

A pupil of Seeta Church of Uganda Primary School reads during the commemoration of Drop Everything And Read Day last week



Colette Marcellin (left), the deputy chief of mission at the US Embassy in Uganda reads with pupils of Seeta Church of Uganda Primary School

# Did Ugandans stop and read?



Kampala Capital City Authority's Josephine Lubwama took time off to read

By Conan Businge

Reading is a necessity, not only for children, but all of us, if we are to believe what education experts SAY.

Reading helps improve literacy. For learners, it helps them reason better and experts show that it improves their class grades.

With World Bank studies showing that 95% of the world illiterate people live in developing countries; of which 50% are in sub-Saharan Africa, the importance of this study in the context of Uganda is significant. Reading does not happen accidentally, it takes exposure time.

The Institute of Education at the London University, shows that: "Children who read for pleasure are likely to perform better in mathematics and English than those who rarely read in their free time."

The study examined the reading habits of 6,000 children. It indicated reading for pleasure was more important to a child's development than how educated their parents were.

When reading for pleasure, children find books

of their choice, sit in a comfortable environment, flip through the pages and do not have to even understand the words.

It is the more reason why for the fourth year running, the Government, together with other stakeholders, designated 20 minutes last Wednesday at 11:00am, as a moment "to stop whatever one was doing to read."

This was meant to commemorate the value of reading. This was in hope that Ugandans will be inspired to keep reading.

The event was prepared by Enjuba, in collaboration with Peace Corps Uganda and the education ministry.

The education ministry has henceforth designated March 3, every year, as the National Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) commemoration day.

New Vision stationed cameras countrywide and bring you what happened that day.



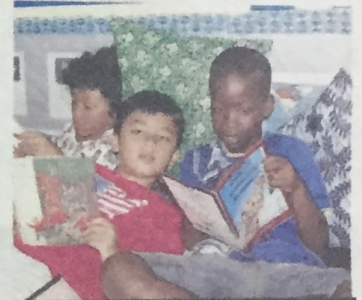
Reading materials such as newspapers are everywhere and affordable



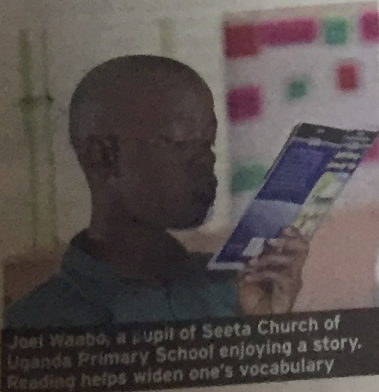
Reading helps widen one's knowledge



Non-teaching staff at International school of Uganda Lubowa reading magazines. Adults too need to read regularly to learn



Rayan Rataishi, Samrth Reddy and Vincent Debruny, pupils of International School of Uganda Lubowa, reading



Joel Waabo, a pupil of Seeta Church of Uganda Primary School enjoying a story. Reading helps widen one's vocabulary



Gorreti Nazziwa, Ketra Nyachwo and Rebecca Najjuuko reading



Ibrahim Mpande and Shadia Namatovu discussing what they have read



# Primary Schools across Uganda Celebrate Reading Day

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@Library\_KCCAUG @KCCAED @KCCAUG  
@MixaKids #DEARDay #WhyRead



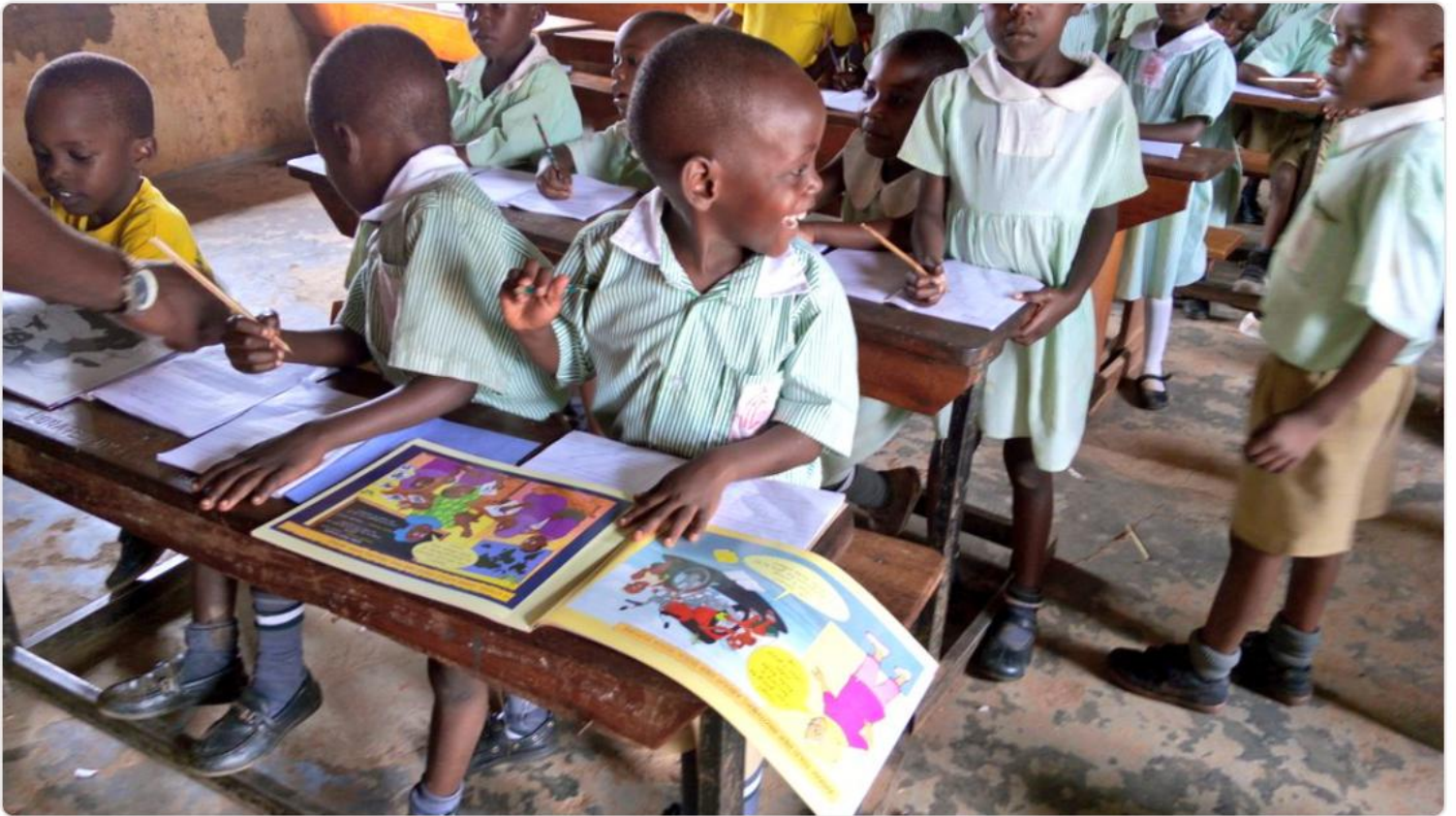


To achieve our dreams we must drop everything and read. #DEARDay is more of planting a habit





Reading can be a hobby if we teach it early.  
We know [#BooksRToys2](#) coz its [#DEARDay](#)  
[@KalekeKasome](#) [@nbstv](#)







Smart Toto Pub

@smarttoto222



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The greatest resource is will. When we add more to this the sky is the limit. #DEARDay @KCCAUG @KalekeKasome @ParliamentUG







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.@KCCAUG's Ag Executive Director —  
Engineer Andrew Kitaka was at Bukasa  
Primary School earlier today for the #DEARday  
— Promoting reading  





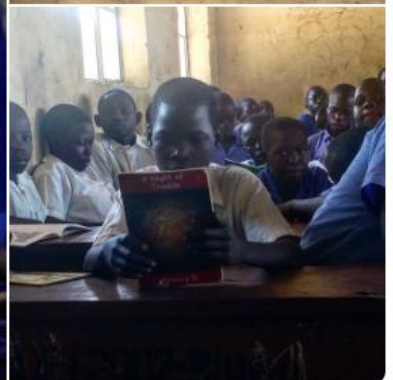


**Chelsea Elaine**

@Chelsea\_Elaine\_

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Happy [#DEARDay](#) from Oleba Primary! Be sure to listen to [@RadioPacisnews](#) tonight to hear from the teachers and I about the day!  
[#PCdoesDEAR](#)







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## #DEARDay

At Kawempe Mbogo p/s the celebration was hype! as school community dropped everything and converged to the main hall for 1 agenda





#DearDay #UgandaReading

@ameliamartha1 @Sokitel

@IAMstillRasta @McCasmir



15/03/2017, 21:37

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