**The Snake Farmers**

 The Snake Farmers; plot summary By: Mwalimu Benjamin Ekwamu

The play is set in African Sahara, in Kayunga village. Act one, scene one opens with Opobo, the chairman of the village approaches Mzee Sekande with sad news that incidentally happens following the sudden death of Oyire’s children with unknown epidemic that terrifies the village. The scandal is being said to be poison that causes the deaths of the bereaved family. The two elders decide to pay asympathetic visit to Oyire, who has faced the tragedy.In scene two of act one, the story swifts to London where we are being introduced to the Browns’ family who are whites, living a luxurious lifestyle. Matt Brown, the head of the family turns on the Television to be informed by the news headlines of the day and unexpectedly, they receive the sudden news about Africa of a certain village named Kayunga where three children were found dead due to unknown cause and later on said to be snake bites, Matt Brown is astonished on hearing the news.In scene three, Chairman Opobo and Chief Sekadde meet with Oyire’s family, the diseased to organize for the burial of the three perished children. They also seat with him to pay him a condolence and fill a petty for the family. Opio suggests inthe meeting that the children are being bewitched due to the envy others feel up on his family. Lutalo says that the snakebites are the cause of the three deaths and Oyire also agrees to what Lutalo says. The five elders boil their minds in order to come up with a clear solution for the problem at hand. They all agree to begin by clearing the bushes around; they also think of creating the committees and they start distributing the responsibilities.In act two scene one we have being reconnected to London, where a certain concert called “Saving Sahara” is ongoing where a thousand of people have attended sharea word-of-wisdom on how to support the African village-Kayunga which is invaded with an emergency or a calamity of snake crisis that has claimed lives in short period of time. In this gathering, different groups like; musicians and other donation groups come together to see the way forward for the African victims of the tragedy. Mayor Richard English leads this gathering and convinces the audience in supporting theAfricans facing the situation at hand. On the other hand of the Matts family, theyalso mobilize some financial and other resource support from the church theymanage and discuss further on how to reach Africa. They dash and immediately thenews on BNN Television channel alerts the public on the great support, the whitesare yet to deliver to Africa to rescue the affected village-Kayunga and the on thenews update, the number of those dyeing as a result of an epidemic rapidlyincreases.In act three, scene one where being shifted back to African where the communitypeople on the names of the elders meet directly with the white in a brief meetingconcerning the step on how to start the fight against the poisonous snakes and Brother Samson leads the battle. Samson’s team buys clothes, shoes, bicycles andgiven some money to the poor villagers as a whole. The whites construct a storagehouse for keeping the equipment and Opobo being the village chairman benefits by being constructed a long-lasting mabaati house. The whites also extend their

support constructing a hospital within the community to eliminate travelling 35miles to where the health facility is. Opobo guides the group through the bush…….In scene two of act one, Matt Brown appreciates his partner-Emmy Brown for the tireless and worthful work they do successfully since they are able to check the snakes epidemic. The number of people affected by snake bites reduces as compared previously. They exchange some dialogue on how the European countries should respond on Africa when it comes to such crisis and emergencies.In scene three, the two elders of the village sit together and discuss on the relief that they received and the reduced number of the natives being attacked by the poisonous snakes. They are surprised by the equipment the whites use during the battle and cherish their superiority. The community is proud of the health facility being extended to the nearby community. The two elders appear on the newspaper as those who stood during the times- of- need. On the other side of the whites, one of them dies during the time of snake hunt and he stand out as a hero on African land. The two elders twist the situation again by appreciating the resent tragedy claiming that it has instead helped most people in village to benefit in different ways, like receiving bicycles, money, clothes and shoes and others being built the permanent houses and hospitals. The two elders at the end of the struggle, smartly change their agenda and see how to bring the whites to Africa and to their village in particular. They drastically think of establishing the “The Snake Farm” following the positive changes that they have realized in their village. To plan for snake farm with an intention and they foreshadow that when the snakes invade the village again, of course the support is going to appear immediately and indeed they open up a snake farm and they become two prominent “Snake Farmers” in the village of Kayunga.In Scene four, back to London the Browns’ family receives the official report from the Sahara Government appreciating the whites for great financial support and other basic needs they avail. Not forgetting the immediate support; that is the intervention during the snake calamity.In scene five, still the two elders meet to solidify their selfish and hypocritical idea of starting up a snake farm. After strongly agreeing on the evil deal, they propose to locate the project around the thick-forested area near their locality and surely the deal is accomplished.Finally in scene six, the Brown family are sited inside their decorated house optimistic that the strange situation has ultimately come to the end, surprisingly on hearing the news headlines….“No end to the snakes!”….shocks him again on hearing that the same situation that happened previously resumes in Sahara and this prompts him to ring Samson for second attempt to battle the same problem. As we speak now the war begins again…………..