

I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH PROMISE KEEPING PEOPLE!

'My name is James Mbatira Nyakwibata; am 46 years old a resident of kiabakari village in Butiama district. I have a family of one wife and four children—two boys and two girls. I remember in 2016 I met a man from SIDO called Charles Iganja who visited me but was not alone. He was with a man who said came from Wales, I think it is in Europe called Tony; and another man from SIDO Mwanza I don't remember the name.. They said they were visiting all *fundis* in this place including disabled like me. At first I thought they were just as many other visitors who used to visit us and then disappear forever, but these people were different!



Soon they organized a seminar for us, Tony as a facilitator and Charles was an interpreter. I used to be in many seminars on AIDS so I thought it would also be on the same issue, but in this one we were facilitated to identify our needs for tools! I listed down many tools which I did not have. Then the visitors went away and from my past experiences with such people from big towns I did not actually expect anything. But at my surprise, few days later they brought me a box and in it most of the tools I needed were there! Look! All these were in that box. All mine. I was very happy as they really helped in improving my work. But, brother that was not all. In 2017 they brought me a sewing machine, Singer type which can do all sorts of leather work. I was however worried because I did not have the required money for it which I remember was 35,000. But I was provided with unexpected support. Our *diwani* (a councilor) paid 10,000 for me, Tony provided 20,000/-, so I paid only 5,000/-! I was so thankful

One thing more I remember in that seminar we were advised to form a group and right now the group exists with eight members including other *fundis* who are not disabled. I personally am registered by the local government authority and I pay 25,000/- a year as a license fee. Since I am a leader for the group I am now processing for group registration.

This year Tony came again. But this time he did not say anything to me apart from saying it was just a greeting trip; but I saw him writing something. I think he was satisfied with my improved work. And if so he was right because the support I got from his office which he said is called TFSR really changed my entire life. I had quite a few and poor tools before but now am well furnished.

But my brother I still need some more support as life is so challenging. First I will be happy if I get training on shoe making (as now am just a repairer). Also, as you can see I am working at an open space along side of the road, which is not very safe. So I will need a better shelter for my work. Lastly the sewing machine requires a treble base. I saw some with you people yesterday, and probably I will also get one. In fact I have processing a loan for a long time now but with no success. May be when we have a registered group it will be easier.

Let me end up here by repeating. The support I got from TFSR and SIDO has totally changed my life and even my family feels it. All of my children are now going to school, and am able to buy new cloths for all my family members during Christmas. But besides all these I have never seen people who kept their promises as these TFSR people. ***Continue with the good work and God bless you'***