BISHOP'S REPORT
AND WELCOME REMARKS
AT THE ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT
TO SOUTH RWENZORI DIOCESE
APRIL 16TH – 22ND, 2008

The Most Rt. Rev Henry Luke Orombi
The Archbishop's entourage
Bishops present.
Members of Synod
All Canon and Clergy
Hon. Ministers
RDC
Hon. MPs
District Chairman, Kasese
All Christians
Ladies and Gentlemen

Your Grace,

It is my pleasure, and that of my wife Dorothy, the staff, and all Christians of this Diocese, to welcome you here for your very first Episcopal pastoral visit since you became Archbishop of the Province of Uganda.

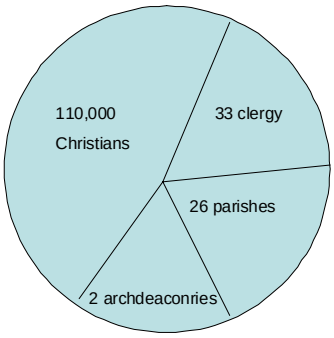
We welcome all of you people of God. We thank you for joining us for a week's fellowship with His Grace

Your Grace, we, the Christians of South Rwenzori Diocese very much appreciate your firm stand and faithfulness in upholding the orthodox faith and the Holy Scripture as the true Word of God. As a Diocese we fully stand with you and we pray that God will prevent a complete Division in the Global Anglican Communication.

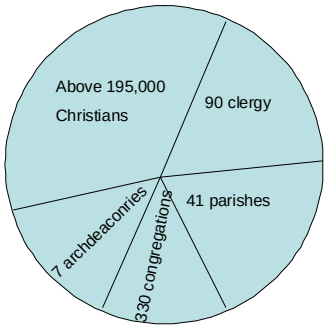
History of the Diocese

This Diocese was inaugurated on Aug. 26th 1984, after it was carved off from Rwenzori Diocese. The Rt. Rev. Zebedee Masereka, together with Mama Stella Masereka, became the first sitting Bishop. They served for 19 years before retiring on July 6th 2003 after passing over the mantle of leadership to Bishop Jackson Nzerebende and Mama Dorothy Nzerebende on the same day.

The diagram below shows growth between 1984 – 2008.



1984



2008

Physical Geography

High hills plus Mount Rwenzori and hot lowland area – Part of the great western rift valley, with several gorgeous water bodies. Two national parks: Queen Elizabeth in lowland and Rwenzori Park in the hills, leaving a very small strip/ corridor of land for human settlement and farming—a foundation for land wrangles in the District

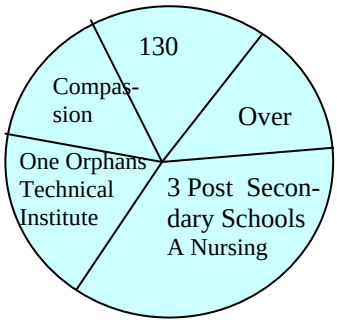
Farming and Mining

Coffee, cotton, and vanilla are the main cash crops, while food crops are mainly Bananas, cassava, beans, maize, groundnuts, potatoes, vegetables, and fruits. We are blessed to have Mubuku as one of the most active irrigation scheme farm zones in the country. Copper mining in Kilembe has been going on since 1956, but was halted a couple of years ago, however salt harvesting and cement production are still flourishing. A cobalt plant is just behind St. Paul's Cathedral.

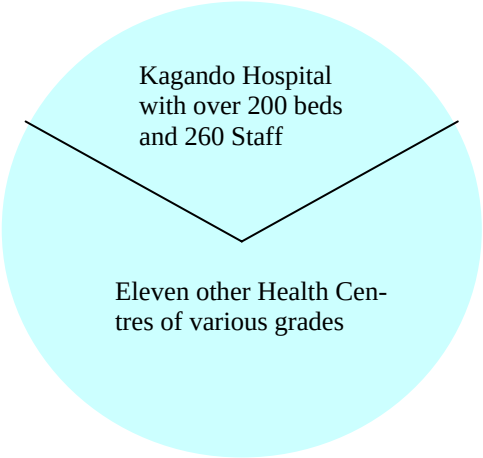
Mission sectors in the Diocese

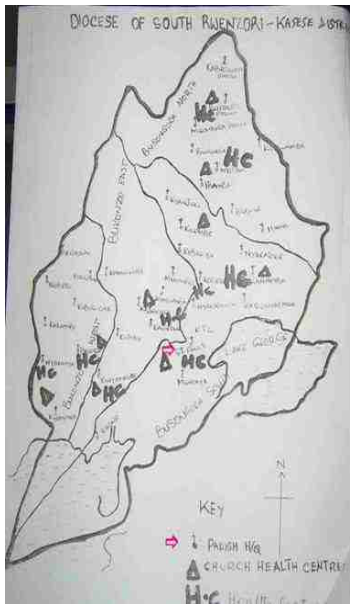
Our focus is mainly on: church planting, education, Health, and evangelism and Christian teaching.

CHURCH-FOUNDED SCHOOLS

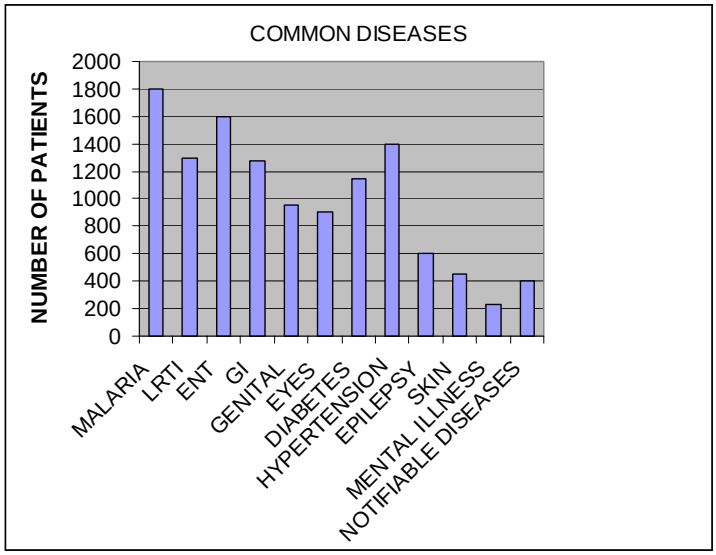


MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE



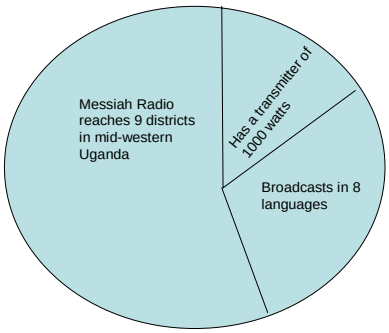


ANNUAL STATISTICS FOR JULY 2005 – JUNE 2006



OTHER PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

MESSIAH RADIO MINISTRY BEGUN IN 1998



- Its main function is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Our desire is to expand it to cover the entire Province of the Province of The Church of Uganda

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Five Talents Saving and Loan Scheme

- Five Talents was started in April of 2002, with 50 clients, and now has a capital loan of 89,000,000 Uganda shillings.
- Total clientele served is 828 — of which 407 female and 421 are male — in groups of at least five members; with 541 active clientele (145 groups)
- It is making a great change in people's lives

Water and sanitation

We have established 13 gravity water flow schemes and protect over 150 springs. We plan to establish 4 more gravity water flow schemes with over 80 standing taps this year. We have constructed several modern pit latrines at churches, schools, Health Centres and markets. The main purpose is to minimize cholera outbreaks in the Diocese by providing clean drinking water.

Forestation

We have been and are still involved with planting of trees since 1992. We have planted mainly eucalyptus, acacias, coffee, and musizi, etc., and now we producing and planting grafted mangos, oranges, avocados, gravillia, and compound trees etc.

However, the rate at which our population cuts down trees is far higher than that of planting new ones. The government policy of planting 5 new trees for every single tree you cut has not been grasped by our people.

Ecumenism

We have ecumenical activities with the Catholic Church and the Baptist Union.

JOINT ACTIVITIES

Baptist Union of Uganda		**Catholic Church**
Developing Lhukonzo orthography Running Children's ministries Training evangelists Composing songs for praise and worship and evangelism	< **SRDiocese** >	Supervising and monitoring schools performance and management Ecumenical worship all through "EJACS"

MAJOR CHALLENGES IN THE DIOCESE

Insurgency

This diocese was hit by several waves of bloody insurgencies between the 1950's and 2002. That is why there are thousands of school-going aged orphans. The situation is being worsened by killer diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, etc. Over 180,000 were displaced for the five year (1996-2002) period alone. However, we return thanks to God for the peace and security we are now experiencing in the entire district/Diocese.

Human Population Growth

The population of people in our diocese is growing at an alarming speed. At the fertility rate of 3.2, Kasese is believed to have the fastest growing population in Uganda. Unfortunately this presents a worrying mismatch with the corridor piece of land gazetted for human settlement and farming in the district. The family planning mobilization and lessons have been largely ignored.

Poverty

There is biting poverty in the entire district population of close to 700,000 people. T he main causes of poverty here include declining food production, food security and prices which are too low.

Request

We request you to remain our prayer partner and a supporter in our on-going daily battle with the above highlighted challenges and needs.

We thank you for your ministry in South Rwenzori Diocese and the whole Province.

We wish you a very safe journey back to Kampala;

In Jesus' name

Amen