

WAZALENDO SACCO



Cpl Atikamujinaro Tom's Goat rearing project funded with Wazalendo SACCO loan in Kaweweta RTS

challenge we continue to educate our members," he adds.

Kavuma says the force has relentlessly sensitized men and women of the UPDF to join the SACCO and the result is 68,082 members to date.

This is to meet their goal of having UPDF soldiers saving for the present (to improve their welfare) and saving for the future (to ensure an honourable retirement).

Other challenges

Ocan says when the SACCO give member's loans it sends it to their commercial bank accounts but they are working on a deal with government owned post bank to end this trend.

Under the arrangement money given to members remains in the Wazalendo account so they can avoid extra charges that may deplete their capital.

"We are now capturing every member's biodata which we will share with post bank to identify SACCO members," he says.

Ocan says using the Wazalendo ATM cards one can withdraw up to sh2 million in a day.

But when a member wants more allocated to them, all they have to do is go to any post bank outlet and withdraw from counter as much as sh.10 million from the SACCO's account once positively identified.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)



Capt. Charles Kabona
PRO WSACCO

Capt. Charles Kabona the public relations officer Wazalendo SACCO says they support several activities in UPDF including paying for pay TV (DSTV) subscription for army units and more units are set to benefit in future.

The SACCO also supports the CDF football tournament in the UPDF providing boots, jerseys, balls, trophies and other prizes.

The Wazalendo SACCO also contributes to mass wedding ceremonies of soldiers including that held for the Artillery Division (Masindi) and Armoured Brigade (Masaka).

Wazalendo was also among the sponsors of the end of year Christmas party for children of soldiers, the first having been held last year in Bombo and presided over by the former CDF Gen. Katumba Wamala.

Kabona adds the SACCO also contributed towards the memorial lecture of Late Gen. Aronda Nyakairima held at Makerere University 2016 having inspired its creation.

Kabona further clarified that when UPDF is celebrating Tarehe Sita week, Wazalendo SACCO team led by Chief Executive Officer visits the local SACCOs in the area where the Tarehe Sita day will be celebrated, the purpose of this is to sensitise and educate local SACCOs on financial literacy and general operations of SACCOs. During the recent Tarehe Sita week, SACCOs in Apac District benefited alot from Wazalendo SACCO. This is part of Social Corporate Responsibility which Wazalendo SACCO strongly embraces.

Sensitizing staff

Brigadier Kavuma explains the command system they have in the UPDF has made it easy for them to sensitize UPDF staff and get them on board.

He however says some are yet to join the SACCO but they continue to sensitive them.

"We want everyone in the force to be part of Wazalendo SACCO so as to improve their welfare and retire with dignity," he says.

Strategic plan

According to Brigadier Kavuma, under their 5 year strategic plan starting this year until 2021, they aim to further improve the SACCO's financial capability.

"Our core business has been to our members and we are looking at diversifying but that is not without weighing the risks involved," he says.

"If this was an individual's money you just do as you please but this is group money we have to be cautious. We want to improve on profitability. But among other plans is automating our processes that includes accounts handling, and loans processing that is next.

"We want to improve our ICT/Technology in general to ensure that we make this profit," Kavuma says.

Colonel Ocan says in line with technological advancement, the Wazalendo SACCO has already piloted its SMS/Mobile banking (Waza-mobile) for members starting with their headquarter staff stationed in Kiwatalu.

"All units and all our members across the board should be able to use the Waza-mobile services by April 2017. Ocan says the ICT enhancement of all Wazalendo SACCO platforms should be computerized and fully online by 2021.

Kavuma says besides profits, the innovations also aim at improving service delivery to members due to the fact that Wazalendo is a purely welfare SACCO.

"If we don't improve the services/welfare of our people then we will have failed our goal," he says.

Future plans

Colonel Ocan says they remain committed to improving the welfare of the UPDF, although they also want to diversify and invest in areas of interest.

"We want our capital base to grow from sh. 95 billion made in 2015 to sh. 130 billion in 2021 under our five year strategic plan starting 2015-2021.

We also want to grow our loan portfolio from sh. 181 billion as of end of last year to sh. 250 billion in 2021," he says

This is in addition to improving the governance framework from the Board to Management through ICT and training to achieve the set out objective.

Kavuma says the Wazalendo SACCO hopes to open a business (Investment) side of the SACCO which can even operate as a bank.

"We would have to link up with sister forces including police and prisons SACCO to bring this plan into a reality," he says.

But overall he says Wazalendo SACCO will remain a cooperative, as they stick to their goal of improving the welfare of UPDF soldiers and their families.

Success stories of Wazalendo SACCO members

1. Lt Ismail Leku a Counsellor by Profession accessed a sh15 million loan last year (2016) from the SACCO and planted six acres of improved cassava breed through the operation wealth creation. Of the sh15 million given to him Leku used sh 12 million to construct a structure for a grinding mill and the balance of sh3 million was used to buy a grinding machine. He on the side mobilized for sh. 2 million for labour, opening land and planting the cassava. Today earnings from this business supplements his salary. Even before harvest, his grinding mill is already generating meet his financial obligations to his family and the people he employs.
2. WOII Ouma hails from Tororo district but is currently deployed in Moroto in 3rd Division under medical

department. His first loan from from the SACCO was sh. 6 million he used to put up a motor Spare parts shop in Moroto town. He later on went for another loan of Sh. 10 million this time, starting a mobile money business of which he currently has three branches operating here in Moroto. From these two projects, he has been able to purchase a 4-tonne tipper lorry, construct four rental houses in Tororo town and buy a Toyota RAV4 vehicle for himself and family. Today, he collects over sh. 7 million from all the businesses every month and he employs more than 10 people in all his businesses.

3. Sgt Mutahunga Geoffrey stationed in Nakasongola got his first loan from the SACCO in 2009 he used to buy three cows which to date have multiplied to 15. But getting enough pasture remained a challenge. He went back for a second loan that he used to purchase more land in the village for the cows. In March last year he went back for a third loan (Agriculture loan) and this time accessed sh. 5 million and started a goat rearing project in Nakasongola. Having started with 45 goats today they are over 80 goats. Sgt Mutahunga plans to begin selling some of the goats when the number is 200 and above.
4. Lt Col Peter Kigunda stationed in Kaabong in 2014 got an agriculture loan of sh. 7 million from the SACCO. He used the money to cultivate simsim on 35 acres of land in Kaabong, Karamoja region. Lt Col Kigunda was blessed with a good harvest of 4 tonnes of simsim that season. He has become a distributor in the region and also employs the locals.
5. Sgt Nshemereirwe Robert- MRC-Attached to Kyankwazi got his first loan from the SACCO of sh. 1.5 million for bush clearing in preparation for a cattle farm and used part of the money to purchase barbed wire to fence the farm. He went back for a second loan and this time applied for sh.4 million but received sh.3.7 million only. He used part of the money to buy two cows, planted eucalyptus trees and two acres of banana plantation on an 80acre piece of land he inherited from his father. In October last year he got another sh. 7.2 million bought 7 cows, a motorcycle to transport his bananas from the farm to Mubende town for sale. He has also cultivated maize on 20 acres of land. He employs a veterinary doctor on a part time basis and three other people. He hopes to reap big from the maize sale.
6. Cpl Oleitum Robert from Rubongi Military hospital, got a loan from the SACCO and used it to complete his house, and start a piggery project at Rubongi Barracks. The project earns around sh. 600 thousand on monthly basis and he has been able to meet all his financial obligations.
7. Pte Leku Richard Otego of 3rd division took a quick loan from the SACCO to start a piggery project in Katakwi. Today his family depends on income from piggery project and his salary is not strained.
8. WOI Orach Alfred Patito of Tororo Road and Railway Polytechnics got his first loan of sh. 1 million from the SACCO in 2013, he used it to pay for his daughters nursing education but it wasn't enough prompting him to take a second loan of sh. 5 million which ensured she completed her studies and she is now in gainful employment as a medical assistant at Lacor Hospital. Patito used the remaining money to buy a motorcycle for public transport purposes and it fetches sh. 50,000 a week which has improved his earnings and welfare. Using his salary he has been able to construct a house. From his side income and salary savings he plans to buy two more motorcycles.
9. L/Cpl Owakubariho Elias from Rubongi Barracks a member of the SACCO used his dividends (profits made from buying shares in the SACCO to be a member) to start a maize growing project on two acres of land which today is generating income to supplement his salary.
10. S/Sgt Wamorro Ambrose of Railway Regt Rubongi Barracks, got a loan from the SACCO which he invested it in ground nuts growing with the help of my wife. They started with only twenty kilograms of

groundnuts but managed to harvest eight bags. The side income has helped care from his family and has supplemented on his salary.

11. Lt Nathan Ayikirize Kakwangire has two public transport omnibuses plying the Nakasongola to Kampala routes on daily basis, a source of income that his supporting him, his family and employees. His first capital for the business start-up came from the Wazalendo Savings and Credit Co-operative Society Ltd popularly known as the (Wazalendo SACCO) having joined in 2009.
12. Lt Kakwangire who is also a teacher at Nakasongola Army Secondary School received sh. 800,000 he used to buy 22 goats.
13. In 2010 he returned for a second loan, received sh2 million topped up with his salary and bought more goats. By August 2011 he had 142 goats. But towards the end of the year 77 of his goats were stolen. He managed to recover only 32. Upset, he sold all the goats for a mere sh5 million. Lt Kakwangire used sh3 million of this money to buy land in the village and returned to the SACCO for a third loan.
14. He received sh6 million which he used to buy 17 bulls, added to another two he had bought off his salary and later sold them all for sh22 million in South Sudan.
15. He used his earning to buy a mix of 25 bulls and cows and by 2015, the number had increased to over 100 cows. Towards close of year Kakwangire sold off 32 cows and bought an omnibus.
16. Early last year, he applied for an Asset Financing loan of sh.19 million, topped the amount with a small loan from Post Bank and sold 16 bulls, to raise sh. 50 million to buy a second omnibus.
17. Today Lt Kakwangire has a registered transport company "Kacuncu Pride." He has used some of the proceeds from Kacuncu Pride to stock more cows, now over 100.
18. He has also managed to buy other goats and built a four double-room rental house. He has also purchased land in Buhweju and planted 3,000 eucalyptus trees on 3.5 acres of land. He has hired workers and supplies cheap milk in his community.
19. But Lt Kakwangire is not the only success story. Lt Col Kiwanuka Birabwa from Kasana Luweero owns 6 double room rentals and a piggery project to supplement her salary.
20. Her first loan from the SACCO was sh. 20 million she used to buy a house in Ganda in Nansana, Wakiso. She later returned for a second loan and receives sh. 11 million she used to finish up her 6-double room house in Masanda zone in Kyengeru.
21. Lt Col Birabwa got a third loan of sh. 9 million to start a piggery project at her residence in Kasana Luweero town. Today, She has a full time farm manager who maintains records for the piggery project but due to inadequate space she plans to shift the piggery project to a piece of land she owns a few miles away from Kasana. From her houses and piggery project Birabwa has a decent income supplementing her salary thanks to the SACCO.
22. For Lt Col Jackson Kayanja has a piggery and four acre piece of land of maize and cassava that are supplementary sources of income for him and his family.
23. His capital for the agribusiness start-up came from having joined the Wazalendo SACCO as well. Kayanja's first loan from the SACCO was the Nyumba (house) loan, but along the way he accessed other loans he invested in the agribusiness. He has engaged in producing water melons, tomatoes and now maize, cassava and the piggery project from which he earns additional income. These are just some of the inspiring stories of Wazalendo members, but it did not all happen overnight.



WO2 Eki Maurice poultry family project funded with Wazalendo SACCO loan - Oyam District