

DOING GOOD IS GOOD BUSINESS

**MOBILE MEDICAL CAMP
ATIAK**

10th – 11th MAY 2019

S P E E C H

OF

DAVID ALOBO, PhD

CEO/MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE XSABO GROUP

AND CHAIRMAN OF THE XSABO FOUNDATION

AT THE

CEREMONIAL OPENING

BY

H.E. EDWARD K. SSEKANDI, MP

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

FRIDAY, 10th MAY 2019

- ❖ Your Excellency Edward K. Ssekandi MP, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda;
- ❖ Your Highness Richard Santo Apire, Ladit Rwot of Atiak;
- ❖ Hon. Okema Akena, Prime Minister of Tekwaro Atiak;
- ❖ Your Lordship Justice Ralph Ochan, Chairman of the Public Service Commission;
- ❖ Hon. Norbert Mao, President-General of the Democratic Party;
- ❖ Hon. Dan Kidega, former Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA);
- ❖ Hon. Anthony Akol, Member of Parliament (Kilak North) and other Hon. Members of Parliament present;
- ❖ Madam Lydia Auma, Resident District Commissioner Amuru;
- ❖ Hon. Michael Lakony, Chairman Amuru District;
- ❖ Our dear friends from the Office of H.E. the Vice President, my dear colleagues of the Xsabo Group and the various Volunteers who have made this Mobile Medical Camp possible;
- ❖ The people of Atiak and surrounding areas;
- ❖ Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Doing Good is Good Business!

Guided by this simple slogan, the Xsabo Group started to give back to the people hosting our projects even before we completed our first project in Uganda, namely the Pilot Solar Power Plant (20MW) in Kabulasoke (Greater Masaka Region), which is the largest solar power plant in East and Central Africa and the first in our portfolio of 150MW which in turn amounts to a total investment of USD 200 million (UGX 754 Billion).

The Xsabo Foundation is the special purpose vehicle for the corporate social responsibility activities of the Xsabo Group. The focus is on youths and volunteerism. To paraphrase John F. Kennedy, we would like the youth not to ask what their country can do for them, but what they can do for their country!

Your Excellency,

Your Highness,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

In this short period, the Xsabo Foundation has reliably and consistently supported this Mobile Medical Camp Initiative which has to-date now treated more than 20,000 disadvantaged and needy people in rural areas free-of-charge! Today, this number will grow further!

The Xsabo Foundation is also the sponsor of various youth income generation activities under the patronage of H.E. the Vice President. Next week on Tuesday, 14th May 2019, we expect to witness the commissioning of the Buyasso Coffee Factory for the youth of Greater Masaka in Kamuzinda Village in Masaka District

by H.E. the Vice President, setting yet another milestone in our determination to give back to the various communities hosting us.

The Xsabo Group is also the main sponsor of the Annual Youth Football Tournament in Greater Masaka Region and of Art Groups bringing together many young people.

After learning that a very huge number of girls all over Uganda miss school during their menstrual period either due to the lack of sanitary pads or simply because they cannot afford sanitary pads, the idea of self-made sanitary pads based on local Ugandan banana fibres, papyrus, maize leaves and other vegetable fibres was born with the financial support of the Xsabo Foundation. The responsible team is here today to show you these “Fancy Pads” of which over 1,000 samples have been tested by girls and women of all walks of life in Uganda, Germany, USA and Croatia. I am told they were all extremely happy with the “Fancy Pads,” which are low cost, qualitatively competitive vis à vis those one can buy in the supermarket, 100% bio-degradable and absolutely hygienic. The team will demonstrate how this is done and start networking in preparation for related training courses in selected parts of Uganda and eventual roll-out across the country.

But why did the Xsabo Foundation want us to be here today?

Your Excellency,

Your Highness,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We are obviously gladly responding to the request from His Highness Rwot Richard Santo Apire.

But there is something else too: Although this is the first time I am visiting Atiak, Atiak has a very special place in my heart!

In the years my late dad Anjelo Oling, then Deputy Publicity Secretary of the Democratic Party (DP), was a political detainee in Luzira Maximum Security Prison, His Eminence Cardinal Dr. Karl-Josef Rauber (then still an Archbishop serving as Vatican Ambassador to Uganda) and Dr. Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere, then President-General of DP, paid my school fees at St. Mary's College Kisubi while today's Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa, who was at that time Publicity Secretary of DP, gave me pocket money. To enable me meet the strict, often unpredictable deadlines, to visit my father in Luzira Prison once a month for just 45 minutes maximum, the late Anthony Ocaya, a former Finance Minister of Uganda who was at the time Secretary-General of DP, invited me to come and wait at his home in Mbuya. So I spent many days and a few of my school holidays in his house. The late Anthony Ocaya came from Atiak.

My late dad was a fair, principled and consistent advocate for democracy and freedom, as President Yoweri Museveni also testified during the ceremonial commissioning of our Pilot Solar Power Plant in Kabulasoke on 9 January 2019. He was killed for these ideals. But that is another story.

While developing and implementing the Xsabo Group's projects over the last few years, I have come to appreciate your Chief, His Highness Rwot Apire, as one of this country's most loyal, dedicated and principled servants. Under his Chairmanship, the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) has become a

benchmark of choice for comparable statutory bodies in Africa and beyond. His Highness is a straightforward, merit-oriented, clean professional with zero tolerance for corruption.

What good reason to have another of such rare species here with us today: His Excellency Edward K. Ssekandi, one of the few clean politicians in this country!

I knew I could count on the passion both Your Excellency and His Highness have for the youth – and for the cause for a better life for current and future generations – to entice Your Excellency to Atiak following the invitation from His Highness Richard Apire for this Mobile Medical Camp Team to also come and provide their services to the people of Atiak and surrounding areas!

Your Excellency,

Your Highness,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I would, therefore, like to wholeheartedly thank H.E. the Vice President for taking so much time out of his extremely busy schedule to be with us here today in Atiak.

The fact that he is here where almost all elective political offices are held by opposition parties speaks volumes about his love for the people of Uganda irrespective of tribe, religion, sex and political affiliation ...

... and about his devotion and dedication to be the Vice President of all Ugandans.

At this point, I request Your Excellency's understanding that I must break with protocol to wholeheartedly thank my brother Vincent Musubire, your Deputy Principal Private Secretary, for the excellent work he continues to do. Vincent is the "hidden hand" behind the successful collaboration between the Office of H.E. the Vice President and the Xsabo Group investments and corporate social responsibility activities, including the Mobile Medical Camp Initiative. When I joined the world's largest bank at the time as an immediate aide to the Executive Director in-charge of Western Europe, Africa and the Middle East, he pulled me aside and told me my job has only one rule: "The boss is never to blame. All successes are his, all failures are yours, so make sure there is no failure!"

Vincent, please stand up and be recognized!

Permit me to at this juncture also thank Julius Kanamwanji, Robert Kasagga and Dr. Sammy Lubyayi for coordinating this and previous Mobile Medical Camps so successfully as well as Dr. Odongo Olwedo, the District Health Officer, Amuru District, and the Team from the Chiefdom of Atiak (under the guidance of Dr. Ben Watmon) for their enthusiastic support.

I thank you all for the on-going excellent work and request you to stand up to be recognized.

I thank Franziska Leischker (alias "Fides Linien"), Damali Nabulya and Joseph Fumu for championing the "Fancy Pads" Initiative and for the extra work they have put in for the corresponding exhibition and demonstration.

Please stand up and be recognized too!

I thank Beatrice Oling (Company Secretary, Xsabo Group), Bernard Okello (Manager, Xsabo Group) and Sam Oling (Senior Associate Operations, Xsabo

Group) who together with Sharon Murenju (Associate Administration, Xsabo Group) and Robert Wamwa (Site Monitoring, Xsabo Group) currently shoulder a lot of the day-to-day activities of the Xsabo Group and of the Xsabo Foundation, including for events like this.

Please stand up to be recognized!

To Your Highness: Thank you very much for your support in your various capacities and for the kind hospitality being accorded to us here in Atiak.

Let me conclude with a small gift for you and the people of Atiak.

Your Excellency,

Your Highness,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Xsabo Group has decided to construct a “stand-alone” solar power park here in Atiak as a pilot for off-grid areas. I originally thought of 2MW, but our engineers have told me that for an area like yours and the neighbouring villages, 0.5MW is more than enough to light your homes, schools, clinics, churches and other facilities and provide you with decent and reliable power 24 hours a day / 7 days a week – yes, day and night!

The beauty of it is that under the *Electricity Act 1999* and the regulatory framework, we do not need a license from the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) to do this as the license requirement is only for power plants with 2MW and above.

The second beauty to this is that we can fully finance the initiative ourselves through the Xsabo Foundation in collaboration with Albert Nile Foundation!

The challenge?

Simple: You, the Chiefdom and the people of Atiak should provide the requisite land and work with us as a community to make it a win-win initiative.

Actions speak louder than words: Bernard is hereby directed to start the necessary documentation. By the way, Bernard also has his roots here in Atiak!

THANK YOU!