

AFRIKOB'S INTERNET CAFÉ



Anne Kobisingye has opened an Internet Café in Kabale. Four computers share an internet connection and there are regular clients who come to use the services. For many this is the first time they will have email addresses. Anne's main advertising line is 'Affordable Internet' and she has set her prices to make the service accessible. The computers and some small items have been supplied by Afrinspire, but in equal and perhaps greater measure is the contribution and initiative being taken by Anne and her friends to make the Café the place to be. This is the shop front for a larger vision which is for helping the disabled people of Kabale district. People with disabilities have been to the café to have training in computer skills. Anne needs to attract plenty of internet and email users. She also needs more capital investment to improve the facilities.



Anne contested the March 2006 election to represent the disabled on the Kabale District Council. She proved to be a popular candidate and was voted in.

Anne hopes in due course to establish a project called 'KABALE PEOPLE

WITH DISABILITIES IN DEVELOPMENT'.

Anne writes "Being myself a victim of polio, my disabled condition exposed me to the futility of the disabled. I can never forget every detail of the hard times, struggle, social exclusion and stigmatization which I experienced through my life.

When I look at my fellows who are still down-deep in the village communities without any support or help from friends, government, organizations or charities, I just shed tears in agony because this takes me back to my condition before I received any help. In Uganda there are many national programmes designed to help persons with disabilities but the

programmes don't reach people. I therefore resolved to take courage and redeem Ugandan lives with disabilities spreading from my district of Kabale.

I have a project proposal, a constitution and an executive board committee, comprised of the disabled and representing the majority from all over the District. I have registered with the government as a community based charity organization. I have already identified over five hundred people with disabilities and look forward to having more and more because registration is still going on in the District Sub-Counties.

The aim is to provide all possible support to particular people with particular disabilities, income generating projects among the disabled, education and skill training, to bring about growth and development of the people with disabilities. I will make sure that the project meets the demands of all age groups; these are the young, youth and elderly.

I am not supported by any funding agencies or Government, so I thought it important to share this great commission with you and request for your co-operation. It would be lovely when you connect this project with your friends whom you trust and think shall understand and participate with us.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I remain faithful, *Kobusingye Anne*

Anne's autobiography featured in our September 2005 Newsletter. If you missed it, then please request a copy.

RAINWATER HARVESTING

It is now clearly recognised that to create an infrastructure of water pipes around Africa such as we have in the UK will be an incredibly long job, if not an impossibility. The fastest way to improve the water supplies for large numbers of people is to catch the rain that falls. Water harvesting using storage tanks is the order of the day. It does not need to be left to national government. This is within the capability of every community once a team is trained to build tanks. Two farmers from Bugaya in Kamuli district of Uganda were trained by a Tools With A Mission team working in Entebbe. They have taken the skill back to their community where they are constructing two tanks per month. The size of the tank depends on the size of the available roof and the rainfall data, but is typically 1,500 to 2,000 litres. The cost per tank is £150. Afrinspire has donated money for several tanks but this money is used creatively to subsidise what can be paid by each homestead. The aim of this team is to keep building for the coming year and then to appraise the effectiveness of the programme. Experience must be gained on how to best use the tanks. For example, it's important during the dry season to ration the water drawn from the tank in order for it to last as long as possible. We need more sponsors of tanks to take us through the first year.