

GOMA COMMUNITY OVER DEPENDENCE ON GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR POOR RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY GIVING

Unlike in other regions where communities are positively embracing the concept of giving for change, the same cannot be said for the Buganda region.

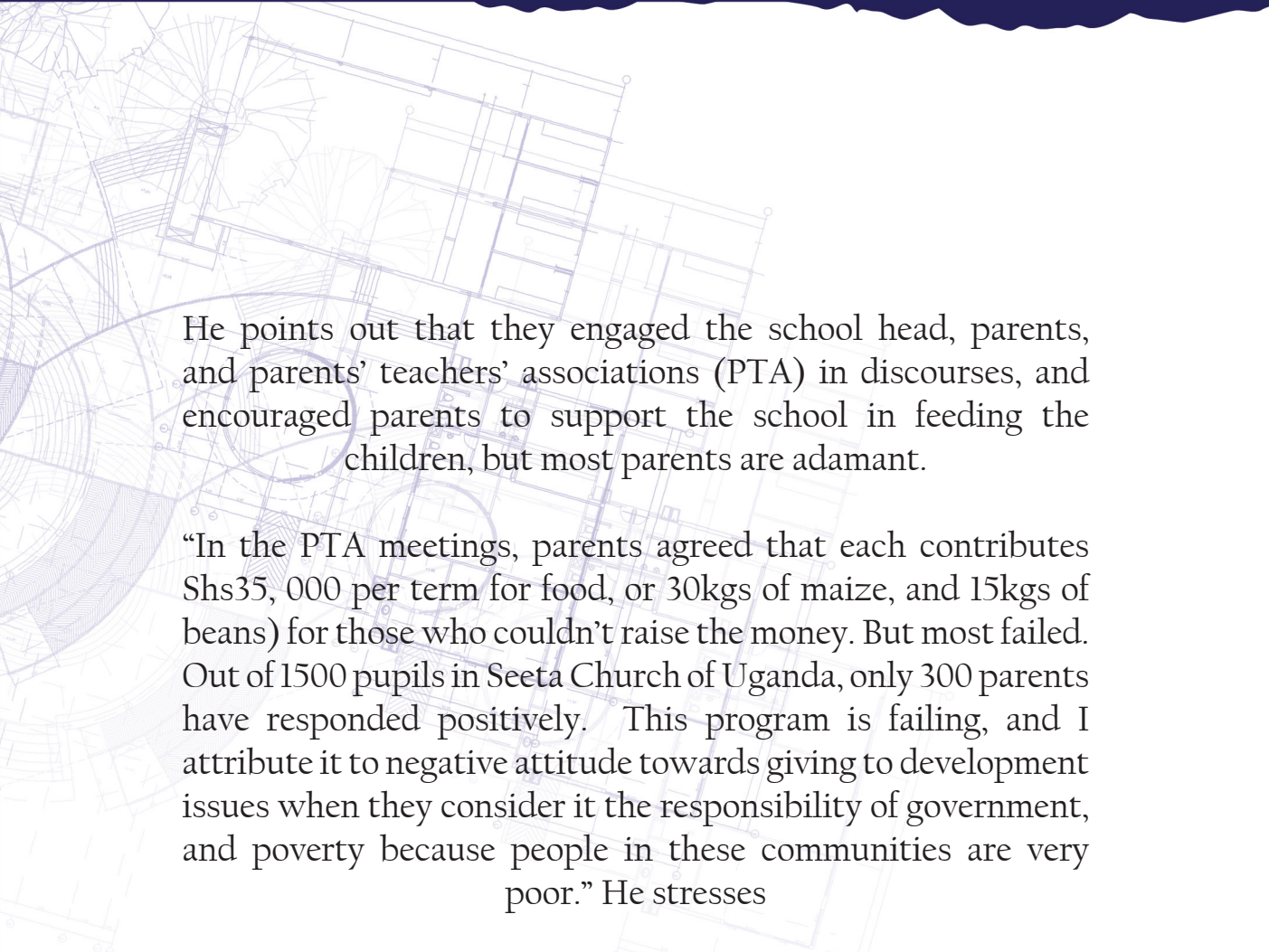
Steven Mulondo, community facilitator working with Mukono District NGO Forum says in some areas, skills like mobilization and fundraising are not working. He explains that the community facilitators have tried to explain to communities the concept of community giving, but the people don't seem to wholly believe in it.

“We are finding it difficult to rally our people in the urban settings to mobilize resources to solve our social problems like poor roads. When we tell them why they need to give for community development, they say that it is government's responsibility. They don't expect resources to come from them.

This is making it difficult to do our work,” says Steven.

He says Mukono District NGO Forum works with some schools in Goma division to improve and promote education in the district. One of the schools is Seeta Church of Uganda. However, from their involvement with the school, they noticed that many children come to school on an empty stomach, and spend all day without eating.





He points out that they engaged the school head, parents, and parents' teachers' associations (PTA) in discourses, and encouraged parents to support the school in feeding the children, but most parents are adamant.

“In the PTA meetings, parents agreed that each contributes Shs35, 000 per term for food, or 30kgs of maize, and 15kgs of beans) for those who couldn't raise the money. But most failed. Out of 1500 pupils in Seeta Church of Uganda, only 300 parents have responded positively. This program is failing, and I attribute it to negative attitude towards giving to development issues when they consider it the responsibility of government, and poverty because people in these communities are very poor.” He stresses

However, he believes that more engagements are critical in changing the attitude of communities in Buganda region. The only challenge to this is the limitation of funding to reach more communities and spread the community giving gospel.

