

Background: More than 800,000 people of Kasai origin were forcibly displaced between 1992 and 1995. Most lost their jobs and saw their homes burnt down. Orchestrated by President Mobutu and implemented by the then Governor of the Katanga province Kyungu Wa Kumuanza, this wave of ethnic cleansing, forced displacement, and human rights abuse has had far-reaching negative public health, social, and economic ramifications., the great majority of the victims moved northwards to Kasai Province where they were eventually relocated. Approximately ten years after their victimization, most of these internally displaced peoples (IDPs) have not been able yet to achieve any real recovery, particularly because of the continuous political instability in the country and the unwillingness and reluctance of the various successive governments in place since 1992 to tackle this very sensitive dossier. This was the second wave of violence against people of Kasai origin since independence. The first wave occurred in the early 1960s when the country gained its independence.

Campaign Organizer: Leja Bulela, Inc (LB) is a non-governmental organization formed in 1993 in Detroit by members of the Congolese Diaspora in the United States of America. Most of its founding and regular members have ancestry in the Eastern Kasai province; some were themselves refugees who arrived in the United States following either the wave of ethnic cleansing against Luba people in the Katanga Province or fear of political persecution under the dictatorial regime of Mobutu. LB was created to address human rights violations and the social and economic deprivation of people in Kasai Province.

Our main activities:

- (a) Provision of basic education and primary health care to needy populations in Eastern Kasai Province and provision of assistance programs for former refugees living in the United States;
- (b) Advocacy for the respect of human and civil rights by monitoring the rule of social justice and elimination of prejudice;

- (c) Teaching the American public about the history and culture of the Luba people; and
- (d) Fundraising.

Leja Bulela has been successful in conducting many activities. Selected achievements to date are:

- 1) Shipping of tents and medical supplies for the refugees;
- 3) Shipping of computers and more than 2,000 books to the University of Mbuji-Mayi;
- 4) Funding the planting of fast growing trees as an income generating and food security activity;
- 5) Financing the installation of a water pump in Mbuji-Mayi for household and agricultural use;
- 6) Shipping of school supplies for a primary school (Project Ndaya);
- 7) Establishment of a scholarship fund for the University of Mbuji Mayi and the Higher Institute of Pedagogy.
- 8) Installing faucets and toilets in health centers.



FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

KALALA MUZEU

HEALTH CENTER

A HUMANITARIAN PROJECT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SEVERELY AFFECTED BY FORCED DISPLACEMENT FROM THE KATANGA PROVINCE TO THE EASTERN KASAI PROVINCE

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Organized by:

Leja Bulela, Inc.

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Kalala Muzeu Fundraising Campaign Committee

- Dr. Adolphe Tshibengabo, Chair
- Dr. Kayimbi Tubajika, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Kalonji Kabongo, Member

Project Justification: The community health assessment of Cibombo Cimuangi conducted in 2005 by the Executive Director of Leja Bulela has uncovered disheartening public health realities: IDPs who had left decent homes in Katanga Province now live in mud huts or in other poor housing, without access to health care. The majority of the population there has a great number of health problems; The existing Catholic-run health care facility in Cibombo Cimuangi remains under-utilized because the high fees charged for their services are not affordable to community members. The people also do not have access to safe drinking water, and instead collect water from dirty rivers. Because of this traumatic situation, the physical, social, economic, and psychological conditions of those who became refugees in Kasai Province remain a subject of great concern.

During the acute phase of this crisis in 1993 and 1994, a number of relief organizations stepped in to bring some relief to the IDPs. As the acute phase has passed and the situation of displaced people has become 'chronic', most of these relief organizations scaled down their operations, directing their attention to new emergencies elsewhere, although the majority of the IDPs in Eastern Kasai province were still dependent on relief. According to a report issued in 2001 by "Médecins sans Frontières", *there are an estimated two million Congolese displaced inside Congo, many of them outside the reach of aid workers.* In a more recent report, Médecins sans Frontières had this to say: *"The extreme deprivation and violence endured by millions of Congolese goes virtually unnoticed to the rest of the world"* (<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/publications>

In response to these disastrous inhumane conditions, Leja Bulele has decided to mobilize its talents and resources to bring crucially needed health care services to this community. As such, the Kalala Muzeu Health Center (KMHC) is planned as a humanitarian primary health care infrastructure with the role of serving the health needs of people of Cibombo Cimuangi who live far away from any existing health facility and have no income.

Why the projected health care facility will be called Kalala Muzeu Health Center: Mr. Kalala Muzeu was one of LB's funding members and he died in a car accident in 1996 after leaving an LB

annual meeting. He left his wife and five school-age children. To recognize the exemplary role the late Kalala Muzeu played during the formative stage of our organization, Leja Bulela has decided to name this health center after him.

Project Construction Cost: The breakdown of the cost shows the following categories:

- Foundation US\$ 6,919,84
- Wall Construction US\$ 13,637,46
- Roof Construction US\$ 8,965,36
- Carpentry US\$ 5,850,965.36
- Rain Water Collection US \$ 4,310
- Drainage and pathway US\$ 1,104.48
- Interior and exterior Plaster US\$ 2,600
- External Ornament-Board US\$ 506.96
- Ceiling and painting \$US 5,800

What Leja Bulela has already accomplished: Our members have made pledges for about \$18,000. \$12,000 of this amount has already been contributed as cash. We have acquired a decent plot in Cibombo Cimuangi and signed a contract with a construction company. The groundbreaking ceremony took place in March 2006 and the foundation and walls of the Kalala Muzeu Health Center are complete (see below).

At this stage, each of the members of LB is asked to contribute at least US\$750 by April 2007 to secure what is needed to complete the whole construction by July 2007. We have estimated the cost of acquisition, shipment and installation of basic medical equipment at about \$150,000.

What we ask from you. You are welcome to share the cost of shipping. This will be our 2007 gift to the IDPs. We also need the support of your church or organization. Each of our members is asked to raise at least \$3,750.

Leja Bulela members have received this brochure to facilitate this fundraising campaign. We hope you will join us to make a difference in Kasai Province. If you need any further information, please call any of the numbers above. Your donations are tax-exempt.

Contribution Form

First Name: _____ Last _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Church/Organization: _____

Name of Contact Leja Bulela Member

My contribution is US\$ _____. I am paying this amount: ____ by check ____ by money order
____ by credit card:

Card # _____

Expiration _____.

Please send your contribution to the Leja Bulela Treasurer at the following address:

Pascal Mutanda

4349 Hambrick Way

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

THANK YOU!!