were not in good condition.

DIALOGUE KEY NOTE SPEAKER AND PANELISTS



KEY NOTE SPEAKER

**DR. FRED MUHUMUZA
SENIOR LECTURER,
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS,
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Fred Muhumuza is a Senior Research Fellow at Development Policy International. He has over 20 years’ experience in research, practice and review of development policies within the public, private and civil society organisations environments. He is a Lecturer at Makerere University, Uganda with a passion for sharing of knowledge with students, technocrats, legislators and development partners. He has previously worked as Economic Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Uganda, Research Fellow at the Economic Policy Research Centre, Uganda, as Senior Manager at KPMG Uganda and with the Financial Sector Deepening Uganda. He holds a PhD in

Development Economics and International Development from the University Of Manchester, United Kingdom.



PANELIST - Ms. Monique Sognigbe is a Regional nutrition-sensitive and livelihood Officer at Andre Foods International in Uganda. Previously, she served as a Technician and Research Assistant at the Laboratory of Genetics, Horticulture and Seed Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin. She was a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Gulu University in Uganda and an Intern at the National Agricultural Research Institute of Benin. She is skilled in Research, Food Systems, Food Security and Nutrition, Laboratory Skills and Emergencies and Humanitarian Aid. She holds a BSc in Life and Earth Sciences from University of Abomey-Calavi and an MSc in Food Security and Community Nutrition from Gulu University, Uganda.

PANELIST - Mr. David Gonahasa is the Managing Director at Tripesa, Fellow at Alibaba e-founders and a Member of the Africa List.



Previously, he was the Chief Marketing Officer at Mobicash Africa, Account Director at Creation Rwanda and Client Services Manager at MAAD Advertising. He was the Lead Consultant of developing www.smehub.Africa that supported ideation, product development, technology team sourcing and platform delivery for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Hub. His areas of expertise include Economic Empowerment, Poverty Alleviation, Arts and Culture, Children, Science and Technology and Environment. He holds a BSc in Economics from Makerere University in Uganda and Certificate of Innovation for Growth from IE University Exponential Learning.

PANELIST - Prof. Gorettie Nsubuga Nabanoga is an Associate Professor at



Makerere University. Holds Ph.D. in Social Sciences (WUR, The Netherlands), MSc. Management of Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture (MNRSA) (Norwegian University of Life Sciences) and BSc Forestry (MaK). She is the Principal of CAES with 20 years of managerial experience. Her teaching and research focuses on gender and natural resources management. She has vast experience in participatory approaches to community development and engendering Institutional capacity building processes for sustainable natural resource use and management. She has supervised several students, published in peer-reviewed journals and edited a book with Elsevier. Assoc. Prof. Nabanoga is an entrepreneur (2000) outside academia; and is a member of the UFA (1994), a fellow of the SCB (2006) and UNAS (2017)

PANELIST - Hon. Ebenezer Olaolu Mechizedek Oyetakin is the Deputy President and the Chairman Supervisory Audit Committee of the Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC). He was the National President Nigeria Youth Organization between 1999 to 2008, Founder of the



“Popular Front for Democratic Excellence and member of Inter-Ministerial Committee on Africa- American Sullivan Summit. He has a vast professional experience as the Director Research and Documentation in the Anti-Corruption Network.

He was the Initiator and Founder “Popular Front for Democratic Excellence and member of Inter-Ministerial Committee on Africa- American Sullivan Summit in 2001.

PANELIST - Dr. Abdul Hadi Ibrahim Mohammed Lahlweij is the President of the Afro - Arab Youth Council from 9 March 2004 to date. He was the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Libyan Government, the President of Libyan Future Movement and ‘For New Africa Organization’ and the President of the World Council of Youth for ALQODS (Jerusalem)-Rabat-since 2005. Formerly, Dr. Abdul Alhweij was the Secretary General of the National Organization of Libyan Youth; Minister of Migration in Libya; Ex-Member of the UNESCO General Conference-Youth



Section; Ex-Member of the General Conference of Arab Labor Organization. He has a P.H.D in International Relations-Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences - Mohamed V University – Sale-Morocco (2013). He holds an honorary Doctorate in International Relations, Russia. Dr. Abdul Alhweij has widely published books such as ‘Drugs: treatment and motives;’ and ‘Internationalization of armed conflicts in Africa: Vision to manage the crisis in Darfur Sudan (model), ‘Youth Caravan for Peace in Somalia, African Network for Youth Employment among others

Panelist Dr Fred Muhumuza said that Uganda spends billions of shillings importing foodstuffs that can be produced in the country. He called upon Ugandans to develop technologies that can produce high quantities of standard products and services since climate in Africa favors Agriculture and ecosystems are changing.

He cited that if Uganda were asked to supply 10,000 goats per week it would fail because she lacks science, technology and capacity to do so. He said Africa needs to raise the food standards to increase exports within and outside continent and reduce imports for example KFC does not buy irish potatoes, chicken produced from Uganda because Uganda does not meet specifications. He also advised the youth to engage in production of rice because of its large consumption.

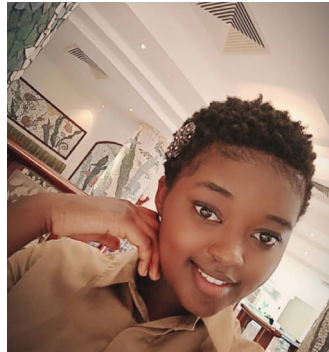
He noted the following issues concerning the youth, agriculture, jobs & income opportunities.

- 1) Africa’s youth are its most valuable and, increasingly vulnerable asset.
- 2) About 20 million youth join SSA’s workforce every year, and this is expected to rise to 30 million by 2050.
- 3) While this “youth bulge” is similar in size to the experience of Asia and Latin America in the 1970s and 1980s, Africa’s bulge is concentrated in rural areas.
- 4) Policies must focus on rural areas to ensure that the new workforce has access to the same opportunities and facilities as their urban counterparts.
- 5) Current skilling strategies are more inclined to jobs in urban areas while protection of the environment is yet to be effectively addressed.
- 6) While creating jobs for youth is profiled as a major policy goal in most African countries, few youth policies are aligned with broader rural development strategies and fewer still are implemented effectively.
- 7) The youth policies have a narrow agenda such as skilling and funding. ■

Uganda spends billions of shillings importing foodstuffs that can be produced in the country.

Relevance of the Afro – Arab Youth Council (AAYC) to Students at Secondary School Level

This article is intended to focus AAYC as an organisation to Secondary Schools as well. So far AAYC’s National Structures are in institutions of higher learning and Universities for example; The Makerere University Chapter. As a secondary School student who attended the AAYC 18th Anniversary, I realized that the AAYC concentrated more on launching in Universities.



*Shemy Favour Ruhinda
Mpoma Girls’ school
Mukono.
Senior six candidate*

However, it is important for AAYC to consider also launching secondary school chapters. According to statistics 30% of the young people are able to attend University while a bigger percentage attend Secondary School. 78% of Uganda’s population is below 30 years and still 78% of young people aged 13-18 years are attending school at secondary level. Statistics show that 8 millions of Uganda’s population are aged 15-30. It is therefore my argument that if AAYC considers the Secondary School Students, it would be a much better approach in order to impart the ideals of **Peace, Unity and Development** to a wider spectrum of Young people.

More on that, it is scientifically alleged that an African starts reasoning out at a more advanced level averagely between 12 -14

years and that, generally a human being learns/captures more what they are taught at ages of 12-16 of which most of these are at secondary school level.

My point is that if we introduced the ideology to these young people that **Peace, Unity and Development** is the way to go, then the aggressive/ or violent tendencies developed by many Youths as a way of problem solving would be neutralized earlier enough. Besides, these young people are the ones at the end of the day that grow and get into Universities, where they get exposed to harmful tendencies of political activism, wild perceptions of the world dynamics, and extremism of some sort.

These are the same people that strike at the higher institutions of learning and outside as well hence causing disunity, conflict and totally no development. So if we teach the young people peaceful ways to resolve issues at an earlier age, how to make a point without violent conflict and better lobbying skills for leaders, we could get to the goals of AAYC.

And if we take a look at the age groups that are recruited by extremist fundamentalist groups, we find that they all take on young people for example the ADF, Al- shabab, Even during the liberation wars across the African continent, it’s the young people that were recruited into the guerilla armies. So by empowering these youth with ideologies at an early stage such as AAYC’s we would be curbing extremist behavior/ character.

Happy 19th Anniversary to AAYC. ■



HEALTH YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The youth constitute the cornerstone of any nation's workforce, making investments in their wellness and health is imperative for socio-economic progress. They are the future trailblazers, innovators, engineers, leaders, lawyers, and doctors of our nation. It is therefore crucial to deliberately furnish every young individual with the support, relationships, experiences, resources, and opportunities necessary to nurture them into successful and competent leaders.

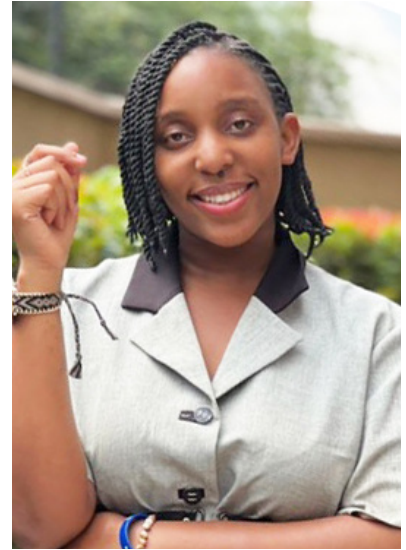
At the heart of this healthy youth development lies the establishment of a safe environment and nurturing supportive interactions. Rather than fixating on potential risks and challenges, the emphasis should be on bolstering their resilience in the face of adversity, and nurturing their innate talents and passions. This can be achieved through the organization of training programs and seminars that facilitate interactive strategies for positive outcomes.

Healthy youth development fortifies the young people's

sense of identity, instilling in them a belief in their own competence and confidence in their ability to navigate life's challenges. They grow more independent, taking charge of decisions that shape their own lives. This process also encompasses adopting a lifestyle that encourages sound decision-making in emotional, physical, and social spheres.

In recent times, youth have played a pivotal role in advocating for health-supportive policies, engaging in community service, and pursuing career paths that not only benefit them but also contribute positively to the community. For instance, the Uganda National Students Association, in collaboration with the Afro Arab Youth Council, spearheaded the "Keeping a Girl Child in School" campaign, which aimed to provide essential materials for girls during menstruation as part of the presidential initiative for Youth Health Development. The Makerere Red Cross

Youth have played a pivotal role in advocating for health-supportive policies, engaging in community service, and pursuing career paths that not only benefit them but also contribute positively to the community.



*Namatiti Namayanja Sophie,
AAYC Liaison Officer*

Chapter, in partnership with the Afro Arab Youth Council, led a community cleanup and distribution drive in Katanga, prioritizing the overall health improvement of the community. Additionally, the National Youth Council in Uganda has been at the forefront of health campaigns, including the Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Program, advocating for research and coordination efforts.

Further, the Youth Livelihood program, financially supported by the government, targets the unemployed and underprivileged, focusing on equipping them with marketable vocational skills.

To sum up, emotional and physical challenges such as depression, stress, violence, bullying, and nutritional deficiencies not only hinder the opportunities available to youth but also impede their positive health development. Thus, it is imperative that we prioritize the holistic well-being of our youth, as they are the bedrock of our nation's future prosperity and progress. ■

AAYC Staff Capacity Building Program

As per the AAYC strategic Plan 2021 – 2026, Section 7.0 (Management Plan), AAYC Management organized training for all staff on 7th November, 2022 at its Secretariat.



The Secretary General AAYC briefing the staff at the training.

The training involved two facilitators who included Mr. Otim Emmy for the morning session and Isabella Akiteng took on the afternoon session. The training was very fruitful in terms of acquiring skills and knowledge on developing the communication strategy and donor engagement strategies. A SWOT analysis of the organisation was conducted and giving direction to the organisation and also aiding it to build on the strength that are internal and opportunities that are external. ■



Ms. Akiteng Isabel-consultant

SIGNING OF THE HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT



On Friday 18th August 2023 during the belated International youth day celebrations held in Kabale District southwestern part of Uganda. H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda and Patron AAYC witnessed the signing of the Host country agreement between the Government of Uganda and Afro Arab Youth Council.

The Host Country agreement spells out the privileges and immunities for proper functioning of the Council in Uganda and grants AAYC legal status.

The agreement shall provide the Council and the Republic of Uganda with a solid collaboration framework to promote Peace,

Unity and Development among African and Arab countries.

By signing this agreement, the government of Uganda recognizes AAYC as an International Organisation with international legal personality. To me the next steps is the construction of the AAYC international Headquarters.

In his speech, President Museveni appealed to the youth and Afro Arab members to desist from embracing wrong ideology of sectarianism, religion and tribes.

“If you take that line, you will fail because, as I have been watching all these years, many of the people who came into power at Independence were young people, but because they did not address the issue of ideology, that is why we had so many problems in Uganda”

The Signing of the Host Country

agreement comes as great move for the youth and the establishment of the AAYC international Headquarters. This will establish initiatives aimed at boosting youth empowerment, strengthen linkages between the Youth of the African and Arab World to achieve Peace, Unity and Development.

Dr Chris Baryomunsi, the Minister of ICT and National Guidance signed the agreement on behalf of the Ugandan government. Other dignitaries who witnessed the signing include the Secretary-General Hon. Dr. Agaba Abbas, Coordinator of North Africa Ms. Hilmi Amina, Ebenezer Oyetakin Oloalou Melchizedek, the Chairman of the Oversight and Accounts Committee and Alfred Muzwake Sigudhila, a Member of the Executive Committee.

At the same event, AAYC committed to constructing a University of Science and Technology, an International Stadium, a Hotel of an International standard, a Youth recreation centre and a historic Afro-Arab Cultural Heritage Center that will contain the heritage of the cultures of Arab and African countries.

The event was also attended by the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda H.E Jessica Alupo, the NRM Vice National Chairman, Hajj Moses Kigongo, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Youth Leaders, Members of the Diplomatic Corps among other dignitaries.

I would like to thank H.E the President and Patron AAYC for the continued support, guidance and deliberate efforts to make the organisation a reality. ■

I am convinced that the Presence of the Host Country Agreement will strengthen our cooperation with Uganda and contribute to “expanding of AAYC and give us new energy.



AAYC Impact on the Youth

The AAYC is committed to working with Governments in ensuring progressive empowerment of the young people at all levels. Education is an undeniable empowerment tool that societies have to embrace. Deny a child education and you have condemned them to an uncertain future and lifestyle.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG4) focuses on education and aims to, “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

Meanwhile, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, demands that Africa invests in skills, science, technology, engineering and mathematics so that the people of Africa can drive the continent’s development. In this respect, Agenda 2063 has set pillars for the priority areas that will make this vision a reality, one of which is expanding education, and strengthening science, technology, innovation and research. We know the disconnection that exists

between the skills and school systems produce and the ones the private sector wants. Educational quality is often low. African students rank lowest internationally in reading and computational skills.

Whereas that is the case for the international and African focus, it is important to note that the covid-19 pandemic left many sectors in dis-array. The education sector was hugely hit, especially the girl child. According to a report by UNESCO, Uganda reported a dropout rate of 64.5% at the primary school level in 2016. This meant that for every 100 children who enrolled 64 dropped out of school before completion of the mandatory primary school years. About

37. 2% dropout rate at secondary school level. These statistics were worsened by an appalling number of young girls affected by teenage pregnancies.

It is from that background that AAYC in partnership with the Uganda National Students’ Association (UNSA) launched a “Keep the Girl child in school campaign” at Kololo Independence Grounds in Uganda.

On Tuesday 25th October 2022, the AAYC in partnership with the Uganda National Students Association (UNSA), the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. The purpose of the campaign is to keep the girl child in school by equipping her with materials to assist her during menstruation period, and encouraging schools, parents and communities to support those affected to go back to school without subjecting them to stereotypes and ridicule. The AAYC is mobilizing

2,000,000 re-usable sanitary pads and also provide training skills to the girl child on how to make their own pads for sustainability purposes.

This campaign's aim is to support the UN SDG4 as above mentioned. The project has sensitise on good menstrual hygiene and reproductive health.

AAYC welcomes any agencies, partners, and support from the private sector towards this cause.

Excerpts from the Ministry of Education Representative of the First Lady of Uganda.

“.....the government has already taken the initiative over this cause but not only just giving sanitary pads but also, they know that girls are facing other health challenges like long menstruation periods, headache, stomach-ache which are also known as cramps.

The Ministry is going to work hand in hand with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards so that they have quality pads on market because not every pad can be used because of their poor quality which these can cause infections to the



Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, Minister of Education & Sports



Ms. Mary Mutesi manager projects and programs together with AAYC staff at the launch of the Project.

girls and women.....”

Excerpts from speech of the AAYC Manager Projects and Programs, Ms. Mary Mutesi.

“.....I congratulate all partners and stake holders upon reaching this day when we launch the ‘keep the girl child in school project’. I further appreciate UNSA for the partnership, plus the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and the AIDS commission.

I Urge and appeal to the young girls to always be confident and maintain good menstrual and reproductive health as this is very vital for their general health living. Reproductive health is only, but a component of other health concerns any girl child should bear in mind e.g. Stay clear of HIV/AIDS attraction through behavioral change and practice abstinence.

The AAYC is committed to

the girl child education and the need to empower the girl child because they are the future mothers. AAYC pledges to advance the campaign, visit schools and teach them good reproductive health and provide and train how to make and use reusable sanitary pads to fulfill the Presidential initiative to have the girl child well equipped with materials to use while in menstruation.

The AAYC plans to build more partnerships with development partners, and other well intentioned people, to procure sewing machines for schools, train teachers and senior mothers on how to make their own re-usable pads for distribution to the girls in those schools countrywide. We hereby appeal to organisations, and other partners to join hands with the AAYC to make this a reality.....” ■

HEALTHY YOUTH, WEALTHY NATION

Saplings are the future forests, for they determine how the forest looks like, what it bears and even its nature. Their strengths are determinants of what will be reaped.

If their slender trunks are crucked, the entire forest will be crucked because they possess the power and capacity to dictate the likeness.

As the nation, creed, narrative and saying “seasons change,” is implemented, a lot of awesomeness and grue some ones is on every ones mind simply because the question is what does the future hold??? how strong will our motherland be??? For how long shall we go??? Does our future depend on the past? Or the past can never Dictate our future. its suffice to say that future belongs to the young albeit how are the young groomed? Are they mentally ill or healthy? Be it as it may the empirical Evidence on record shows that the strong and wealthy of the nation/state relies on the mental health of the youth.

The exuberance possessed by the youth has unlimited capacity to achieve what can be as the impractical apparently this is only after indoctrinating the youth with

fundamental economic and social transformation cannons towards patriotism, ethics and behavior.

Superficial results will always be achieved provided the youths stagger. With the way they reason or even execute their activities. No stent and instant remedial can be available to cure the cancer of poverty as long as the mindset of the youth is paralyzed and bent towards skeptics. However nurturing the youths, mentorship optimism are the precision solutions which can be best adopted if the youths are to have a healthy mind and stern mental capacity.

The greatest question of the day will be “How does a healthy mind of a youth contribute to the strength and wealth of a nation?”.

It would be at its best if this answer is provided in this way;- youth possess a lot proxies and hold many cards of which they are being handled to them by nature.

Normally the old will phase out and the new will come but what if the new is not fully equipped and trained to replace the old yet its time for the old to go. Its

How does a healthy mind of a youth contribute to the strength and wealth of a nation?



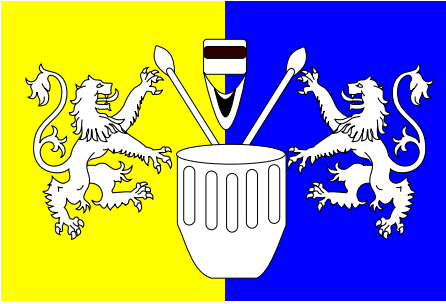
*Okereyang Micheal
Kampala International Student*

only discrepancies, failures and errors that will be achieved.

If the mindset youth is not treated and nurtured well, it can be corrupted with the sweeping philosophies such as betting, fraud and sexual immoralities with a purpose of earning quickly. Nevertheless, how can we eradicate and prevent such philosophies from consuming and chewing up the mindset of the youth?

Creativity and equipment of business skills are amongst the rudimental solution options the mentors have at their disposal. They possess the capacity to clear out trash from the youths mindset and definitely the youths will become busy living no room for the sweeping philosophies to define their mindsets.

Its an eruge as every winner has felt champion and loser, it's the strength, thinking capability and epithets depend on the mental health. Just like the Benjaminite Eposh said “Children are our greatest natural resource for they hold the future of our great nation. In turn youths are the wealth of our nation, for their health will determine the wealth of our nation. ■



TOORO KINGDOM & CULTURE

The people native to the kingdom are the Batooro, and their language is likewise called Rutooro, Bakonzo, Babwisi/Bamba.

The Batooro and Banyoro speak closely related languages, Rutooro and Runyoro, and share many other similar cultural traits. The Batooro live on Uganda's western border, south of Lake Albert.

Empaakos In Tooro culture

Empaako, which in English translates to pet name, is a praise name or a name of respect used among the Banyoro, Batooro, Batagwenda, Batuku and Banyabindi and Banyaruguru.



After birth, every Mutooro is given this praise name by the parents, which selection is determined by cultural aspects like who in the clan had that pet name, and passed on long time ago.

For twins, their pet names are pre-determined. Kato (Abooki), Nyangoma (Amooti), Nyakato (Abooki), Isingoma (Amooti).

Original dance

The tooro dance is called "Kinyege" where the dancers are dressed in traditional dancing attire and instruments such as local drums among others are used.

Favorite food

Firinda, Tooro's favorite stew is made from beans. It is strongly imbedded in the tradition of the Batooro and is the most treasured meal.



*King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru
Rukidi IV*

The Tooro Kingdom, or ObuTooro ("Land of the AbaTooro, or Tooro people") is a Bantu kingdom located within the borders of Uganda. The current Omukama of Tooro is King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV. King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV took to the throne of Tooro kingdom in 1995 at the age of just three years, after the death of his father Omukama Patrick David Matthew Kaboyo Rwamuhokya Olimi III on August 26, 1995, at the age of 50.

***Congratulations Afro-Arab Youth Council on
this 19th Anniversary***





The Delegates and Band members marching along to Busoga Square

BRIEF JOURNEY INTO THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY

The Afro Arab Youth Council (AAYC) organized several activities to mark the 18th Anniversary Celebrations in 2022. The activities included, the Fruit Tree planting in Katakwi and Bukedea Districts in Teso Sub Region; the Source of the Nile Bicycle rally in Jinja, Busoga Sub Region and a Dialogue in partnership with RUFORUM under the theme; **“transforming food systems; youth innovation for human and planetary health”** at Makerere University Auditorium College of business and Management Sciences (COBAMS). These

were presided over by H. E. the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, AAYC Patron, who was represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, General Kahinda Otafiire.

ACTIVITIES OF THE 18TH ANNIVERSARY

The Source of the Nile bicycle race, along the banks of River Nile, highlighted the strategic importance of the Nile to both Arab and Africans making a case for peaceful co-existence.



AAYC Delegates dancing to the tunes of Ugandan Music

BICYCLE RALLY

The Bicycle race began on a beautiful sunny morning, where the cyclists were more than prepared to start the competition. The Minister of State for Sports Hon. Hamson Obua blessed and flagged off the Bicycle race. This was the first of three activities meant to mark the AAYC 18th Anniversary celebrations.

The Jinja Bicycle rally had many participants where also delegates participated. Awards were given to all participants who excelled in the race. The AAYC President H.E. Abdul Hadi Lahweej gave a prize of One million Uganda Shillings to the champion of the race.



Minister of State for Sports Hon. Hamson Obua blessing and flagging off the Bicycles.



The AAYC Delegates with the Minister of State for Sports Hon. Hamson Obua



Start line for the great bicycle rally riders



Bicycle race champion in Jinja receiving a prize from the AAYC President Hon. Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahwegi (right)

TOUR TO THE BUSOOWOKO FALLS

The best recognized location on Lake Victoria in Jinja District is the Source of the Nile. The Nile is the longest river in Africa and the symbol of life for all the countries it passes before reaching Egypt.

In Uganda, Murchison Falls is the biggest waterfall. However, there are 14 waterfalls in Uganda and Busoowoko Falls is one of them. There is something unique and majestic about being around the foamy watery edifices plunging down the rocks. Busoowoko Falls is in Bususwa/ Bukongo village, Kitanaba Sub-county after Namavundu Forest, 19km off Jinja city.



AAYC Delegates at Busoowoko falls



AAYC Tanzanian member, Peter Mmbando holding the Tanzanian flag at the falls.

VISIT TO TESO REGION

Courtesy call to LCV Chairman's Office Katakwi

The Secretary General of AAYC Hon. Abbas Agaba introduced the Organisation and invited the AAYC President H.E. Abdul Haddi Alhaweij, who informed the LCV Chairman in the meeting with delegates about the wonderful intentions that AAYC has for the Teso region. Thus to Partner with

three different schools by adding value to the green cover of the area by planting trees and since the pre visit had shown them how dry the area was, they offered to also dig bore holes to add more water to these areas. This was appreciated by the LCV Chairman and the Executive members.

The LCV Chairman then led the delegates to the chosen schools i.e Getom, Adere and Aligoi Primary Schools. On arrival, the pupils of these Primary Schools excitedly welcomed the AAYC Delegates with cheers and songs. ■



AAYC Secretary General making a speech at the LCV Chairman's office in Katakwi District



LCV Chairman Mr. Godfrey Omolo welcoming the AAYC delegates and Staff at Katakwi District.



AAYC delegates and the Local Leadership at Katakwi District Local Council



AAYC team pose for a photo moment with pupils of Aligoi Primary School- Bukedea



It is imperative that we instill patience as a fundamental virtue, as it serves as a primary deterrent against temptations. Educational institutions must play their part in nurturing this quality to facilitate personal growth.

Regrettably, individuals promoting inhumane and reprehensible behaviors exploit our financial vulnerabilities, particularly affecting our youth. The destinies of both the Arab and African communities are intertwined. This year's theme, 'Healthy Youths, Wealthy Nations,' underscores the need to prioritize the well-being of our young students and uphold our cherished norms and values.

As we celebrate the 19th anniversary of the Afro-Arab Youth Council, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the visionary founders who conceived this idea,

MESSAGE FROM H.E. EBYE MOSES THE GUILD PRESIDENT, KIU, 2022-2023

uniting people of diverse backgrounds.

Young Africans, especially students, bear a significant responsibility in upholding our continent's cultural heritage. While our leaders play a pivotal role in preserving our values, the onus primarily lies on us, the youth, to comprehend and uphold these principles. Our strength as a generation lies in our resolve to confront the prevailing challenges in our country.

The immoral behaviors that some young people engage in pose a threat not only to their own lives but also to future generations. African culture is not a passing trend; it is deeply rooted and unites us as

one. Let us stand firm against Western compromises.

Joining the Afro-Arab Youth Council empowers students to focus on their educational objectives and apply the knowledge gained in their studies. Given its diverse student body, Kampala International University is an ideal environment for this AAYC initiative.

I am confident that a thorough understanding of AAYC's goals will fortify our campaign to safeguard our values. It is incumbent upon students, parents, guardians, and leaders to jointly uphold the principles that define our shared cultural legacy." ■



AAYC delegation having a pictorial moment at KIU after the dialogue

As we celebrate the 19th anniversary of the Afro-Arab Youth Council, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the visionary founders who conceived this idea, uniting people of diverse backgrounds.

The 19th Anniversary Preparatory Process

Below is a summary of activities ahead of the 19th anniversary celebrations. It has been a bee hive activity season for AAYC Secretariat staff and here are moments of the countdown to the anniversary week.



AAYC staff during a visit to Kitagwenda for the 19th Anniversary



Second preparatory Anniversary meeting with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) at Ntara Health Centre Sector IV in Kitagwenda District



From left to Right, Mr. Bahebꞯahongino Byagaagaire, RDC Kitagꞯenda, Mr. Tumꞯwine David, Communication Officer Kitagꞯenda and Hon. Agaba Abbas, Secretary General, AAYC.



Red Cross society team together with AAYC president and the delegation.

Mental illness among the youth.

“Mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, irritability, apathy, poor sleep patterns, and loss of concentration, can be influenced by a range of factors including social and financial circumstances, adverse childhood experiences, biological factors, and underlying medical conditions.

In Uganda, youth face the challenges of mental illness, largely attributed to factors like substance abuse, viral infections such as HIV and COVID-19, stress, depression, and feelings of abandonment.

Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital plays a crucial role in addressing mental health among the youth. During child and adolescent clinic days, which occur on Tuesday and Wednesday, the hospital diagnoses over 100 children with mental illness, often stemming from alcohol and substance abuse.

Mental illness encompasses various conditions, including personal disorders, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and psychotic disorders. It is important to note that mental illness can affect anyone at any time, whether gradually developing or arising from trauma, illness, or malnutrition.

Viral infections like HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 can exacerbate mental health challenges,

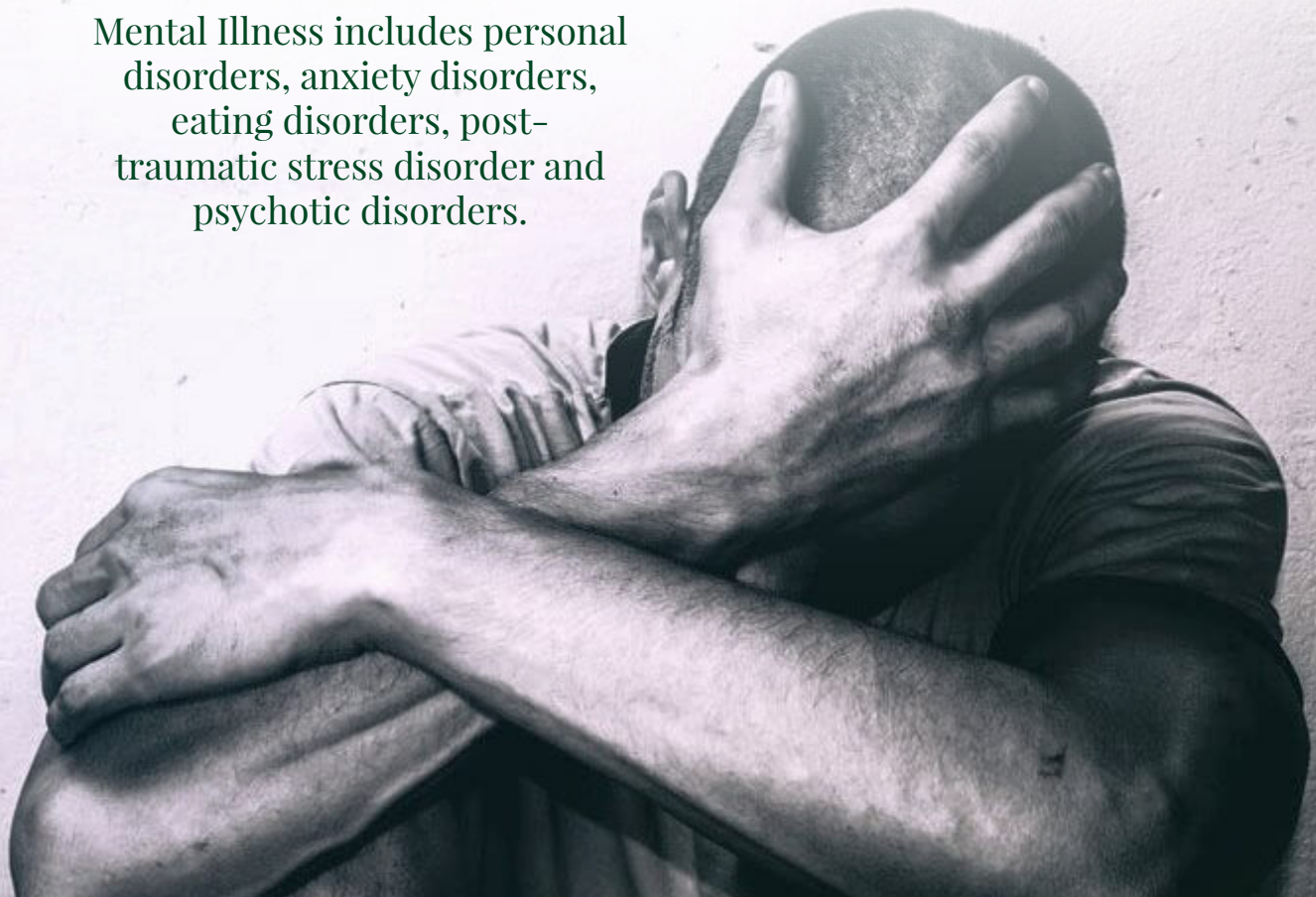


Nansubuga Miriam Mikwano Shalilah

leading to issues such as social isolation, loss of loved ones, and financial worries.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 10% of any population worldwide has experienced mental illness, indicating that around 10% of Uganda’s 42 million population may have encountered various forms of mental health issues.” ■

Mental Illness includes personal disorders, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and psychotic disorders.



THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VISIT TO THE SECRETARIAT

The Executive Committee has a mandate to oversee the performance and achievement of the objectives of the AAYC. It also has the role of auditing and advisory to the Secretariat.

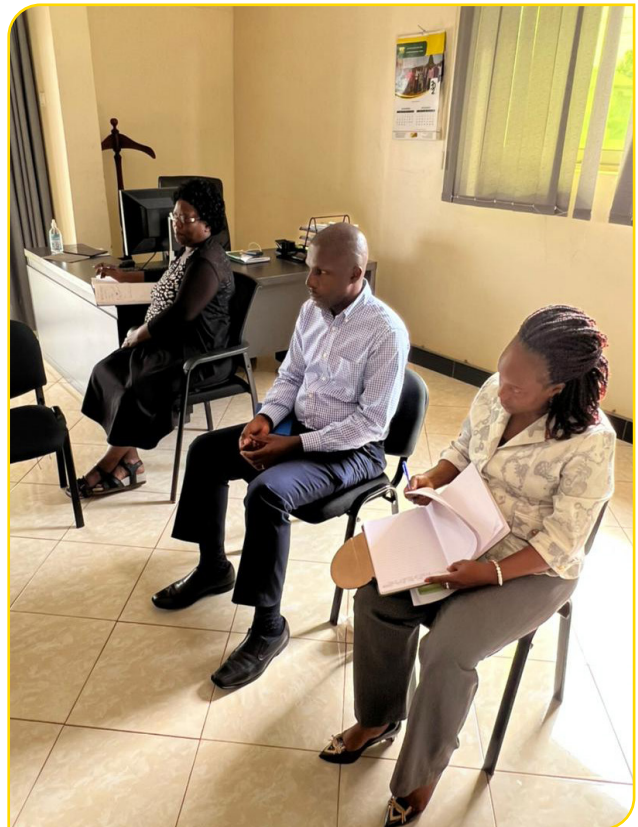
The Executive Committee paid a courtesy visit to the AAYC Secretariat to also lay a road map for 2023 to provide clear guidelines on how we can strategize to achieve our goals. The team was led by Dr. Abdul Haddi Alhaweij the President AAYC, Hon. Amina Hilmi, Deputy Secretary General and Hon. Dr. Ebenezer Oyetakim Chairman of the Audit and Advisory Commission of the AAYC. ■



From left, Hon. Ebenezer Oyetakim, Dr. Abdul Haddi –Lawhegi, Hon. Dr. Agaba Abbas and Hon. Amina Hilmi.



The Executive Committee sharing a light moment with the Secretary General.



AAYC Heads of Departments in attendance of the performance assessment meeting by the Executive Committee

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT OF UGANDA

The Executive Committee met the Vice President of Uganda Hon. Jessica Alupo, in a bid to fast-track the signing of the Host Country Agreement with the Government of Uganda. AAYC enjoys cordial working relations with the government of Uganda, H. E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni being the Patron and charged with responsibility of offering strategic leadership to the organisation.



From left to right, Hon Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahwegi, Hon Dr. Agaba Abbas, H. E. Major Jessica Alupo (Vice President of the Republic of Uganda), Hon. Amina Hilmi and Ms. Mutesi Mary during a courtesy visit to the office of the President of Uganda.



Hon. Nalubega Mariam, Hon. Ebenezer Oyetakim, Hon. Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahwegi, Gen. Abubakar Jeje Odongo, Ms. Amina Hilmi, Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba, Hajji Ibrahim Ssali and Ms Mutesi Mary.

EXERPTS FROM THE 19TH DIALOGUE



The Executive Committee meeting with the Hon. Milly Babalanda Minister of the Presidency in the process of fast-tracking the signing of the Host Country Agreement with the government of Uganda.



Hon. Dr. Abbas Agaba, AAYC Secretary General with Dr. Mpeza, Vice Chancellor of Kampala International University (KIU)

AAYC THROUGH THE LENSES



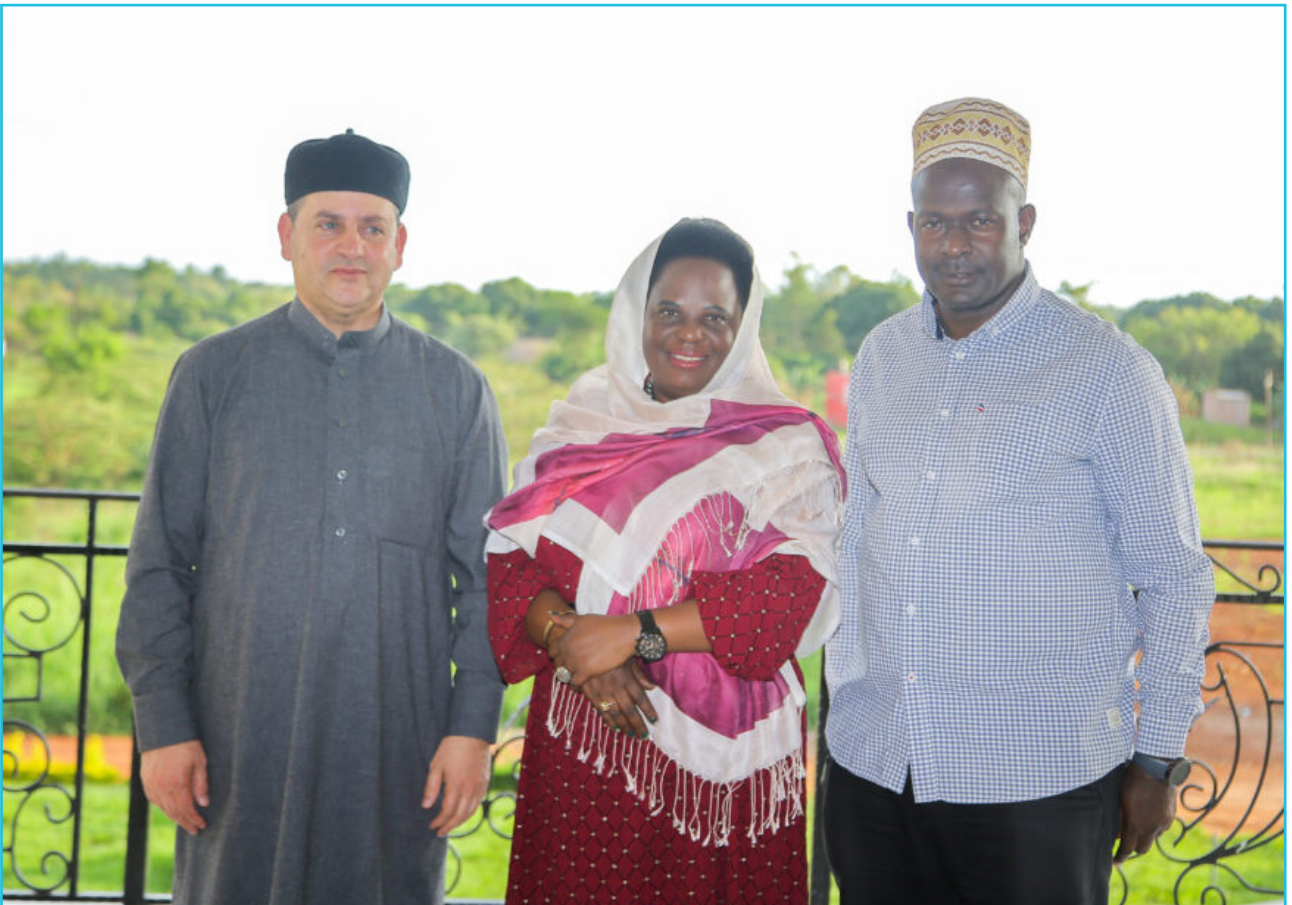
Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahwegi together with pupils during the health Run.



Hon. Dr. Abdul Haddi Lahwegi (left) Dept SG Miss Hilma Amina and state minister of sports Dennis Hanson Obua.



Secretary General Dr. Agaba Abbas giving iftar gifts at old Kampala mosque



AAYC President, Hon Betty Among, the Minister of Gender, Labour & Social Development and Hon Dr. Agaba Abbas in Oyam during Iftar drive throughout the country.



مجلس الشباب العربي والإفريقي
AFRO-ARAB YOUTH COUNCIL (AAYC)
Conseil de la Jeunesse Arabo - Africaine



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