

Report on Visit to Uganda (DRAFT)

19 – 24th February 2008

Jane Hutt AM

Background

I arranged a private visit to Uganda to coincide with an International Conference in Kampala on the 50th anniversary of the discovery of Burkitt's Lymphoma. During the visit I undertook a ministerial visit to Mbale in support of the PONT initiative supported by the Welsh Assembly Government. I also visited the TOCIDA project near Tororo to explore further opportunities for links between Wales and Uganda. Meetings were also held in Kampala with the British High Commission, the British Council and DFID.

1. Burkitt Lymphoma Anniversary Conference

Denis Burkitt was a surgeon in Uganda who discovered this childhood tumour in 1958 that targets the jaw and abdomen. In the 1960's he also discovered that this cancer could be cured. In an article to mark the 40th anniversary of the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI), Liz Savage wrote,

"Many of the children that he saw had tumours too large and spreading too rapidly to be removed surgically, so Burkitt decided to try chemotherapy instead. These drugs were usually given over 2 weeks, but keeping patients in the hospital that long was nearly impossible. So Burkitt gave the entire dose in one sitting." John Ziegler, the first director of UCI recalled,

"As luck would have it, these youngsters had a tremendously dramatic response. The tumours virtually melted away in days. And often the tumours didn't come back. Nowadays, curing lymphomas and leukemias is pretty much commonplace, but in those days it was pretty remarkable."

My father, Michael Hutt, Professor of Pathology at Makerere University Medical School, worked as part of the Burkitt team in the 1960's when the discovery of the potentially curable cancer and the research that followed put the Medical School and the UCI on the world health map. The 50th anniversary conference was organised by the University of Siena to bring progress and development to Africa on Burkitt Lymphoma and related lymphoproliferative disorders. In 1967 the Uganda Cancer Institute was opened on the site of the old Mulago Hospital and I volunteered to work with the children during the summer holidays with the support of John Ziegler and his team.

I made the visit with my sister to Uganda to attend the opening ceremony for the Conference, to visit the Uganda Cancer Institute, Makerere Medical School and to meet up with many of the team who worked in Uganda in the 1960's. We were fortunate to meet

Dennis Wright who gave the opening lecture on the early years of Burkitt Lymphoma and David Allbrook, who spoke about the life of Denis Burkitt at the Conference dinner. We also met up with Denis Burkitt's youngest daughter, Rachel, and her family who were attending the conference in memory of her father. We visited the Medical School and met with pathologists, Robert Lukande and Lynette Tumwine who were engaged in cancer research and were participating in the Conference.

We also visited the Uganda Cancer Institute and met the current Director, Dr Jackson Orem and his team. On visiting the Centre, we were able to view the plaque that gave the following tribute to Denis Burkitt,

"The Lymphoma Treatment Centre is dedicated to Mr Denis Burkitt for his perception and untiring efforts in promoting cancer research in East Africa.

August 8th 1967"

The staff identified the room and table I was sitting at with a group of children in a photograph I took with me from my time as a volunteer in 1967.

Dr Orem was a key contributor to the International Conference and is keen to put the Institute again at the forefront of cancer research.

He introduced us to the team who run the **Uganda Child Cancer Foundation** raising funds for the chemotherapy that children need at a cost of approximately 250\$. Their vision is *'to create a Ugandan society where child cancer cases get the best quality care irrespective of circumstances, and child cancer prevention is priority.'*

A child cannot be treated unless the Foundation can raise the funds for travel, medication, food and other expenses for the families bringing their children to the Centre. The Foundation is also raising funds to advocate for the rights of children so that their special needs can be addressed, for recreation whilst they are patients at the Centre – books, toys, and arts materials. They are also raising funds for national research programmes on childhood cancer. *E mail: uccfuganda@yahoo.com*

Action:

1. To identify potential links and opportunities for the NHS Wales for Africa Initiative with the NHS HR Division for a third round of bids.
2. To follow up research links and opportunities with the Uganda Cancer Institute.
3. To develop connections with the Uganda Child Cancer Foundation and Wales based children's charities.

2. Visit with PONT (Partnerships Overseas Networking Trust) to Mbale Coalition Against Poverty (Mbale CAP)

Following a visit by Jane Davidson AM as part of a PONT delegation in November 2007, I was pleased to receive an invitation to meet with head teachers and visit schools in my capacity as Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Children, Education and Skills, during my stay in Uganda. I made contact with Phil and Kath Rickards in PONT who were planning a visit to Mbale to prepare for the meeting and follow up their teacher contacts and school links.

PONT is featured in the Wales for Africa Framework Gold Star Communities Project run as an innovative pilot programme for the UN to identify the best attributes of community to community links. The Gold Star Community initiative focuses on 5 central themes:

- Anti-poverty strategies,
- Climate change,
- Fair Trade,
- Children's rights, and
- Social inclusion.

As well as individual projects covering primary health care, training, provision of malaria nets and educational development, there has been a focus on developing a 'coalition against poverty' between local authorities, health bodies, NGOS and communities in Mbale and Rhondda Cynon Taf. There are at least 38 active school links that have been fostered by Phil and Kath Rickards and the PONT team.

My meetings and visits in Mbale took place on 20th and 21st February commencing with a welcome from the FDNC young peoples' band in the grounds of Mount Elgon Hotel. A six hour programme was planned at the hotel including welcome and speeches from the Coordinator and Chair of Mbale CAP, LC5 chairmen, district education officials, education inspectors and civic dignitaries. Head teachers from the Mbale, Manafwa and Bududa districts were attending as well as the PONT executive committee. In addition there were representatives from the hospital and water board. Mrs Edith Wakumire, Executive Director of Uganda Women Concern Ministry (Mbale) gave a closing speech after the National Anthem was played by the FDNC Band who continued with their entertainment after refreshments.

I spoke about our recognition, responsibilities and support in Wales for the Mbale Coalition Against Poverty and the mutual benefit of PONT links with schools, so that we can learn and develop our understanding of global citizenship with our children and young people. I also acknowledged the importance of supporting the continued professional development of our teachers in Wales and Uganda, with the leadership provided by the Head teachers and District Education Officers.

I drew attention to the excellent report presented by Nagosya Mike Masikye, District Inspector of Schools on the status and challenges of education in Mbale. Focussing on the education infrastructure in education planning, the District Inspector highlighted the following;

- Permanent classrooms
- Renovations of school structures so as to increase their useful life
- Construction of Teachers' houses to improve teachers' efficiency
- Increased access to safe water and sanitation facilities
- Equipping head-teachers and teachers with various skills
- Increase instructional material and equipment including those for vocation education.

In charting a way forward to meet challenges the Inspector presented us with the following policy proposals;

- a) Provision of care, support and counselling for teachers who are increasingly absent from duty due to illness such as HIV/aids.
- b) Mentoring and building capacities among teachers and school administrators in the effective use of public funds
- c) Close monitoring and supervision of school activities
- d) Increase on infrastructure and facilities to reduce congestion
- e) Strengthening of the data collection process. Data is of great strategic importance in policy formulation and resources allocation
- f) Networking with development partners for possible additional funding which is essential for improving service coverage and quality.
- g) Greater Involvement of parents and communities in the planning fort quality education
- h) Provision of midday meals for children at school.

There was also discussion about the importance of planning for the development of Universal Post Primary Education and Training following Universal Primary Education. The plans for a Resources Centre for lifelong learning were shared with us during the meeting. More than one speaker identified the need for 'outreach' in communities for adult and community education.

The following day I visited two schools, Busii Secondary School and Bukasakya Primary School with District Education Officers, the District Chairman and members of Mbale CAP. At Busii Secondary School we were greeted with the National Anthem, School Anthem and a poem written and read by **Andrew Mukhwana**:

Pleasant to meet you

Our guests, welcome to Busii.

We are happy to see you

A Minister from South Wales

The great land of good wells.

You flew over the sea

Coming here to see

The people of Busii

In the land of Bugisa

Accept our dance

For it's our chance

To play you the band

Of the black land.

With many singers

Twisting their fingers

As for the dumbs

Darting their thumbs

Even the sick in beds

Bobbing their heads

To suit the good –

Hospitable mood

Of bidding warm welcome

To the guests who have come

As to the prodigal son

Of the African tropical sun

Your valediction

Is our conviction

That to see good wells

Endeavour to reach Wales

For all is well

That comes from Wales.

At Busii Secondary School we visited a classroom with approximately 100 students studying maths. We were shown a room with 6 computers of which two were donated by the British Council. However, there was no electricity supply and only two had functioned for one week in June 2007.

The school choir sang and danced and I presented the School with some science equipment donated by PONT as a result of fundraising undertaken by Jane Davidson.

Bukasakya Primary School with 885 pupils is twinned with Gelli Primary School. There were only 8 classrooms to accommodate the pupils. We visited every classroom. There were dances, songs and a short drama presented by the pupils and I was able to congratulate the school on their PLE results which will enable 33 pupils to move up to Secondary School. With overcrowded classrooms, the Head teacher was pleased to show us a new building constructed by the pupils as part of their vocational training.

During my time in Mbale I visited the Uganda Women Concern Ministry run by Mrs Edith Wakumire, the Executive Director. With the empowerment of women and participatory community development, the Mbale project was engaged in community education on prevention of HIV/AIDS and capacity building of communities to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS. A commitment to children's rights and sustainable development were clear features of the project in support of orphans and vulnerable children through sponsorship,

the purchase of goats and mosquito nets. Fifteen communities have been trained to advocate for children's rights, responsibilities and participation.

Action:

1. Report to First Minister and Wales for Africa team in Welsh Assembly Government on PONT visit.
2. Meet with PONT to de-brief on visit including clarifying the links between PONT schools and British Council school programmes (connecting classrooms and global schools partnership) and TIPD (Teachers International Professional Development).
3. Send report on PONT visit to DFID and British Council contacts in Kampala.
4. Suggest links explored between Mbale CAP, PONT and Tocida (Tororo Community Initiated Development Association),
5. Promote links with Uganda Women Concern Ministry and women's organisations in Wales e.g. Soroptomists and Women's Voice.

3. Visit to TOCIDA (Tororo Community Initiated Development Association)

During our visit to Uganda we were the guests of the Mrs Mary Francis Owor, Chairperson of the TOCIDA project, visiting the projects initiated in Magoro Village. This included a visit to an integrated organic farm including the cultivation of bananas, paw paws, hanging vegetable gardens, compost manure making techniques, soil conservation, animal husbandry (rabbits and chickens) and recycling animal waste as well as training for model farmers. We viewed an improved stove at a homestead, and the use of a Nyar Paul M.F.C Stove and Basket cooking using wood chips instead of charcoal.

We also met with TOCIDA Members at the Roma Centre with guest and community rooms where a number of environmentally friendly initiatives were underway using solar power. We viewed the rain water harvesting and development of a stone chips local fridge. Seedlings were also produced and sold. We met with families to learn about the Orphan Support programme (now without funding due to a donor shift of funding to another project). We also supported the local football teams, viewed the library and an HIV/AIDS drama developed and performed by local people.

TOCIDA strives to fulfil its motto of "Simple affordable efforts.... BIG development".

Founded in 1991, TOCIDA's vision is to end up with transformed, well-motivated, skilled and prosperous rural communities, with the empowerment of rural – poor communities with livelihood skills, for self sustenance and poverty reduction. TOCIDA is a member of the National Women's Association of Uganda and Uganda Adult Education Network.

Action:

1. Explore opportunities for Wales for Africa links to the TOCIDA project.
2. Suggest contact made between TOCIDA and PONT.
3. Explore new opportunities for the Orphan Support Project with funding/sponsorship sources in Wales/UK
4. Explore sporting and cultural links with football teams and drama groups (via Sports Council and Arts Council for Wales).
5. Send report on TOCIDA visit to British Council and DFID in Kampala.

Concluding comments:

Since I returned from Uganda I have encountered a number of other connections between Wales and Uganda. I visited Ysgol y Parc in Denbigh and discovered they were linked to a primary school between Entebbe and Kampala. I met the Head teacher of Ogmere Vale Primary School at Entebbe Airport who was spending a week at the White Angels School in Kampala on a British Council Scheme. This was connected to an Orphanage Ty Cariad in Kampala, sponsored by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. I have also met Ugandan students at the St David's Day Reception in the Senedd including one from Mbale who is studying at the University of Glamorgan.

I think there is an opportunity to be more strategic about school links across Uganda in conjunction with PONT and the British Council.

I also think there are likely to be opportunities for local authority links such as those being developed by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC with the assistance of PONT. This could also extend to NHS Trusts and NGOs via WCVA. The British Council is also keen to foster links with higher education at student level with the Delphi scheme.

Research connections in cancer and public health are also relevant and could be taken forward. The Dental School link is valued and of mutual benefit.

In my discussions with George Turkington, the new Uganda Director at DFID, I was made aware of their budget growth as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review. He was keen that the people of Wales should engage in the opportunities for projects of mutual community benefit.

Jane Hutt AM 25.03.08. jane.hutt@wales.gov.uk

PROPOSE ITINERARY FOR THE VISIT TO UGANDA, OF THE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING & SKILLS (WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT), JANE HUTT, ROSAMUNDE HUTT AND MICHEAL TRICKEY (18TH - 24TH FEB. 2008)

| DATE/DAY | TIME FRAME | ACTIVITIES | IN CHARGE |
|---|--|---|---|
| 18 th Feb.2008 MONDAY | 8.30 am 10.00 am 11.30 am 12.30-1.30 Pm 1.30-2.00 pm 2.00 -2.45 pm 2.45-3.00 pm 3.00 - 4.30 pm 4.30-5.30 pm 5.30-6.30 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival Entebbe Airport - BA 0063 • Travel to Kampala - Mbuya • Settle in, relax jet lag. • LUNCH • Travel to kira road,4 Winsor Loop • Meeting with British High Commissioner • To Rwenzori Courts, Lumumba Ave. • Meeting with Director of British Council • Visit Nakasero Primary school • Travel back to Mbuya. | Mrs. M. Owor Host Guests Minister " " Guests |
| 19 th Feb.2008 TUESDAY | 9.00 - 10.00 am 10.30 - 1.00 pm 1.00 - 2.30 pm 2.30 - 3.30 pm 3.30 - 4.00 pm 4.00 - 5.00 pm 5.00 - 6.30 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Visit Lymphoma Treatment Centre & Dental School • Lunch break • Visit Katalemwa • Travel to kira road,4 Winsor Loop • Meeting with Head of Dfid • Back to Mbuya | Host Guests " Minister Guests |
| 20 th Feb.2008 WEDNESDAY | 8.00 - 9.00 am 9.00 - 12.30 pm 12.30-1.00 pm 1.00 - 2.00 pm 2.15 - 3.00 pm 3.00 - 5.30 pm 5.55 pm. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Travel to Mt Elgon Hotel Mbale • Check in at the Hotel • Lunch at Elgon Hotel • Meet Teachers • Visit project schools • Back to Elgon Hotel for the night | Guests PONT PONT |
| 21 st Feb.2008 THURSDAY | 8.00 - 9.00 am 9.00 - 12.30 pm 12.30 - 1.30 pm 1.45 - 2.35 pm 2.40 - 3.00 pm 3.30 - 4.15 pm 4.20 - 4.45 pm 5.00 - 5.10 pm 5.15 - 5.30 pm 5.35 - 5.45 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the Hotel • Wrap up with PONT • Lunch at Elgon Hotel • Travel to Tororo town • Travel to TOCIDA, Magoro village • Visit Integrated Organic Farm • Improved Stove used at a homestead • Visit Orphan support centre (ex-CCF) | Guests PONT Guests M.F. Owor TOCIDA members Francis Ading TOCIDA |
| 21 st Feb.2008 THURSDAY | 5.45 - 5.55 pm 5.55 - 6.20 pm 6.25 - 6.45 pm 6,45 - 7.30 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe basket garden making • View M.F.C. Stove & basket cooking • Youth Foot Ball • View Harvest tank & Local Fridge | " " " " |

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| | 7.40 - 8.30 pm 8.30 - 10.00 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit TOCIDA Library, (ROMO House) • Personal Admin. at Magoro village • Dinner, relax, retire | Guests M.F.Owor |
| 22 nd Feb.2008 FRIDAY | 8.00 - 9.00 am 9.15 - 9.20 am 9.40 - 11.00 am 11.10 - 1.30 pm 1.40 - 2.30 pm 2.30 - 3.30 pm 3.40 - 4.40 pm 4.40 - 6.30 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Travel to ROMO House • Short drama and cultural dances • Travel to Jinja • Lunch at Sunset Hotel - Jinja • Visit source of the Nile-Jinja • Visit Bujjagali Falls • Travel back to Mbuya | M.F.Owor Guests/ Owor TOCIDA Guests/ Owor " " " " " " " |
| 23 rd Feb.2008 SATURDAY | 10.00 -10.30 am 11.30- 1.00 pm 1.00 - 2.30 pm 2.30 - 6.00 pm 7.00 - 9.30 pm 9.30- 10.10 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast • Visit Kasubi Tombs • Lunch at Faze 2. (optional) • Visit, craft shops, Namugongo Shrines etc. • Meet Keith Mcadam at Mamba Point Hotel - Nakasero • Back to Mbuya | Host Guests " " " |
| 24 th Feb.2008 SUNDAY | 9.00-9.30 am 9.30-10.00 am 10.00-12.30 12.30-2.00 pm 2.00 - 2.30 pm 2.30 - 3.30 pm 3.30 - 6.30 pm 6.30 - 7.00 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break fast • Travel to St Francis Chapel • Attend service at St Francis Chapel • Tour Makerere University Campus. • Back to Mbuya • Lunch • Relax, personal administration • Check in at Sheraton Hotel | Host Guests " " " " " Hotel |

Jane Hutt presents headteachers with the Welsh Flag



Jane Hutt with sister Ros, Phil & Kath Rickards PONT, Staff and Guests at Bukhusatsya Primary School



F.D.N.C. Band perform for Jane Hutt and guests



Headteacher of Busiu Secondary School shows Jane Hutt a computer received from the British Counsel.



Jane Hutt pumps water at Busiu Secondary School



Jane Hutt with some of the children of Bukhusatsya Primary School

