



FEATURE STORY | PG. 2

Fortportal RCC Warns Public to Stop Media Misuse



Media, when misused, becomes a weapon against national unity. We saw what happened when false news spread on social media about the President's death. It nearly caused a national crisis"

Dear Reader.

We are proud to present the inaugural edition of *The Rwenzori Times*, a weekly Newsletter published by the region's District Communication Officers, dedicated to bringing you development stories from across the Rwenzori sub-region.

This first issue captures a deep lens of local progress, great leadership, and resilience. You'll read about the Fort Portal RCC's strong call for responsible media use and the urgent need to strengthen communication at district level. From Kyenjojo's community-driven nutrition efforts to Kasese's urban transformation under the USMID program, these stories show how national policy is meeting grassroots reality.

We explore how a bridge in Bunyangabu is reconnecting communities, how Kasese is preparing for an international marathon and tourism festival, and how climate-smart agriculture is taking root in Kabarole. You'll also find a powerful personal story of change through the Parish Development Model, and a spotlight on innovations like the NAROVAC anti-tick vaccine shaping the future of Uganda's livestock sector.

Our goal is simple to make public communication accessible, accurate, and meaningful not only for institutions but for our people in Rwenzori. With a history marred with the ADF conflict which the government has since successfully averted



Tusiime Christopher
Chief Editor

and turned tribal controversies into a peaceful and harmonious community, we are officially opening up the true and new face of Rwenzori-sub region to the world

Each week, *The Rwenzori Times* will bring you voices from the field, updates that matter, and stories that inspire, government achievements that are leading to social economic transformation in the area. And the resilience in making a paradise progress deserves to be told clearly, consistently, and credibly.

Thank you for reading and hope to hear from you!



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Editor



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Fortportal RCC Warns Public to **Stop Media Misuse**, Tells District Communication Officers to Enforce Discipline

In her first official public appearance since she was recently moved from Mbale, the Resident City Commissioner (RCC) Fort Portal City, Asumin Nasike has called on the public to stop misuse of media but instead exercise responsibility to promote socio economic development.

Speaking to district communication officers from the Rwenzori region during a two-day retreat organized by Internal security organization in partnership with Ministry of ICT and National guidance and Government Citizen Interaction Centre (GCIC), on Thursday 7th August, 2025, the RCC emphasized that irresponsible use of media can destabilize the country and undermine development efforts.

“Media, when misused, becomes a weapon against national unity. We saw what happened when false news spread on social media about the

President's death. It nearly caused a national crisis," she said.

Emphasizing that she will not tolerate intentional skewed reporting, Nasike said that the government continues to monitor and regulate the media environment. She said that true accountability begins with responsible communication at all levels, especially among public officials and community leaders calling upon district communication officers to revamp the communication function.

"We can't keep quiet when social media is being used to spread panic, confusion, and misinformation. Our leaders must take charge and promote responsible messaging," she added.

The RCC praised civil servants, particularly doctors and public communicators, for properly utilizing government airtime to sensitize citizens on health, security, and development initiatives. She criticized some government officials who personalize the government airtime for their political agenda.

She pledged to support district communication officers to enable them perform better in communicating government achievements, programs and projects.

The Director in charge of Media from the Internal Security Organization (ISO), Maj Edmund Turyatunga, backed the RCC's remarks and challenged regional and district leaders to recognize the critical role of government communicators.

"The problem is that many leaders don't understand what communicators are meant to do. We must cooperate, open up communication, and build institutions through collaboration," Maj Turyatunga said.



Maj. Edmund Turyatunga



Tusiime Christopher, Communication Officer, Bunyangabu District

He emphasized the relationship between media and security in fostering a peace and development through attracting investors and promoting Uganda as a tourism destination.

According to Turyatunga, inter-agency collaboration and public engagement are key to addressing the region's persistent development challenges.

The Communication of officers from Rwenzori region in unison echoed an outcry of working in an environment where the stakeholders do not appreciate their role and as a result have failed the function of communication at district level. "It is difficult executing our function while working with some of our supervisors who constantly don't involve us in activities that are supposed to be communicated," they echoed.

In response, the director of media from ISO said that there are efforts

underway with Ministry of ICT and National Guidance to stream line the communication function at district level and pledged to address their plight to the Director General of ISO and the President.

This engagement follows a series of other retreats organized by ISO, Ministry of ICT &NG, and GCIC in partnership with Government Communicators Forum (GCOF) which were held in Karamoja, Teso, West Nile, Mbarara, Masaka and Mpigi, Wamala -Savana regions with an aim at revamping the communication function from district grassroots to foster destination developments, government project awareness and investment opportunities.



Communicators from the Forces in Rwenzori sub-region attending the retreat

Pictorial of Participants



Pictorial of Participants





Amabeere ga Nyina Mwiru: A Place You Don't Just See, You Feel

By Brenda Murungi, Journalist, Kabarole

When our storytelling team, The Journeylore Collective, set off for Western Uganda, we thought we were going for the views the rolling hills, the crater lakes, a hike or two. But what we found at Amabeere ga Nyina Mwiru was far more than scenery. We stepped into a living story a place where legends come to life, and nature speaks straight to your soul.

Just 10 kilometers from Fort Portal, hidden in the quiet forests of Kabarole District, lies Amabeere ga Nyina Mwiru. In Rutooro, the name means "The Breasts of Nyina Mwiru." To the Batooro people, this is not just a tourist spot it's sacred ground filled with ancient stories and deep meaning.

As we followed the narrow, green path into the forest, our guide who spoke like a master storyteller told us we were about to walk through a piece of living history. Moss covered the stones. The trees whispered. We knew this was no ordinary visit.

Long ago, there lived a beautiful and strong-willed woman named Nyina Mwiru, daughter of King Bukuku of the Batembuzi dynasty. When she refused to marry the man her father chose for her, he punished her cruelly cutting off her breasts so she could never nurse a child. She was hidden in these caves. Yet legend says that her breast milk never stopped flowing. Even today, white, milk-like water still drips from the stalactites in the cave. These are the "Amabeere."

But the story doesn't end in sorrow. Nyina Mwiru had a son, Ndahura, with a mysterious king named Isaza. That child later became one of the greatest rulers of the Chwezi dynasty, changing the course of history in this region. Walking through the caves, it felt like those ancient voices were still with us watching, remembering, blessing.

Yes, the legend is powerful but the natural beauty here is just as unforgettable. These were some of the moments that left us breathless:

- The Stalactites: The rock “breasts” deep in the cave drip slowly, like nature itself is still weeping the old story.
- Nyakasura Waterfall: A curtain of water crashing next to the cave—wild, loud, cleansing.
- Crater Lake Hike: From the top of the hill, you can see Lakes Kigere, Saaka, and Bikere shimmering below like pieces of the sky.
- Nyakasura Hill: Here lies a giant footprint carved into stone. Locals say it belonged to the last of the Batembuzi kings.
- The Forest: Home to black-and-white colobus monkeys, colorful birds, and the constant hum of life all around.

What makes Amabeere ga Nyina Mwiru special isn't just what you see it's what you feel. The people here don't just come for photos. They come to remember. To connect. To honor. And when you visit, you become part of the story, too.

Whether you're into culture, nature, storytelling, or simply want a travel memory that stays with you this is the kind of journey that changes you.

As one of our team members said, “You don't just see Amabeere you feel it.”

Planning Your Visit

- Location: 7–10 km from Fort Portal City, Kabarole District
- Best Time to Visit: June–August or December–February (dry seasons)
- Entry Fees: Very affordable, includes a guided tour

What to Bring:

- Comfortable hiking shoes (no flip-flops!)
- Flashlight or phone torch for the cave
- Light rain jacket
- Open heart and curious spirit

Pair Your Trip With Nearby Attractions

Make the most of your journey by exploring:

- Kibale National Park – Go chimp trekking
- Semuliki National Park – See rare birds and hot springs
- Queen Elizabeth National Park – Take a safari or boat cruise

Insider Tips from The Journeylore Collective

- The path can be slippery step carefully.
- The cave is dark use your flashlight for great photos.
- Ask questions guides love to share stories.
- Stay a night camp or find a lodge in Fort Portal.
- Buy local snacks and crafts support the community.

So dear traveler, Don't just visit
Uganda. Let it speak to you.



MARATHON EXPO

Exhibit at the Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon expo

What's included: Tent space, 1 table + 2 chairs, electricity & power supply.
First come, first serve. Limited exhibitor spots available.

Exhibitor Fee: UGX 400,000

Dates: August 22-23, 2025

Contact us to book your spot
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Beyond Hunger: Tackling Malnutrition in Kyenjojo with Local Solutions

*By Johnson Atuhairwe, District
Communication Officer, Kyenjojo District*

In Kyenjojo District, Western Uganda, communities are waging a determined battle against malnutrition, a silent crisis threatening the health and future of their children. The district's efforts aim to reduce child stunting, underweight births, and poor dietary habits conditions that persist despite the region's agricultural potential and hardworking population.

According to recent health data, 41% of children under five are stunted, while nearly 50% of infants are born underweight alarming indicators of chronic undernutrition and systemic gaps in health and food systems.

While food is grown in abundance, malnutrition in Kyenjojo is often caused not by scarcity, but by limited dietary diversity and low awareness of proper nutrition. Most families depend on staple crops like cassava, matooke, beans, and maize—filling but lacking in essential nutrients.

“This is not just about the lack of food it is about the right kind of food,” said Mr. Raymond Nyabongo, the District Nutritionist. “We have children eating enough in quantity, but not in quality.”



Newly commissioned Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) pose for a group photo after their official commissioning by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Atwiine

To address the crisis, several government and NGO-led interventions have been rolled out across the district, with promising signs of impact.

The Ministry of Health has deployed more than 330 Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) in Kyenjojo. These trained frontline workers offer household-level nutrition education, screen children for malnutrition, and refer cases for medical care.

“Our goal is to catch malnutrition early,” said Mr. Peter Katusabe, a CHEW in Nyantungo Sub-county. “We monitor children’s health, support breastfeeding, and train mothers on complementary feeding.”

Schools are also becoming part of the solution. Many now host demonstration gardens and run school feeding programs, where children grow and

consume vegetables like sukuma wiki, carrots, and beans. These programs not only supplement diets but also improve school attendance and nutrition knowledge.

These school initiatives are supported by Kyenjojo Association of Women Development Actors (KAWODA), a women-led local NGO. KAWODA champions economic empowerment and nutrition by helping households diversify crops, grow home gardens, and improve hygiene.

Their graduation model specifically targets families living on less than \$1.90 a day—offering tailored support to build resilience, improve food security, and ensure sustainable dietary change.

“We work house by house to help families move from food insecurity to nutrition self-reliance,” explained a KAWODA representative.



Raymond Nyabongo, District Nutritionist, tours the school demonstration gardens at Katooke Secondary School as part of efforts to promote nutrition education and dietary diversity among students

The district also boasts a functional District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) a multi-sectoral team established under the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II (2020–2025). The DNCC ensures nutrition is integrated into development plans, budgets, and sector activities, acting as the central body for aligning all nutrition-related work in the district.

Despite these gains, challenges remain. Poor access to clean water, sanitation, and frequent illnesses like malaria and diarrhea limit nutrient absorption in children. Poverty further compounds the problem, limiting access to protein-rich foods such as milk, meat, or fish.

“There are days when we eat only cassava and beans,” said Jane, a mother of four from Kyarusozi. “Vegetables are sometimes seen as a luxury.”

Health leaders are urging increased funding, community participation, and

strengthening of existing programs to sustain the fight against malnutrition. The district aims to expand the CHEW program, enhance nutrition data collection, and deepen collaboration with local leaders to promote nutrition in homes, gardens, and schools.

“If we are to defeat malnutrition, it has to start in the homes, in the gardens, and in our schools,” emphasized Mrs.

Anita Babukiika, Assistant District Health Officer. “We must make nutrition a daily priority.”

The fight against malnutrition in Kyenjojo is far from over, but progress is taking shape. Through community-driven solutions, local leadership, and strategic partnerships, the district is steadily charting a path to better health for all.



Members of the District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) during the quarterly coordination meeting



DNCC members during a sub-county visit as part of a community sensitization campaign on proper feeding and nutrition practices



DNCC members pose for a group photo with school nutrition champions at Katooke Secondary School, following a joint engagement on promoting healthy feeding practices



Beyond the Tarmac: **Kasese's Journey** to Sustainable Urban Growth

By the Editorial Team

“The Shs 53 billion invested in Kasese may have gone into concrete and steel, but the real returns are measured in renewed hope, safer neighborhoods, thriving businesses, and a community moving forward together.”

When President Yoweri Museveni commissioned the Shs 53 billion USMID-funded road projects in Kasese in May 2025, the spotlight naturally fell on the gleaming new tarmac smooth, marked, and sunlit. But beyond the asphalt lies a deeper story of transformation one rooted in strategic planning, community empowerment, and sustainable development.

While it's easy to focus on national challenges as every country has its share what often gets lost in the noise is the quiet, steady progress happening in places like Kasese. Even global superpowers face crises, yet progress must be recognized and celebrated where it occurs. Kasese's story is a reminder that meaningful change often begins at the local level.



The infrastructure investment under the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) program, implemented through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, is about far more than roads. It's about integrated urban development that uplifts livelihoods and reshapes the future of a community.

One of the most commendable achievements is Kasese's deliberate approach to climate resilience. Proper drainage often treated as an afterthought — was built into the core design. In a region historically vulnerable to floods and extreme weather, efficient water flow management is as vital as the roads themselves. Green spaces now dot the town, not just beautifying the landscape but mitigating urban heat and enhancing air quality, contributing to a

healthier and more livable environment.

The town is also quite literally lighting up. The installation of modern streetlights has transformed Kasese's urban life. Once quiet and deserted after sunset, the streets now host a budding night economy. Traders operate longer, residents feel safer, and the vibrancy of night life is steadily returning powered by light, safety, and renewed confidence.

Perhaps the most compelling indicator of Kasese's growth is its soaring local revenue. From a modest Shs 399 million just a few years ago, the municipality now reports collections of Shs 1.4 billion. This rise is no coincidence. It's the product of improved infrastructure, digitized systems, and accountable leadership proof that well-managed public investment drives real economic empowerment.

What makes Kasese's journey even more inspiring is its commitment to progress despite imperfections. It didn't wait for perfect conditions to start. It prioritized wisely, managed resources with transparency, and delivered results that now stand as a benchmark for other municipalities.

The roads may have been the most visible sign of change, but they were only the beginning. They opened the way for systemic transformation in urban planning, service delivery, community participation, and trust in local governance.

In a world where development is often discussed in abstract terms GDP growth, industrial corridors, innovation

hubs Kasese brings the concept home. True transformation is not just about infrastructure. It's about building systems that serve people, nurturing environments where enterprise thrives, and creating spaces where dignity and opportunity intersect.

The Shs 53 billion invested in Kasese may have gone into concrete and steel, but the real returns are measured in renewed hope, safer neighborhoods, thriving businesses, and a community moving forward together.

That is development that truly goes *beyond the tarmac.*



From the Peaks to the Pitch: Rwenzori Celebrates with the Cranes

When the final whistle blew at Namboole, sealing the Uganda Cranes' emphatic 3-0 victory over Guinea, celebrations erupted far beyond the stadium. From Fort Portal's bustling streets to Kasese's new-lit boulevards, from Kyenjojo's school gardens to Bunyangabu's freshly built Mahumbuli Bridge, the Rwenzori region stood united, cheering not just for a football team, but for the spirit of possibility.

Only days earlier, the Cranes had endured a bruising tournament opener against Liberia, a defeat that could have drained their energy and belief. But just as our region has shown in the face of floods, ADF threats that the government has averted, they chose resilience over retreat. They regrouped, re-energised, and delivered a performance that turned doubt into pride.

In trading centres and trading fields, people are speaking spoke of Reagan Mpande's opening header and Allan Okello's ice-cool penalty with the same pride they share for local farmers mastering climate-smart agriculture or the women of Kyeisaza saving through new village



loan schemes. For a moment, the roar that usually echoes from the mountains came from radios, TV sets, and community gatherings, a reminder that victory, whether on the pitch or in our fields, is born of preparation, discipline, and teamwork.

Much like the Cranes' careful build-up to this triumph, our region's progress is not accidental. It's in the steady tarmac laid in Kasese, the patient fight against malnutrition in Kyenjojo, and the strategic planning behind tourism festivals that welcome the world. Sport, like development, thrives when every player knows their role and every community sees itself in the win.

As the Cranes march forward in the tournament, the Rwenzori marches with them, proud, hopeful, and ready for the next whistle. Because here, whether it's football or farming, tourism or teaching, the goal is the same: to keep winning, together.

Mahumbuli Bridge Brings Relief and Hope to Kibiito and Nyakigumba Communities

By Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer, Bunyangabu District

For decades, residents of Kibiito and Nyakigumba Town Councils in Bunyangabu District struggled to access markets, schools, and health facilities due to the poor road network most notably, the dilapidated wooden bridge over River Yerya at Mahumbuli.

Traders were forced to take long, costly alternative routes, while schoolchildren and patients risked their lives crossing a crude, unstable bridge made of tree logs. The threat was especially severe during the rainy season, when the river would swell, making the crossing perilous and, at times, impossible.

But today, a new chapter of safety, opportunity, and transformation is unfolding. The newly constructed Mahumbuli Bridge, built under the Local Economic Growth Support (LEGS) Project, is restoring hope and dignity to these communities.

The Mahumbuli Bridge forms part of the broader Mahumbuli-Kabada road project, which includes the



grading, levelling, and gravelling of a 2-kilometre stretch of road. Initiated in September 2024 and valued at UGX 490 million, the project is now fully complete and awaiting official commissioning.

“This bridge was built with long-term durability in mind,” said Samuel Nyaruhuma, the Bunyangabu District Engineer. “It meets modern engineering standards, and I am confident it will serve this community effectively for many years to come.”

For many residents, the bridge represents far more than improved infrastructure it is a lifeline.

Mugisa Ronald, a resident of Kibiito Town Council, remembers the dangers vividly.

“The previous bridge was made of tree logs. It was very risky, especially during rainy seasons. At times, people would fall into the river while trying to cross. We had no option but to use longer routes, which cost us more money and time,” he shared.

Rose Kemigisa, a parent from Nyakigumba Town Council, described the emotional toll on families.

“The construction of the Mahumbuli Bridge has given us a sigh of relief. Our children used to risk their lives crossing River Yerya on their way to school. During the rainy season, the river would flood and become impassable. As parents, we were

always worried.”

Today, movement between the two town councils is safer, faster, and more affordable. Traders can now reach markets with ease, children go to school without fear, and access to healthcare facilities has significantly improved.

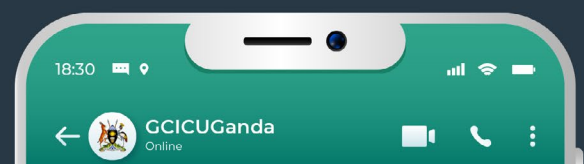
The Local Economic Growth Support (LEGS) Project is a government initiative supported by development partners. It aims to spur inclusive economic growth by improving access to public services, markets, and production zones through strategic infrastructure development in selected districts.

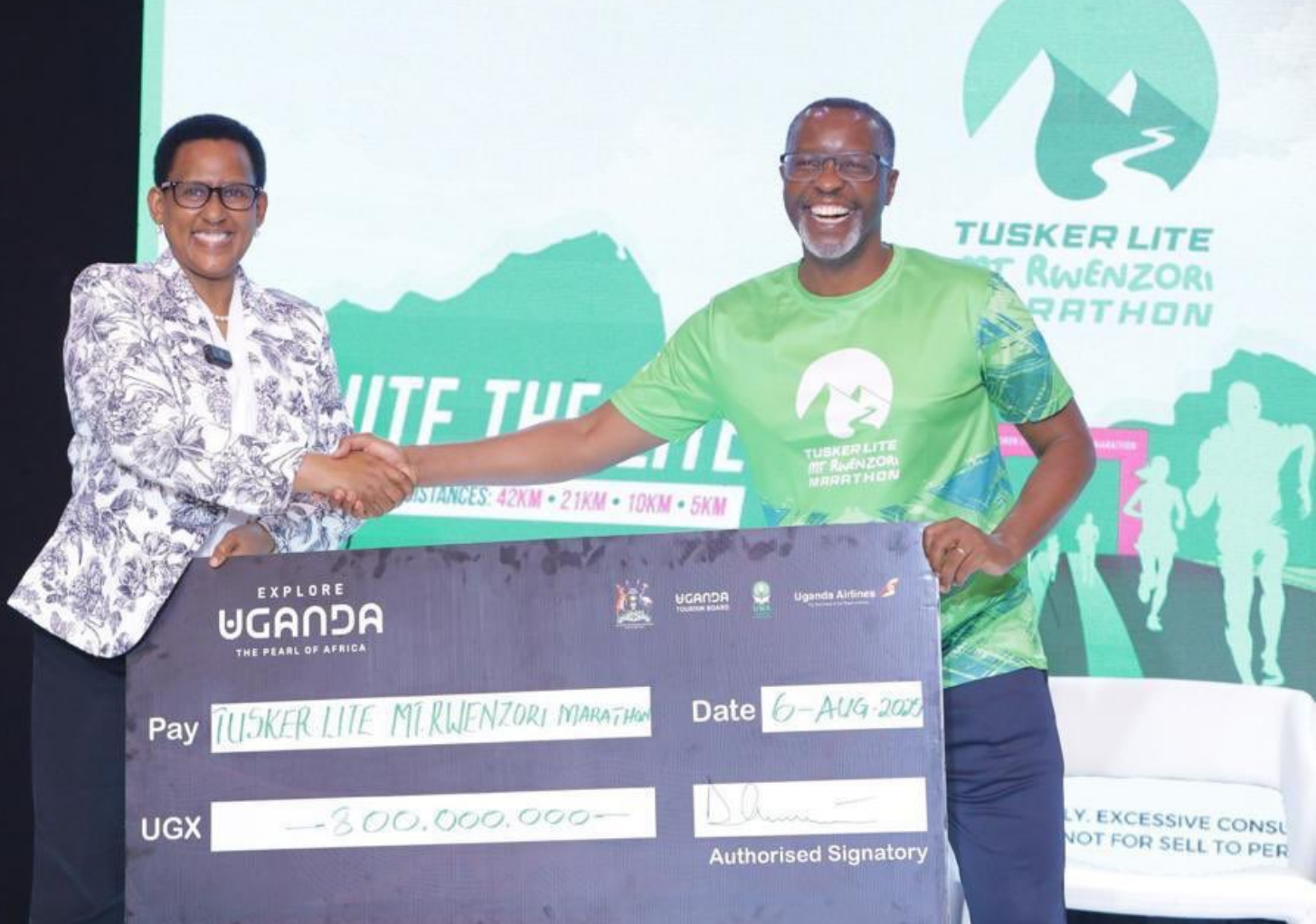
In Bunyangabu District, the LEGS Project is making a tangible impact by prioritizing infrastructure that unlocks local economic potential and reduces poverty. The Mahumbuli-Kabada road and bridge project is a clear demonstration of how well-planned investments can transform communities and promote sustainable development.

With the Mahumbuli Bridge now complete, the people of Kibiito and Nyakigumba are no longer bound by the dangers and limitations of the past. The bridge stands not just as a physical crossing over River Yerya, but as a symbol of progress, resilience, and renewed hope for a better tomorrow.

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Permanent Secretary Doreen Katusiime and Amos Wekesa exchange a handshake during the symbolic cheque handover

Uganda Launches 2025 Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon with Ugx 800 Million Boost

By Brenda Murungi, Journalist, Rwenzori Region

"We're turning a race into a wellness movement that celebrates nature, health, and community."
Amos Wekesa, Marathon Co-founder

Kampala, Uganda – August 7, 2025:

Uganda has officially flagged off the fourth edition of the Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon, slated for August 23 in Kasese District, with a UGX 800 million commitment from the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), and Uganda Airlines.

The marathon, now a major feature on Uganda's tourism and sports calendar, is expected to attract runners from over 32 countries across Europe, Asia, the Americas, and Africa. As of today, participants from 33 countries have already signed up, reinforcing the event's growing international appeal.

“This marathon is not just about Kasese,” said Juliana Kaggwa, CEO of UTB. “It’s a platform to put all of Uganda on the global map. From gorilla trekking to Queen Elizabeth National Park, the message is clear Come run, explore, and return.”

This year’s edition will feature 42km, 21km, and 5km races, catering to elite athletes and fitness enthusiasts alike. But beyond the run itself, the marathon is driving economic opportunity and tourism development in the region. Last year alone, over UGX 15 billion was spent in Kasese and neighboring areas during the marathon period, according to event co-founder Amos Wekesa. “Our dream is to bring 2,000 to 3,000 Kenyan runners by 2026, turning this into a major tourism and wellness destination,” he added.

Permanent Secretary Doreen Katusiime, representing the Ministry of Tourism, praised the collaborative effort and reaffirmed government commitment

to unlocking Uganda’s regional tourism assets. “This marathon is part of a larger tourism vision,” she said. “It offers a flagship experience that is sustainable, locally rooted, and globally appealing.”

To enhance the experience and stimulate participation, organizers are offering discounted entry to national parks, curated influencer tours, and promotional fares by Uganda Airlines for marathon participants. Visitors are encouraged to extend their stay and explore Uganda’s iconic natural attractions from the Rwenzori Mountains to crater lakes and welcoming communities across the country.

The #TuskerLiteRwenzoriMarathon was officially launched, with the Fairway Hotel in Kampala hosting the flag-off ceremony attended by stakeholders from the public and private sector. With mounting momentum, Uganda is ready to host the world in Kasese this August.

Save the date: August 23, 2025 — Kasese District.



Panelists discuss the impact of the Rwenzori Marathon on wellness tourism, economic development, and regional visibility during the official launch held at Fairway Hotel in Kampala

Uganda's Livestock Sector Gets a Boost with Groundbreaking NAROVAC Vaccine

*By Stephen Ainganiza Waddell,
Communication Officer, Fort Portal City*

The National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) has unveiled NAROVAC, a groundbreaking anti-tick vaccine, in August 2025, marking a landmark development for Uganda's livestock sector. The vaccine is designed to combat the country's persistent struggle with tick-borne diseases and offers a sustainable solution to improve cattle health and farmer livelihoods.

The introduction of NAROVAC marks a turning point in livestock health management, offering farmers a sustainable alternative to expensive and often ineffective acaricides.

"This vaccine will significantly reduce production costs for farmers by minimizing the need for regular spraying," said Dr. Fred Kabi, Principal Research Officer at NARO and lead investigator of the vaccine. "By improving cattle health and productivity, NAROVAC will increase farmer profitability and enhance their contribution to the national economy."

The livestock sector contributes significantly to Uganda's agricultural GDP, yet farmers have long battled losses due to ineffective tick treatments and counterfeit drugs. With government backing and President Yoweri Museveni's endorsement, NAROVAC is set to be a game-changer.

Dr. Kabi emphasized the importance of safeguarding the distribution process to ensure the vaccine's integrity:

"District production officers must take the lead in fighting the circulation



Dr. Fred Kabi addresses veterinary staff in Kabarole District during the unveiling of the NAROVAC anti-tick vaccine



Mr. Ronald Tumuhairwe, a veterinary officer.

of fake drugs. The administration of NAROVAC will be tightly supervised by veterinary staff to eliminate misuse and ensure impact.”

The vaccine is expected to be officially launched by President Museveni before the end of 2025, with nationwide distribution anticipated in early 2026.

A state-of-the-art production facility in Nakyesasa-Nalirri, Wakiso District, is being prepared to manufacture up to 20 million doses of NAROVAC. This reflects the government’s strong commitment to protecting livestock and improving rural livelihoods.

Veterinary professionals have welcomed the innovation with enthusiasm. Ronald Tumuhairwe, a veterinary officer, called for deliberate training programs:

“To ensure the vaccine rollout is successful, we need strategic capacity-building for all frontline animal health officers.”

Local leaders are optimistic about the vaccine’s potential to transform livestock farming. Dr. Henry Mulondo, District Production and Marketing Officer for Kabarole, described the vaccine as a “critical intervention” against tick-related livestock fatalities.

Stephen Birungi, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (ACAO) for Kabarole, echoed this sentiment, saying:

“This is a turning point in livestock management. NAROVAC offers hope to farmers who have long suffered from the burden of tick infestations.”

The vaccine was officially unveiled during a meeting of veterinary officers held at Kitumba District Headquarters in Kabarole.

From Struggle to Stability: How Patrick Eribankya is Transforming His Life Through the Parish Development Model

By Christopher Tusiime, Communication Officer, Bunyangabu District

In this inaugural edition, we are pleased to share one of the many inspiring success stories emerging from the Parish Development Model. Patrick Eribankya, a resident of Kahogo Cell, Central Ward in Kibiito Town Council, Bunyangabu District, stands as a powerful example of government-led transformation. Once a struggling small-scale pig farmer, Patrick has become a symbol of hope, resilience, and rural economic renewal through the Parish Development Model (PDM) initiative aimed at transitioning subsistence households into the money economy.



Patrick Eribankya stands proudly beside his poultry project in Kahogo Cell, Bunyangabu District

Patrick's story begins like that of many Ugandans. He kept a few pigs to generate occasional income for household expenses. While his efforts helped meet basic needs, they were never enough to address long-term goals like school fees, health care, or building savings. According to the 2024 National Population and Housing Census, over 39% of

Uganda's population remains trapped in subsistence conditions, with limited access to productive assets and low-income levels characteristics that mirror Patrick's initial struggles.

But all that changed when the Parish Development Model was introduced in his parish. Launched in 2022, the PDM is a multi-sectoral strategy that brings services closer to communities while targeting subsistence households as the primary beneficiaries. With the parish serving as the epicentre for planning, budgeting, and service delivery, the program aims to ensure that no Ugandan is left behind in the country's economic transformation agenda.

When Patrick received Shs 1 million from the Parish Revolving Fund, he immediately reinvested the money into his piggery by purchasing more piglets. His experience and renewed vision enabled him to manage this growth effectively. As his herd expanded, so did his income. He reinvested his profits in a disciplined cycle of growth, which soon yielded consistent and reliable returns.

Patrick's story exemplifies the vision of the PDM: enabling households to generate at least UGX 20 million annually, acquire productive assets, and access basic needs without external dependency.

With increased earnings, Patrick was able to do something he had never done before — open formal savings accounts. He now has an account at Rwakyakibunya SACCO, where he has saved over Shs 500,000, and another with a commercial bank where his savings have surpassed Shs 3 million.

This is no small feat. According to the 2024 Census, only 43% of adults participate in the labor force, and even fewer have access to formal financial services or the ability to save regularly. Patrick's entry into the formal savings ecosystem highlights a shift from vulnerability to empowerment a critical goal under the financial inclusion pillar of the PDM.

Moreover, Patrick has expanded his agribusiness to include goats and poultry, particularly local chicken breeds. These enterprises provide additional income streams and cushion his household from market volatility or livestock disease.

Among the most inspiring aspects of Patrick's journey is his commitment to education. With a stable source of income, he now comfortably supports his three children one in Senior Six, another in Senior Four, and the youngest in Primary Seven. What was once a looming burden has now become a manageable and fulfilling responsibility.

This aligns with national priorities, as education remains a key marker of progress in rural transformation. The 2024 Census highlights that only 73% of Ugandans aged 10 and above are literate, with even lower participation in secondary and vocational education. By supporting his children's education, Patrick is investing in generational change.

Patrick's advice to fellow PDM beneficiaries is clear and compelling: "PDM has uplifted my family from poverty," he says.

"I now see nothing but a bright future. This program works if you invest the money wisely and put in the effort."

His success underscores the importance of enterprise group formation, accountability, and community-driven planning all key tenets of the PDM framework. Under the model, households are grouped into enterprise clusters of 10–30 members, ensuring that support is delivered in a coordinated and productive manner.

Patrick's journey from struggle to sustainability is not just an isolated success story it is a living example of what the Parish Development Model was designed to achieve: inclusive growth, economic transformation, and community resilience. His experience illustrates the power of local-level planning and support in driving sustainable change.

With more Ugandans embracing enterprise, saving, and long-term planning, the vision of a financially secure and economically active rural population is becoming a reality.



Facts & Frameworks

National Plans Decoded. Regional Impact, Explained

*Investing in People through Health, Education, Water,
and Social Protection*

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Facts & Frameworks* a special page dedicated to breaking down Uganda's national policies, budgets, and development plans in simple, practical terms.

We begin with the Financial Year 2025/2026 National Budget, a key document that outlines how government will spend over UGX 62 trillion to improve lives, grow the economy, and unlock opportunity across the country.

While national budgets often feel distant or technical, the truth is: they affect all of us from the quality of health care and education in our communities, to access to water, roads, electricity, and jobs. This page is here to answer the big question: "What does the budget really mean for me?"

In this four-part series, we will walk you through what's in the budget by category showing where the money goes and what it aims to change.

We start with people-focused investments: health, education, clean water, and social protection. These are the foundations of any strong society, and they represent the largest share of this year's national spending.

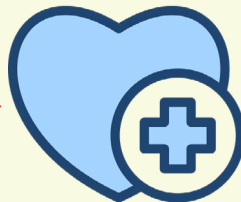
Let's break it down

The 2025/26 National Budget sets aside UGX 11.44 trillion to invest in the people of Uganda. These investments aim to improve health care, education access, water and sanitation, and support for the vulnerable. Here's how that money is being spent and what it means for you:



Health Sector

UGX 5.87 Trillion



Key priorities:

- Upgrade Health Centre IVs
- Strengthen ambulance and emergency care systems
- Deploy Community Health Extension Workers
- Construct specialised cancer and heart treatment centres
- Scale up national e-health systems and digitised health records

What this means for citizens:

More drugs in government facilities, improved emergency response, shorter distances to critical care, and increased digitisation for efficient health service delivery.

Education

UGX 5.04 Trillion



Key priorities:

- Continue free UPE, USE, and Post-O'Level training
- Build 116 new seed secondary schools
- Rehabilitate 120 secondary and 31 special needs primary schools
- Recruit more teachers and enforce quality inspections
- Operationalise Bunyoro and Busoga universities
- Roll out digital tools and provide more textbooks (improving ratio from 1:15 to 1:3)



What this means for learners and teachers:

Better infrastructure, more teachers, more accessible textbooks, and higher-quality education especially in underserved districts.

Water, Sanitation & Environment

UGX 366.1 Billion

Key priorities:

- Expand solar-powered water systems in rural and peri-urban areas
- Construct new piped water systems in 32 towns
- Protect wetlands and forests as climate buffers

What this means for communities:

More safe water sources, better sanitation in both homes and public spaces, and improved resilience against climate threats.



Social Protection

UGX 404.9 Billion

Key priorities:

- Expand support under **SAGE** for 495,720 older persons
- Fund income-generating projects for women, youth, and persons with disabilities
- What this means for vulnerable groups: More cash in the hands of the elderly, women, and youth and more dignity and participation in the economy.
- By investing in these areas, the government hopes to build a more empowered, healthy, and educated society.



**STAY TUNED FOR EDITION 2,
WHERE WE UNPACK THE BUDGET'S
WEALTH CREATION PROGRAMS
INCLUDING PDM, EMYOOGA, AND
SME SUPPORT.**



Rehabilitation of Kyegegwa–Kabagore–Kazo Road to Commence Soon

Kyegegwa, Uganda

The long-awaited rehabilitation of the Kyegegwa–Kabagore–Kazo Road is set to begin, following the allocation of UGX 5.161 billion by the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Works and Transport.

The road, locally referred to as the “Liberation Road,” has been in a deplorable state after being severely damaged by heavy rains in recent months. It serves as a crucial transport corridor linking Tooro and Ankole regions and is a key route for grain traders from Rwanda and southwestern Uganda, including Mbarara, Kabale, and Kisoro.

The contract for the road works has been awarded to M/s Universal Engineering Uganda Limited. According to officials, the maintenance project will run for eleven months, starting on 6th August 2025 and ending on 7th July 2026.

The scope of work includes gravelling the road to a width of 7 meters with a thickness of 150 millimeters. In addition, the project will involve the installation of concrete culverts, construction of end structures, excavation of side and toe drains, and implementation of catchwater drainage systems.

Authorities say the rehabilitation is expected to greatly improve road conditions, ease transportation, and reduce travel time. The improved access will enable rural communities to reach markets and essential services more efficiently, thereby enhancing local trade, increasing household incomes, and creating employment opportunities.

The Ministry of Works and Transport has urged local residents and road users to cooperate with contractors during the construction period to ensure smooth implementation of the project.

Kasese Set to Host **4th Annual Tourism Festival:** A Celebration of Culture, Adventure, and Economic Growth

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese DLG

Kasese District is preparing to host its much-anticipated 4th Annual Tourism Festival, a premier event that will highlight the region's rich cultural heritage, stunning natural beauty, and adventure tourism opportunities. This year's festival promises to further bolster sustainable tourism, economic revitalization, community empowerment, and environmental stewardship in the region.

A major feature of the festival is the internationally certified Tuskerlite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon, scheduled to take place on August 23, 2025. The marathon, which has grown significantly since its inception, will attract both local and international runners. The event will feature four categories: 42KM, 21KM, 10KM, and a 5KM family fun run. The 2024 edition of the marathon saw a remarkable 3,700 international runners from 30 countries, a significant increase from the 1,500 international participants in 2022.



Following the marathon, the Rwenzori Theluji Festival will be held from September 5–8, 2025, in Kasese Municipality. Organized by the Kasese Tourism Investors Forum (KTIF), the festival will offer a wide array of activities that promote environmental conservation, cultural tourism, and community engagement. It will celebrate the diverse cultures of the district, including the Basongora, Banyabindi, Bakingwe, Bakonzo, and Bagabu, who will come together to showcase their traditions through cultural performances and exhibitions.

The Kasese Tourism Investors Forum (KTIF) has expressed gratitude to Mr. Amos Wekesa, the proprietor of the Tuskerlite Rwenzori Marathon, for promoting Kasese as a preferred tourism destination in Africa. KTIF Chairperson, Mr. Police Charles, acknowledged that

the marathon has attracted global participation, putting Kasese firmly on the international tourism map. He encouraged local communities to take advantage of the opportunities created by the marathon and emphasized that KTIF is dedicated to mobilizing the community for both the Rwenzori Theluji Festival and the marathon.

Mbambu Jovia, the District Tourism Officer, highlighted the festival's profound impact on tourism development in Kasese. The district has emerged as a key tourism hub in Uganda, drawing more visitors to explore its natural wonders. The local community has benefited greatly, with increased investments in tourism-

related infrastructure, such as hotels and restaurants. The district's lodging capacity has grown from 502 rooms in 2022 to a remarkable 2,806 rooms in 2025. The festival has also played a crucial role in showcasing Kasese's beauty, leaving international visitors with lasting impressions of the district's scenic landscapes and the warm hospitality of its residents.

Preparations for the 4th Annual Tourism Festival are in full swing, with stakeholder engagement meetings already held and the launch of the 2025 Rwenzori Theluji Festival and Tuskerlite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon already launched.

**THE RWENZORI MARATHON,
IS AN ICONIC SPORTING EVENT
THAT CELEBRATES
EAST AFRICAN UNITY,
RESILIENCE AND
ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE**

UGANDAN HIGH COMMISSION PRESENTS:

**RWENZORI
MARATHON**

09 AUG SATURDAY

FLAG OFF CEREMONY

RADIX HOTEL KAREN

UGANDA HIGH COMMISSION
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Uganda Airlines

TUSKER LITE
MT. RWENZORI
MARATHON

SHIWAN ADVENTURES



Kabarole Farmers **Adopt Climate-Smart Agriculture** for Resilience and Growth

By Ainganiza Stephen, Communication Officer, Kabarole District

Farmers in Kabarole District are embracing climate-smart agriculture through a series of exchange learning visits aimed at improving productivity, sustainability, and resilience. Organized by the Kabarole District Production Team in partnership with selected model farmers, the initiative is part of efforts under the Uganda Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP).

The team conducted exchange visits across the Rwenzori region, engaging with modern farming, beekeeping, fish farming, and processing projects. These visits were designed to expose local farmers to innovative, sustainable practices that respond to climate challenges while boosting income.

According to Dr. Dean Kusiimakwe, the District Veterinary Officer and Focal Person for UCSATP in Kabarole, the goal

of the exchange visits is to benchmark best practices in climate-smart agriculture that can be replicated at the local level.

“When farmers visit these well-established and organized farms, they acquire practical knowledge and new skills which they apply back home to improve productivity and ultimately raise household income,” Dr. Kusiimakwe said.

The team visited several outstanding initiatives, including the Kabarole Bee Keepers Association, which processes honey into various marketable products; BIGLAD Agri-Tourism Farm in Kanyambeho, Kiko Town Council; and the Bunyangabu Bee Keepers Cooperative Association.

Participants were inspired by the success stories of these farms, many of which are not only thriving economically but also contributing to environmental conservation and promoting agri-tourism. Farmers also learned about the use of black soldier fly larvae in integrated farming to improve soil



The Kabarole District Production Team and local farmers during a learning visit at the Kabarole Bee Keepers Association

fertility and animal nutrition.

Mr. Patrick Akugizibwe, a farmer from Kiko, expressed deep appreciation after visiting BIGLAD Agri-Tourism Farm, owned by Mr. Julius Bigabwa.

“The knowledge I’ve gained from Mr. Bigabwa will help me rejuvenate my macadamia plantation and improve bee forage for my apiary, especially for pollination services. I’m grateful to the Kabarole production team for these visits they’ve empowered and energized me,” he shared.

Immaculate Katushabe, an apiary farmer from Ruteete Sub-county, noted the untapped potential in the honey market and called for more mobilization of farmers into beekeeping.

Mr. Adolf Bagonza, a beekeeper and member of the Kabarole Bee Keepers Association, emphasized the immense opportunities in the bee industry. He cited the high value of bee products like venom, which can fetch millions per kilogram.

Mr. Clouds Philbert, an entomologist, said the initiative aligns with the goals of the UCSATP and is expected to enhance resilience and productivity among farmers in Kabarole.

He encouraged farmers to embrace commercial beekeeping as a viable income-generating activity.

Former Secretary for Production in Kabarole District, Hon. Bahat Milton, welcomed the initiative and stressed the importance of registering all willing farmers under the UCSATP framework.

“Encouraging farmers to work in organized groups will strengthen their access to support services and funding under the Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation Project,” he advised.

The Uganda Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP) is a six-year initiative led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF). It is implemented in collaboration with agencies such as the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA). The project aims to increase agricultural productivity, improve market access, and build resilience in targeted value chains, while enabling effective responses to emergencies.

Cooking Smarter, Living Better: The Kyeisaza Energy Story

By Baingana Samuel, Communication Officer, Kyegegwa DLG

*Newly installed energy-saving
cook stove in a beneficiary's
home in Kyeisaza Village*



The Kyeisaza Community Energy Saving Cook Stoves Project, launched in 2022 with funding amounting to UGX 52,682,201, has brought about a remarkable transformation in household energy use and cooking practices for 42 families in Kyeisaza Village, Buraro Ward, within the Wetege Watershed of Kakabara Sub-county, Kyegegwa District.

Spearheaded by the Kabarole Research and Resource Center (KRC), the project aimed to introduce energy-efficient cook stoves at the household level to reduce overdependence on firewood and

improve health outcomes, especially for women and children involved in daily cooking activities.

The initiative emphasized community participation and local ownership. Beneficiaries, with strong support from political leaders, district technical officers, community watershed committees, and local facilitators, played an active role in implementing the project. From the beginning, the project fostered a spirit of collaboration and accountability through regular supervision and monitoring by the sub-project committee and KRC staff. “This

project brought sustainable energy solutions to a local community,” said Mr. Namara Archangel, the Sub-project Chairperson, highlighting the practical benefits felt across households.

One of the project’s most notable achievements has been the widespread adoption of the improved cook stoves. These stoves consume far less firewood than traditional open-fire cooking methods, making them both environmentally friendly and economically beneficial. “The introduction of modern cook stoves has changed the way we use energy in our kitchens.

It’s efficient and sustainable,” said Nantongo Margret, one of the project participants. In addition to fuel savings, the cook stoves feature three pan sits, enabling users to prepare multiple dishes at once, which significantly reduces the time spent cooking and frees up valuable hours for other household responsibilities.

Health and safety were also central to the project's design. The stoves are equipped with chimneys that channel smoke outside, thereby reducing indoor air pollution and minimizing respiratory problems common among women and children. The improved air quality has created a safer and healthier cooking environment, addressing long-standing health challenges associated with traditional cooking practices.

The project also supported the establishment of kitchen gardens. Through targeted training, beneficiaries were encouraged to grow vegetables and herbs near their homes, promoting better nutrition and food security.

Many households have since reported improved access to balanced diets, with mothers now able to prepare and store warm, nutritious meals for their children more effectively. This development has played a crucial role in combating malnutrition and enhancing overall family well-being.

Beyond energy and nutrition, the project built the financial capacity of participants by training them in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). These trainings enabled beneficiaries to develop group savings strategies, improve financial discipline, and access small loans to support household needs or start small income-generating activities. As a result, many families have become more economically resilient and better positioned to manage unexpected expenses.

Another valuable aspect of the project was the introduction of biochar processing. Participants learned how to use carbonized drums to produce biochar, a sustainable alternative to traditional charcoal. This innovation not only promotes cleaner cooking but also encourages the reuse of agricultural waste, supporting broader environmental goals.

PRE-TUSKER LITE

MT. RWENZORI MARATHON

CULTURAL EXHIBITION

AUGUST | 21ST – 23RD | 2025

VENUE: FORMER TAXI PARK & MUKIRANE STREET



UGX 150K
SMEs & Tour
Operators

UGX 200K
Hotels (KTIF
members)

UGX 300K
Hotels (Non-KTIF
members)

Package includes: Tent (01), Table (01),
Chairs (02) & Power Connection

Payments:

3100093917 – Rwenzori Theluji Festival Centenary Bank

Register Now: <https://cutt.ly/Expo25>

For More Information:

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