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GAYAZA PEN CENTRE HOLDS HAND-OVER FUNCTION

By Danson Kahyana

Gayaza High School PEN centre successfully held its hand-over function on 26th July 2003, at the school premises.

The function, which was presided over by the President of PEN Uganda, Prof. Timothy Wangusa, saw new office bearers sworn in to keep the PEN fire burning.

The outgoing chairperson of the centre, Jackie Amaguru Olanya, advised the incoming executive to work and avoid procrastination, in order to keep up the writing culture in the school.

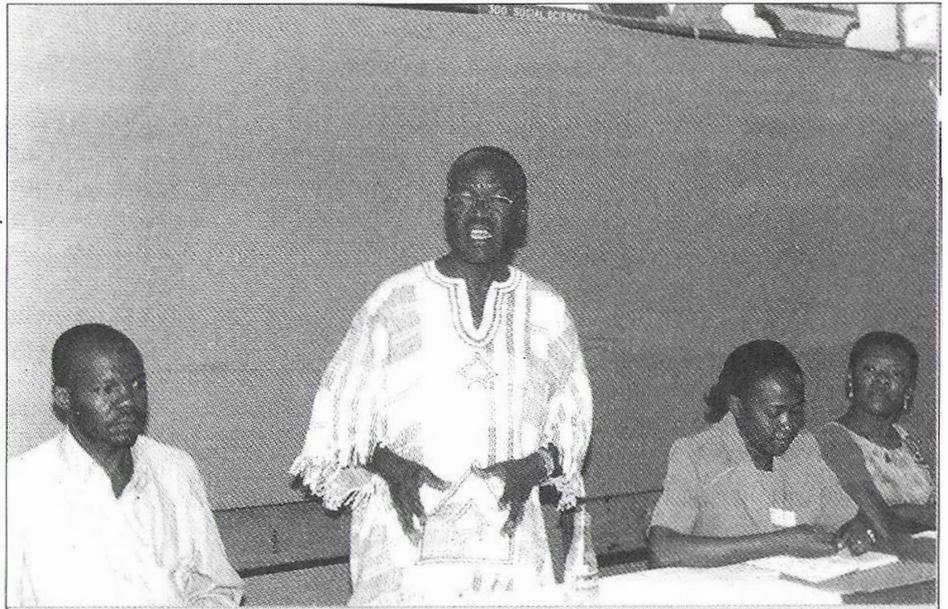
The incoming chairperson, Helen Kiyan, promised to do her best as far as promoting writing was concerned, and called on her Gayaza PEN mates to cooperate with her so that the 'writing child may grow' in the school.

In his speech, the Guest of Honour, Prof. Timothy Wangusa, advised the centre to work hard, quoting the great Roman poet and critic, Horace, who observed that writing required both INSPIRATION and PERSPIRATION. "The sky is not the limit," he told the girls adding, "you will go beyond the sky."

The Professor was flanked by Dr. Ernest Okello Ogwang, PEN Uganda's Vice President, and Danson Kahyana.

Dr. Okello gave a talk on the topic "**Better Poetry**" in which he advised the Young Writers to write on the day-to-day experiences of life, and to listen carefully to the conversations and events around them. 'Always remember that you're the conscience of the society,' he told the audience.

The function, which was punctuated by a number of activities – dancing, miming, readings and quizzes -, was also attended by the



President PEN Uganda, Prof. Timothy Wangusa, giving his speech as guest of Honour at Gayaza PEN Hand-over.

King's College Buddo PEN centre and its patron, Ms Susan Namalefe and her friend and colleague, Ms Elsie Luswata.

The success of the function owed a lot to Mrs. Buyera, the Gayaza PEN Centre Patron, who has been instrumental in inspiring the young writers and coordinating the centre's activities.

Commentary

It was so sad for us to watch the USA-IRAQ war going on. My sympathy goes out to the children in Iraq. Children are suffering for mistakes they did not make and probably will never understand.

Why should these innocent children suffer just because one country wants to show off its superiority and yet claim to have fought for the implementation of children's rights? Don't the children in Iraq have the right to enjoy life without the fear that they might be losing their parents the next

minute? In any case these children are going to grow up with a passionate hatred for USA, meaning that one day in future they might want to pay back. The logic behind all this will be a world which is constantly at war.

Let us, the St. Lawrence community, come together and pray that someone out there will see the faces of the innocent children crying out for help and come to their rescue.

By **Vike Lynda 6R, S.L.C.**