

Kenyan preacher tasks Church on child protection

BY JANE NAFULA

KAMPALA. A visiting Kenyan preacher has urged the Church to go beyond spiritual guidance and actively support vulnerable communities to help build stronger societies.

Ms Lucy Natasha, the general overseer of Empowerment Christian Church, made the call during a visit to Sanyu Babies Home in Mengo over the weekend.

Ms Natasha, who was accompanied by members of Kampala Kingdom of Christ International Ministries in Ntinda, Kampala, said the Church should emulate the example of Jesus Christ by extending compassion and practical support to vulnerable groups.

"On top of building communities spiritually, we must learn how to give. I want to encourage the Church in Uganda to support and empower vulnerable groups," she said.

"I know the Church has been doing something, but it needs to do more. Let us empower communities around us and spread the love of Christ through giving. We do not give because we have much; we give because we care," she added.

Ms Natasha, who is also attending a seven-day conference organised to mark International Women's Day, said East African countries continue to face challenges of child abuse and neglect and called for concerted efforts to address the problem.

"These are children who are thrown away and picked from garbage pits and trenches, yet every life matters. Let us return to being people who value and respect human life," she said.

Ms Jesca Namulinde, a social worker at Sanyu Babies Home, said the facility currently cares for 47 abandoned children aged between zero and four years.

She noted that the home largely depends on donations from churches, institutions, and individuals to meet the children's basic needs, including medical care and welfare.

"Some of these children are picked from garbage pits and trenches. Our main objective is to see them thrive here and eventually grow up in families," Ms Namulinde said.

She explained that once children reach four years, efforts are made to reunite them with known relatives after careful assessment, while others are adopted or fostered by local and international families.

Adopted children

According to Ms Namulinde, about 40 percent of the children are adopted, while others are successfully reunited with relatives. She recalled that last year, four children were reunited with families in Kenya and Rwanda.

Ms Namulinde added that the home currently needs essential supplies such as infant formula for babies who have yet to transition to solid foods.

Meanwhile, Mr Elijah Baingana, a pastor at Kampala Kingdom of Christ International Ministries, attributed child abandonment partly to unplanned pregnancies and relationship challenges. He urged parents to plan responsibly before having children and ensure they are prepared to raise them.