



FEATURE STORY | PG. 21

LEGS-Funded Valley Water Tank to Boost Livestock Farming for over 40,000 Cattle in Ntoroko



Ntoroko Resident District Commissioner, Patrick Ssonko urged communities to maximize the opportunity, stressing unity, peace, and improved agricultural output. He added that efficient use of water resources would reduce government health costs while enabling wealth creation.

Dear Reader.

From the snow-capped peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains to the cheers of the fans as the Uganda Cranes charge into the CHAN quarterfinals, the Rwenzori region pulses with energy, pride, and resilience. Just as runners warm up to conquer the Rwenzori Marathon, communities in the great Sub-region, are embracing transformative projects that uplift livelihoods, celebrate culture, and harness the region's unique natural wealth.

As we present this **Third edition** of the *Rwenzori Times*, we are reminded of the region's resilience and the transformative strides being made across its districts. From the fertile valleys of Kitagwenda to the arid expanses of Ntoroko, the Rwenzori region is witnessing a renaissance in community development, agriculture, and infrastructure.

From Kamwenge's UGIFT micro-scale irrigation program boosting farmers from subsistence to commercial production, to Kyegegwa's fisheries exchange fostering skills and knowledge transfer, it is clear that innovative approaches are driving real change.

In Kitagwenda, over 500 households have received improved maize, beans, and Irish potato seedlings, strengthening food security and local livelihoods. Meanwhile, Ntoroko is transforming access to water for both domestic use and livestock through the Kimara Valley Water Tank, funded by the Local Economic Growth Services (LEGS) program, which will benefit over



Tusiime Christopher
Chief Editor

40,000 cattle and bolster agricultural productivity.

These stories demonstrate the power of collaboration between local governments, development partners, and communities, highlighting how targeted interventions can build resilience, expand economic opportunities, and promote sustainable development. As we document these achievements, we invite our readers to reflect, engage, and participate in the ongoing journey toward progress in the Rwenzori region.

Warm regards,
The Editorial



Kabugho Sharon
Editor



Ainganiza Stephen
Editor

Rwenzori Times Contributors

1. Sahula Ibrahim,
Communication
Officer, Ntoroko
2. Joy Kiiza, Senior IT
Officer, Kamwenge
District
3. Allan Bamuha, Deputy
RDC Kyenjojo District
4. Christopher Tusiime,
Communications Officer,
Bunyangabu District
5. Ainganiza Stephen,
Communication Officer,
Kabarole District
6. Ainomuhangi Justus,
Senior IT Officer,
Kitagwenda District
7. Kabugho
Sharon, Communications
Officer, Kasese District
8. Samuel Baingana,
Communications Officer,
Kyegegwa District





Gravelling of Nyakasenyi- Masaka road in Butungama Sub- county (file photo)

1 Billion Presidential Road Maintenance Grant Restores Hope for Ntoroko Communities

By Sahula Ibrahim, Communication Officer, Ntoroko

Ntoroko District has made significant strides in improving road connectivity, spending UGX 1 billion from the Presidential Road Maintenance Grant to rehabilitate 32 km of community access roads. Close to 70% of the funding targeted flood-damaged points across the district, reopening vital transport routes for communities and traders alike.

“Kyobe Bridge along the Rwamabale-Rwebisengo road alone cost UGX 486 million to restore, enabling motorized

access,” said Eng. Richard Kakuru, Head of Works at Ntoroko District. The 18 km stretch is heavily swampy and prone to seasonal flooding, which had previously made travel and trade extremely difficult.

The funding has reconnected the landing sites at Kacwankumu to Rwebisengo market areas and improved access throughout the district. Several roads were also graveled, including: Kasungu-Kimara (10 km) in Butungama Sub-county, costing UGX 388 million and Kacwamba-Itale (3.2 km) in Karugutu Town Council, costing UGX 60 million

“Road connectivity has significantly improved thanks to the Presidential Road Maintenance Grant,” Kakuru noted. “Before the collapse of Kyobe Bridge, access between the two sub-counties was a nightmare, affecting trade with Bundibugyo and the DRC. We are grateful to the President and government for this support, especially as a flood-prone district, though more



Kyobe bridge along Rwamabale- Rwebisengo 18 KM Road in Bweramule sub- county (File Photo).



Mr. Muzeyi Syrus, the Deputy RDC (with glasses) with a team from Rwenzori Anticorruption Coalition in a joint monitoring exercise to enhance value for money early April 2025

assistance is needed to rehabilitate other critical roads vulnerable to seasonal flooding.”

District Speaker Mr. Edward Kahuma praised the work done, highlighting the need for future investments to raise road levels further given the area’s exposure to flooding.

The Kyobe Bridge had previously been hit by flash floods from the River Semliki between 2019 and 2022. The river’s high chloride content corrodes Armco culverts,

weakening the structure. In 2023, turbulent floods destroyed the weak sections, causing the bridge deck to collapse.

To address these challenges, a new two-span beam bridge was constructed, designed to restore connectivity for traders and communities while protecting against corrosion and future flood damage.

Enhancing Productivity, Market Access, and Resilience in Ntoroko District

By Ibrahim Sahula, Communication Officer, Ntoroko District

Ntoroko District is embracing the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP) to boost productivity, improve market access, and strengthen resilience among disaster-prone communities.

“The project will focus on rehabilitating key farmer access roads and road chokes,” Dr. Businge Patrick Bagonza, Head of the Production Department, said yesterday. Ntoroko is highly vulnerable to climate extremes, experiencing heavy floods during the rainy season and prolonged droughts during the dry spell. “Adopting Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices is essential for building resilience against climate-related impacts such as droughts, floods, and pests,” he added.

Funded by the World Bank and the Government of Uganda, UCSATP targets both crop and livestock value chains. For crops, the project supports sustainable farming techniques, access to climate-resilient seeds, and improved land management through agroforestry, crop rotation, and conservation agriculture. Farmers will also benefit from strengthened market linkages, digital innovations in crop farming, value addition through agro-processing, and enhanced research, gender, and youth inclusion.

Under the livestock value chain, CSA practices aim to increase resilience against droughts and disease outbreaks, improve herd health, and promote sustainable grazing.

Fishing communities in Kanara Town Council and Kanara Sub-county are also set to benefit. “They will receive support for sustainable aquaculture systems to adapt to climate variability,” said Mr. George Mwesige, District Fisheries Officer. “Capacity-building initiatives will equip women and youth with the skills and resources needed to thrive in these

communities.”

Dr. Bagonza emphasized that the project comes at a critical time, as the district continues to face broken roads due to flooding and drought impacts. Planned interventions include the construction of 10 valley dams, 10 water pumps, an integrated district laboratory for the Production Department, and targeted road chokes within an 83 km network. Key road projects include Munyege-Kyabandara crossing (River Wasa, Nombe Sub-county) to ease produce transport to Kabarole markets, and Butungama-Budiba

farmers' road to support transborder trade with the DRC.

The project also provides group-level financing, covering 80% of the cost of agricultural ventures, with farmers co-funding the remaining 20%, which is then distributed among group members.

Implemented across 69 districts historically affected by climate-related disasters, UCSATP is particularly vital for Ntoroko, which last year alone saw over 10,000 people displaced, collapsed school buildings, disrupted social services, and severe impacts on agriculture and road

connectivity.

"The project is a game-changer for Ntoroko, helping communities adapt to climate challenges while enhancing productivity, market access, and resilience," Dr. Bagonza concluded.

Kyegegwa Fish Farmers Gain New Skills in Exchange Visit to Boost Production

By Baingana Samuel, Communication Officer, Kyegegwa District

Kyegegwa District's fish farmers recently gathered at Ashaba Vincent's fish farm in Immaranjara LC1, Rwentuha Sub-county, Kyaka South constituency, for a strategic exchange visit aimed at boosting productivity and commercializing fish farming.

The event brought together 35 active and prospective farmers from all 19 lower local governments to learn and share best practices in pond maintenance, fish stocking, feeding, water quality management, and value addition.

Fish farming in Kyegegwa remains largely at the subsistence level, facing challenges such as limited skilled labor, lack of quality feeds, predatory birds,



otters, snakes, and inadequate water supply during dry seasons. Production, however, has steadily grown, from 4.982 tons in 2020 to 8.25 tons in 2022, earning farmers about UGX 132 million annually. With 222 fish ponds across the district, there is significant potential for growth.

The exchange visit is part of ongoing extension and advisory services, ensuring farmers adopt modern aquaculture practices, receive guidance on challenges, and contribute to accurate fish farming data collection. Mr. Lucas Abesiga, Kyegegwa District Fisheries Officer, emphasized the importance of discipline and punctuality during trainings, underscoring the district's commitment to transforming fish farming into a commercially viable enterprise.



Kyegegwa Prisons Commissioned New Inmate Transport Bus

By Samuel Baingana, Communications Officer, Kyegegwa District

The Uganda Prisons Service has enhanced its operations in Kyegegwa District with the commissioning of a new Marcopolo TATA bus, registration number UU 00154. The bus was officially handed over by the Kyegegwa Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Col. Bright Alex Nzirimu, during a brief ceremony held on 13th August 2025, at the Kyegegwa District.

Speaking at the event, Col. Nzirimu emphasized the importance of specialized prison transport in the justice and correctional system.

“Prison buses are essential for moving inmates to and from

courts for hearings, trials, and other legal proceedings. They also facilitate inmate transfers between various facilities for administrative reasons,” he said.

He added that the bus is equipped with security features to ensure the safe and secure transportation of inmates, reducing risks of escape or incidents during transit.

The Officer in Charge of Kyegegwa Prisons, Mr. Ogwal Raphael, expressed appreciation for the support from Uganda Prisons Headquarters and noted that the new bus will also serve multiple roles beyond inmate transport.

“This bus will help in the transportation of prison officers, especially during transfers, training exercises, and national functions. It will also be critical for transporting inmates who need medical attention that cannot be handled within the prison facility,” Mr. Ogwal explained.

The acquisition is expected to improve the efficiency of prison operations and contribute to the broader goals of ensuring justice and safety in the district.

The Kyegegwa Prisons Service continues to expand its infrastructure and logistical capacity in line with national efforts to modernize and strengthen Uganda’s criminal justice system.

Kyegegwa District Marks World Breastfeeding Week with Focus on Sustainable Support for Mothers



Kyegegwa District joined the global community in commemorating World Breastfeeding Week 2025 on 14th August 2025, with a colorful and impactful celebration held at Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. The event, brought together key health stakeholders, development partners, and members of the community to emphasize the vital role of breastfeeding in promoting lifelong health and development.

This year's theme, "Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems," highlighted the urgent need to invest in long-term structures that empower mothers to breastfeed successfully. The celebration was organized with support from Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA), Medical Teams International (MTI), and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Kabarole Research Center (KRC), and the

Kyegegwa District Local Government.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Ronald Mugabi, the District Health Educator, underscored the unmatched health benefits of breastmilk.

"Breastmilk contains essential components that help build and protect a baby's immature immune system," he said. "It is easier to digest than formula, adapts to the baby's changing needs, and

has no waste or carbon footprint—making it not only ideal for the child but also environmentally sustainable.”

Mr. Mugabi also emphasized the World Health Organization’s recommendation for exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, followed by the introduction of appropriate complementary foods while continuing breastfeeding for up to two years or beyond.

Under the banner of the WHO’s ‘Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures’ campaign, the event brought attention to the need for support at every level—home, community, workplace,

and healthcare systems—to enable women to breastfeed effectively.

Experts at the event highlighted that breastfeeding is not just a maternal responsibility but a collective effort requiring investment in skilled health workers, enforcement of international breastfeeding standards, and breastfeeding-friendly environments.

“Breastfeeding is a smart investment,” noted a representative from UNHCR. “It improves child survival, cognitive development, reduces healthcare costs, and strengthens economies.”

Health workers were urged to take an active role in promoting and

supporting breastfeeding, acknowledging that any breastfeeding provides benefits—even if exclusive breastfeeding is not always possible.

The event concluded with community engagements, counseling sessions, and demonstrations aimed at equipping mothers with accurate information and practical support to improve infant feeding practices.

As the world continues to strive for equitable health outcomes, Kyegegwa District’s celebration of World Breastfeeding Week serves as a powerful reminder: when mothers are supported, children thrive and so do communities.



East Rwenzori Diocese Marks 16 Years, Boasts thriving education and health services Under Bishop Turyasingura

BY Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer, Kamwenge District



Archbishop center with Bp George Turyasingura(right) Rtd Bp Edward Bamucwanira (Left) & Rtd Bp Geoffrey Rwobusisi with their dear wives

East Rwenzori Diocese marked 16 years of service and growth with a grand thanksgiving at St. Stephen's Cathedral, Kamwenge, celebrating its remarkable expansion in education, health services, and clergy development. The celebrations were presided over by the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, The Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel

Kaziimba Mugalu, who arrived on August 16, 2025, for his official pastoral visit and was warmly received at Mpanga River by the Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. George Turyasingura, and Maama Juliet Turyasingura.

During the visit, Archbishop Kaziimba laid foundation stones for the renovated St. Stephen's Cathedral, a new Mothers'

Union building housing Millennium SACCO, and the new Bishop's Office, highlighting the Diocese's commitment to both spiritual and infrastructural growth.

Established on August 9, 2009, from Ruwenzori Diocese, East Rwenzori has seen significant expansion under Bishop Turyasingura's visionary leadership since his consecration in January

2018, building on the foundation laid by its first Bishop, Rt. Rev. Edward Bamucwanira.

Education, Health, and Clergy Development

The Diocese now boasts over 70 primary schools, 10 secondary schools, vocational institutions, and a Diocesan Health Centre III, reflecting its strong investment in education and community welfare. Clergy training has advanced tremendously, with priests attaining higher academic qualifications, including diplomas, degrees, and master's degrees, while some pursue doctorates. Canon Caleb Ahimbisibwe, Head of Laity, reported:

"We now have 28 priests with certificates, 19 with diplomas, 25 with bachelor's degrees, six with master's, and one pursuing a doctorate all in just 16 years."

Economic and Infrastructural Achievements

The Diocese has also strengthened its economic and infrastructural base,

with two commercial buildings in Kamwenge, 20 acres of coffee, 15 acres of cocoa, and 60 acres of eucalyptus forest in Kiziba. Additional developments include a modern Bishop's residence, ongoing renovations to St. Stephen's Cathedral, and a multi-billion-shilling project for a new 5,000-seater cathedral. The Diocese's transport fleet has grown from a single vehicle at its inception to 16 vehicles and motorcycles supporting its mission.

Bishop Turyasingura attributed the Diocese's achievements to the unity of Christians, clergy, and collaboration with government and development partners. Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, praised the Diocese for complementing government programs in education, healthcare, and agriculture, directly improving livelihoods and socio-economic transformation.

The thanksgiving service attracted Bishops including Rt. Rev. Reuben Kisembo, Rt. Rev. Gaddie Akanjuna,

“

The Diocese has strengthened its economic & infrastructural base, with two commercial buildings in Kamwenge, 20 acres of coffee, 15 acres of cocoa, and 60 acres of eucalyptus forest in Kiziba.”

Rt. Rev. Barnabas Tibaijuka, Rt. Rev. Edward Bamucwanira, and Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Rwobusisi, along with prominent government and local leaders.

East Rwenzori Diocese's 16th anniversary is a testament to its commitment to education, health, clergy development, and community transformation, showcasing Bishop George Turyasingura's leadership as a driving force behind its sustained growth.



UGIFT Micro-Scale Irrigation Program **Boosts Productivity and Livelihoods** in Kamwenge

By Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer, Kamwenge District

Kamwenge District is witnessing a quiet agricultural revolution thanks to the UGIFT Micro-Scale Irrigation Program. Introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) in collaboration with the district, the initiative is transforming subsistence farming into commercially viable agriculture, improving yields, incomes, and resilience against drought.

Since its inception in the 2020/2021 financial year, the program has expanded from three demonstration sites to over 184 beneficiary farmers, equipping

smallholders with irrigation systems at subsidized rates. This support has enabled continuous cultivation throughout the year, including the dry season, ensuring farmers maintain stable yields and access lucrative markets.

Boosting Yields and Incomes

Farmers report tangible improvements, particularly in high-value crops such as vegetables and coffee. Revenue per acre has risen from UGX 1.1 million to UGX 1.2 million, reflecting a 13.8% increase. Beyond financial gains, households are experiencing enhanced food security and more sustainable livelihoods. Participating farmers are also acquiring practical skills in operating and maintaining irrigation systems, creating long-term benefits for the community.

Affordable and Accessible Solutions

The program's success is rooted in its affordability. According to Eng. Doreen Asingwiire, Senior Agricultural Engineer in Kamwenge, subsidies vary based

on system type and water source: petrol-powered systems receive 25% coverage, up to UGX 5 million, while solar-powered systems are subsidized at 75%, up to UGX 18 million. These measures make irrigation attainable for smallholder farmers, reducing barriers to productivity.

National Recognition

Kamwenge District's performance has drawn national attention. In the FY 2024/25 Local Government National Performance Assessment, it ranked first nationwide in implementing the UGIFT micro-scale irrigation program. At the annual sector coordination meeting on August 14, 2025, at Rider Hotel, Mukono, the district received three certificates from MAAIF, acknowledging excellence in farmer engagement, successful program implementation, and

outstanding overall performance.

Looking Ahead

In the current financial year, the program will shift focus from installing new systems to ensuring the effective operation and maintenance of existing ones, emphasizing sustainability and equipment longevity. As irrigation remains central to Uganda's National Irrigation Policy, which aims to expand irrigated land by 2040, Kamwenge's success sets a benchmark for other districts.

The UGIFT Micro-Scale Irrigation Program demonstrates that with targeted support, smallholder farmers can achieve higher productivity, better incomes, and stronger resilience turning water into a cornerstone for agricultural transformation and sustainable livelihoods.





Rwenzori leaders recommend mandatory sickle cell screening before marriage

*By Ainganiza Stephen, Communication Officer
Kabarole District*

Rwenzori region leaders have recommended that couples present a sickle cell screening certificate before marriage, following a rise in cases reported at health facilities in the region.

The call was made during the annual joint and integrated regional performance review conference at Fort Breeze Hotel in Fort Portal.

Dr. Beatrice Komugisa, a pediatrician at Fort Portal Regional Hospital, said 600 patients are registered at the referral facility, many of them requiring blood transfusions. “The hospital has a sickle cell clinic where screening and testing is done, and government is supportive with the required medicine,” she said.

She expressed concern that many fathers abandon mothers after discovering their babies are born with sickle cell disease. “To prevent

the problem, couples intending to tie the knot in church should undergo mandatory sickle cell screening,” Dr. Komugisa added.

Dr. Bahizi Archbald Newton Sebahire backed the proposal, saying, “Before marriage every couple should present a certificate on sickle cell screening, and in 10 years the disease will be eliminated.”

Kabarole District Chairperson, Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga, described the 5,527 sickle cell cases reported in the region as worrying. He called on stakeholders to strengthen awareness so that people embrace screening services available in health facilities.

Sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder that affects hemoglobin production, causing red blood cells to become misshapen and break down prematurely, which leads to anemia, painful crises, infections and organ damage.

The regional review conference attracted District Health Officers, RDCs, RCCs, District Chairpersons, Fort Portal senior consultants, DHEs, media, religious leaders and development partners. The meeting assessed the progress of key health service delivery indicators while promoting continued improvement, effective planning, coordination and accountability.



Fort Portal Tourism City: A serene, soul-soothing destination

By Allan Bamuha, Deputy RDC, Kyenjojo District

Have you been to the Land of Empaako yet “Amooti, Apuuli, Akiiki,” Relax.!

Setting foot on Fort Portal Tourism City soil is a soul-soothing experience, with a blend of sparkling nature, beauty, culture, leisure, adventure and hospitality.

Irresistibly endowed by nature, Fort Portal Tourism City is one of the best tourist destinations in Uganda. Overlooking the snow-capped “Mountains of the Moon,” with an adorable climate and culturally diverse, hospitable people, visitors are spoiled

for choice: seek adventure, learn traditions and culture, or relax at facilities surrounded by the wonderful sights and sounds of one of Africa’s most hospitable destinations.

Serenity is central to tourism, and nature spreads it across every corner of Fort Portal Tourism City. The inhabitants are naturally humble, down-to-earth, beautiful and peaceful, creating a welcoming tourism environment capped by numerous activities and sites.

Fort Portal Tourism City is a tourism city of Uganda, situated at the base of the Rwenzori Mountains in the greater Tooro Kingdom in the Western Region. Known for being vibrant and welcoming, Fort Portal is the gateway to Uganda’s adventures. The city lies on the northern foothills of the Rwenzori ranges, 50 km north of Kasese District, close to Queen Elizabeth National Park, and 26 km from Kibale National Park.

The city is the center of Tooro Kingdom and hosts the Tooro King’s Palace, Karuziika. It is the only town in Uganda with an English name, built in the 1960s and named after the British Consul General of Zanzibar, Sir Gerald Portal, who came to Uganda in the 1890s to formalize the British protectorate over Uganda.

Because of the development and existence of tourism sites in this town, there have been tremendous social and economic developments. Several landmarks — hotels, restaurants and banks — are in place, and to date it is gradually becoming the New York of Uganda.



While in Fort Portal, you can experience the natural, roaring Nyakasura waterfalls; exquisitely welcoming tea plantations; dazzling explosion crater lakes; Amabere ga Nyinamwiru; Kibale National Park; the beautiful, jaw-dropping slopes of the Rwenzori Mountains; the intangible cultural heritage of Empaako; Kogeere Mini Museum; the Tooro Natural Botanical Gardens endowed with Africa's last surviving tree species; the fortress; etc.

Fort Portal Tourism City, because of its tourism phenomenon, is destined to become one of Africa's leading metropolitan areas, with a blossoming hotel and hospitality industry holding hundreds of thousands of tourists at any single time from across the world, boosting many local businesses, especially the transport and agriculture/food sectors.

Fort Portal Tourism City is expected to be a fully-fledged tourism city by 2040, according to the government's National Development Plan. This will be attained with increased government financing, a focus on infrastructure development and incentives for intending tourism investors, both local and international.

Fort Portal stands out as an unrivalled tourism destination in Uganda, providing huge potential for employment of the young workforce and increasing per capita income for local households. Let us unite to build a more environmentally friendly tourism city, with the century-old botanical gardens in the surroundings.

The author is the CEO of Muha Tours and Deputy RDC Kyenjojo District

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, A Soul that Saved Uganda

By Allan Bamuha, Deputy RDC, Kyenjojo District

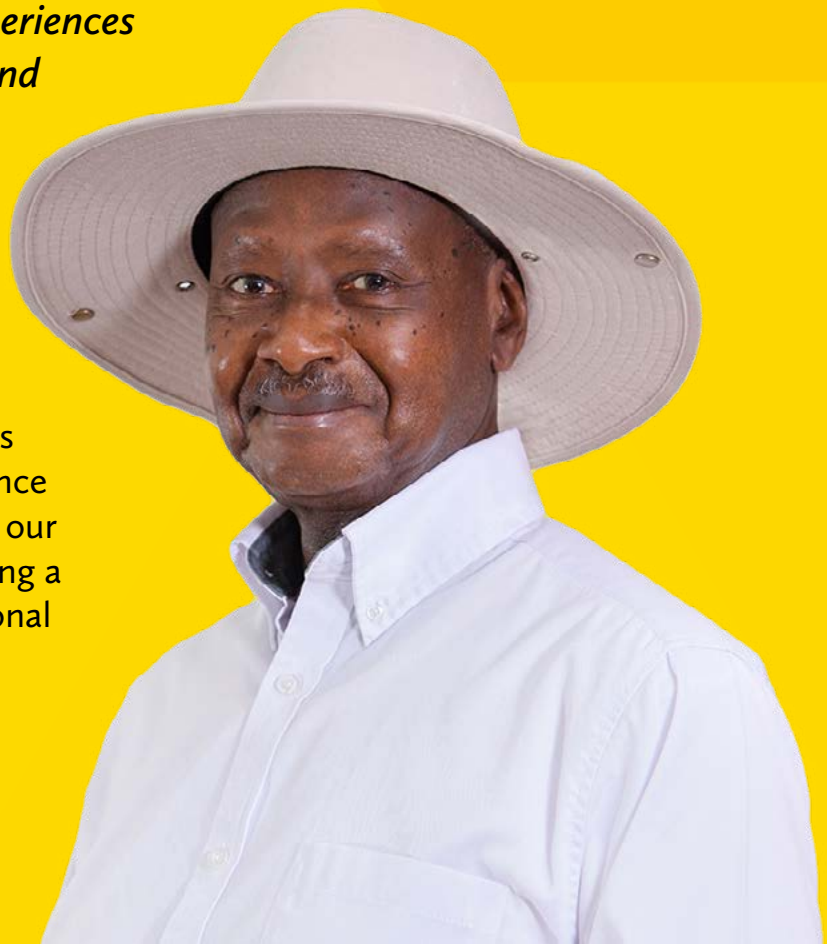
Sabalwanyi Semalungu is a soul that saved Uganda from tyrannical and bloody hands. Under the visionary leadership of His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Tibuhaburwa, Uganda remains stable, secure, and steadily developing.

As the nation gears up for the 2026 Presidential elections, it is vital to reflect on the gallant struggle that delivered the peaceful, shining Uganda we enjoy today. Memories are more than nostalgia; they provide continuity, linking past experiences to our present, helping us understand who we are and how we have become the people we are.

In Runyoro-Rutooro, there is an adage: “Ataijuka eby’enyuma tafumbata Mukaikuru” — one must harness history to shape the future. By recalling President Museveni’s struggles and the events of the National Resistance Army (NRA), we trace the evolution of our values, beliefs, and perspectives, creating a cohesive narrative that underpins national development.

On the morning of 6 February 1981, under Museveni’s leadership, a group of 42 people with 27 guns stormed Kabamba Barracks to seize weapons for their protracted struggle against Apollo Milton Obote’s government. The attack on Kabamba marked a turning point in Uganda’s history. It was the spark that, five years later in 1986, brought the current peaceful National Resistance Movement (NRM) government to power.

Prior to taking power, Museveni contested the 1980 elections through the Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM) and lost amid widespread irregularities.



For decades, Uganda had been dominated by the traditional parties, UPC and DP, which were unable to secure the nation's security or development. This period witnessed authoritarian rule, institutional decay, political upheavals, and nationwide insecurity, which severely affected the economy. The state's failures, in turn, fueled popular support for the guerrilla army, which promised a new vision for Uganda.

After a five-year bush war through the jungles of Luwero and across the country, the struggle culminated in the Battle of Kampala from 17–26 January 1986, when NRA forces captured the capital from the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA). On 29 January 1986, during his swearing-in ceremony, President Museveni pledged a fundamental political transformation, assuring Ugandans that the change was not a mere shift of power but a complete overhaul of governance.

True to this promise, the NRM government embarked on sweeping reforms guided by the Ten-Point Program, a policy framework developed in 1981 to steer the country once in power. Central to these reforms was the introduction of grassroots participation through Resistance Councils (RCs), later renamed Local Councils (LCs) in 1993. The hierarchical RC structure — from village (RC1) to sub-county (RC3) ,

rebuilt Uganda's collapsed administrative framework and enabled citizens to actively engage in public decision-making.

Other reforms included decentralization, election of representatives to the national legislature, affirmative action for women and marginalized groups, the establishment of the offices of the ombudsman and Human Rights Commission, army pacification, protection of civil society freedoms, and drafting a new constitution. These reforms not only stabilized the country but also earned the NRM government enduring legitimacy and trust among Ugandans.

Since then, Uganda has experienced participatory politics, broad-based cabinets, and political tolerance. The government has accommodated the nation's religious, regional, and ethnic diversity, unifying and stabilizing Uganda after decades of unrest.

As 2026 approaches, the challenge is clear: to sustain peace, stability, and development, Ugandans must once again place their trust in the leadership that delivered these achievements H.E. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Tibuhaburwa Sabalwanyi Semalungu.

Museveni's leadership is not just a political legacy; it is a blueprint for national unity, resilience, and development. History reminds us that Uganda's survival and progress are anchored on vision, courage, and transformative leadership.

The Author is Deputy Resident District Commissioner- Kyenjojo District



Sabalwanyi Semalungu: A Soul That Saved Uganda

Poem inspired by article written by Allan Bamuha, Deputy RDC, Kyenjojo District

*A soul arose in shadows deep,
Where tyrants ruled and people weep,
Sabalwanyi Semalungu stood,
To guide Uganda with heart and good.
Through jungles thick and nights of fear,
Forty-two brave hearts drew near,
With twenty-seven guns in hand,
They stormed Kabamba to reclaim the
land.*

*The spark was lit on February's morn,
In nineteen eighty-one, a nation torn,
A dawn of hope through bush and fight,
Five years later brought peaceful light.
From UPM's hope in elections lost,
Through chaos, pain, and heavy cost,
The people yearned for guiding hands,
To heal the wounds across their lands.
Through Luwero jungles, war was waged,
A protracted fight, history staged,
Until Kampala, bold and bright,
Fell to NRA's determined might.*

*On January's twenty-ninth, he swore,
"A fundamental change forevermore,"
The Ten-Point Program laid the way,
For peace, for order, for a brighter day.
Resistance Councils rose from ground,
Voices of people finally found,
Local power, rights secured,
New Uganda's path assured.
Decentralized, participatory, just,
A government earned the people's trust,
Diverse in faith, region, and creed,
Unified the nation, met its need.
As 2026 draws near,
A choice returns, clear and sincere,
To sustain the peace, the hope, the
dream,
For Uganda to flourish, strong and
supreme.
Sabalwanyi Semalungu, brave and wise,
Saved a nation beneath open skies,
A legacy of courage, vision, and might,
Guiding Uganda from darkness to light.*

LEGS-Funded Valley Water Tank to Boost Livestock Farming for over 40,000 Cattle in Ntoroko

By Sahula Ibrahim, Communications Officer, Ntoroko District

In a major boost to local livelihoods and agriculture, the Local Economic Growth Services (LEGS) program, under the Ministry of Local Government and funded by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), has constructed a 1.7-billion-shilling valley water tank in Kimara LCI, Butungama Sub County.



Ms. Patience Kyompaire Ssegawa, the LEGS regional Supervisor Rwenzori keenly listening to a presentation by Assistant RDC Richard, at Kimara Valley Tank Site, yesterday

The project is set to benefit both domestic water users and farmers, supporting over 40,000 cattle and multiple villages, including Kajura, Kimara I, Kimara II, Kasungu, and Kagonyibwoha.

The 60 million-liter capacity tank features a solar-powered automated pumping system that delivers water to overhead storage tanks and six animal troughs, along with an administration block and protective fencing. Designed with environmental safeguards, the facility ensures clean water access while

promoting climate-resilient livestock and crop production.

Speaking during a monitoring tour at the site, LEGS regional supervisor Patience Kyompaire Ssegawa noted the urgent need for such interventions, recalling her first visit when locals were forced to compete

for contaminated water. “It was a dire situation, and we knew we had to provide a sustainable solution to transform livelihoods here,” she said.

District Chairperson William Kasoro highlighted the broader socio-economic impact of the project, emphasizing that access to water is central to improving agricultural productivity and household wealth. “About 74 percent of our population lives hand to mouth. With this facility, we can change production patterns, encourage

irrigation, and support diversified farming to improve incomes,” Kasoro said.

Resident District Commissioner Patrick Ssonko urged communities to maximize the opportunity, stressing unity, peace, and improved agricultural output. He added that efficient use of water resources would reduce government health costs while enabling wealth creation.

The valley tank, constructed on nine acres

of land donated by three local residents, is being implemented by WML Consult & Engineering Ltd and is expected to be completed by October 6, 2025. District officials emphasized that the tank would not only improve access to clean water but also enhance livestock health, support irrigation, and enable farmers to adopt modern, high-yield farming practices, marking a critical step in the district’s socio-economic transformation.



The 4 meters deep Kimara Valley Water Tank [Dam] worth 1.7bn shillings, under construction in Butungama Sub County, Ntoroko district by LEGS Program under MoLG courtesy of IsDB. (Photo by Sahula Ibrahim)

Kasese Gets UGX 950M Funding After Ranking Among Top 10 Districts Nationally

By Sharon Kabugho, Communication Officer, Kasese District

Kasese District has been awarded UGX 950 million in government development grants after climbing to 10th place out of 176 local governments in the latest national performance assessment, up from 117th position last year.

The milestone was officially announced on 14th August 2025 during a results dissemination meeting presided over by Mr. Chris Magezi, Assistant Commissioner in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). The assessment evaluates districts across key service delivery areas including human resource management, planning and budgeting, procurement, transparency, financial mobilization, infrastructure access, and climate-resilient development.

The additional funds will be directed toward critical sectors such as water, health, education, production, and microscale irrigation, aimed at improving service delivery to residents.

District Planner Mr. Alex Masereka credited the achievement to teamwork,



District officials receiving the Local Government assessment results

capacity building, and learning from high-performing districts like Isingiro, Kiruhura, and Rukungiri. He noted that the recruitment of qualified officers into key positions has strengthened departmental leadership and enhanced service standards.

LC V Chairperson Mr. Muhindi Bukombi Elphazi praised the district council for creating an enabling environment through timely legislation, budget approvals, and consistent supervision, which has allowed civil servants to deliver effectively.

New Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Walakira Paul outlined a comprehensive roadmap to prepare Kasese for the next national local government performance assessment scheduled for October 2025. He emphasized that sustained discipline, teamwork, and strengthened oversight will be key to even better performance.

With the UGX 950 million boost, residents can expect tangible improvements in social services, infrastructure, and climate-resilient development, marking a new chapter in Kasese District's journey toward governance excellence.



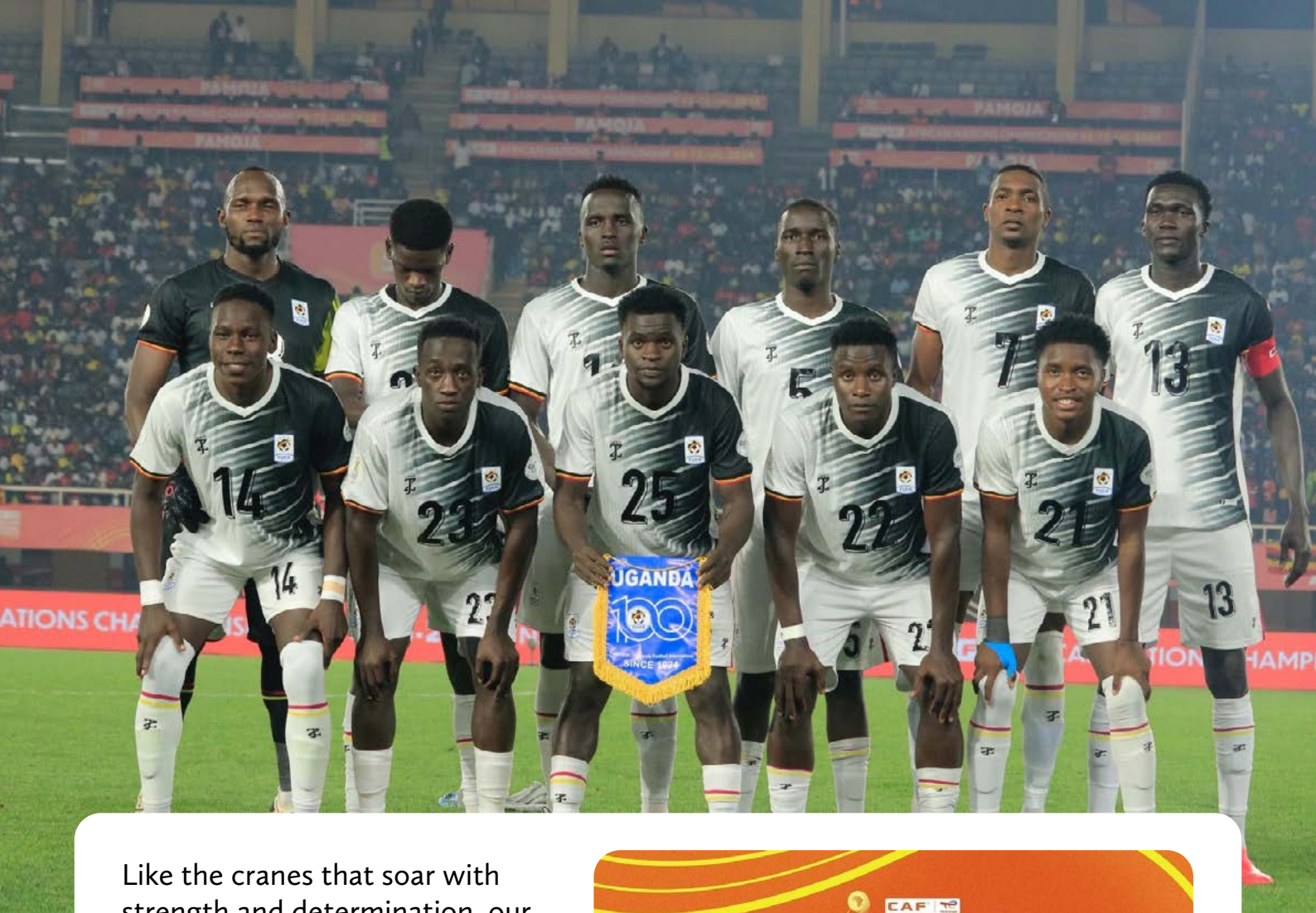
Peaks of Pride: Uganda Cranes Make Rwenzori Sing

By the Editorial

From the lush valleys of Kitagwenda to the sun-scorched plains of Ntoroko, we, the children of the Rwenzori, know the meaning of resilience. We have tilled the soil, built dams to water our livestock, and nurtured seedlings that promise tomorrow's harvest.

We have walked miles to reach clean water and labored to turn challenges into opportunity. And today, in the same spirit that drives our mountainside farmers and village committees, our hearts beat with the triumph of the Uganda Cranes.

With every pass, every goal, and every courageous play that has carried our team into the CHAN quarterfinals, we see the reflection of our own journey.



Like the cranes that soar with strength and determination, our people rise above hardship.

They carry the dreams of a nation just as we carry the water to our fields and the seeds of change to our homes.

Oh, Uganda Cranes, you are the pride of our hills and valleys! You remind us that with discipline, teamwork, and unwavering spirit, victory is possible. From the cheering crowds of Kasese to the farms of Ntoroko, we celebrate you.

May your wings carry the hopes of every Rwenzori child, every farmer tending their crops, and every community daring to dream of a brighter, stronger Uganda.

Rwenzori Cheers: Our Cranes, Our Champions, Our Spirit!





Parish chiefs and ward agents during the training in the district hall

Bunyangabu Leadership Meets Parish Chiefs to Strengthen PDM Reporting

By Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer, Bunyangabu District

The Bunyangabu District leadership on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, held a crucial engagement with Parish Chiefs and Ward Agents to address challenges related to report writing and to strengthen accountability in the ongoing implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM).

The meeting, which took place in the District Council Hall, was organized by the District Planning Unit and facilitated by Senior Planner, Ms. Elizabeth Kobugabe. It brought together key leaders including the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Haji Nsubuga Isa Hood, Deputy Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Robert Kamuntu, and the District Internal Security Officer (DISO), Nobert Karamira.

In his opening remarks, CAO Haji Nsubuga appreciated the Parish Chiefs and Ward Agents for their dedication towards the implementation of the PDM. He noted that so far, the district has successfully disbursed over UGX 15 billion to 16,000 beneficiaries without any major cases of embezzlement or corruption being reported.

“This is commendable work,” Haji Nsubuga said. “However, we must now ensure that regular updates and comprehensive reports are filed from all duty stations. I personally want to review these reports so that any gaps or challenges are quickly addressed.”

During the discussions, Ward Agents raised concerns regarding the taxation of their accommodation allowances. They explained that the deductions had significantly reduced their take-home pay, yet the allowances were designed to enable them to reside in their duty stations and deliver services effectively. They requested the CAO’s intervention, noting that previously the allowances were not taxed.

In response, Haji Nsubuga assured them that he would follow up the matter with the relevant government offices to secure proper feedback.

The District Internal Security Officer Nibert Karamira emphasized the need for closer monitoring of PDM beneficiaries across the district. He announced plans to begin visits to households that have received funds to assess progress, identify challenges, verify locations, and evaluate the nature of enterprises.

“This exercise will help us ensure that beneficiaries remain on track, receive timely support, and do not veer off the intended objectives of the PDM,” Karamira explained.

Deputy RDC Robert Kamuntu echoed the call for stronger coordination between field staff, the CAO’s office, and his own office. He cautioned against corruption, warning that any malpractice related to the PDM would be met with serious consequences.

“We must remain clean and committed,” Kamuntu stressed. “This program is about transforming the lives of our people, and any temptation to misuse funds will not be tolerated.”

Background on PDM

The Parish Development Model is a government initiative launched in 2021 to accelerate socio-economic transformation by taking services and resources closer to the people at the parish level. It emphasizes supporting households still engaged in subsistence farming to move into the money economy through direct access to revolving funds.

The program is anchored on seven pillars that work together to ensure holistic development:

1. Production, Storage, Processing and Marketing – improving agricultural productivity and ensuring farmers get value for their produce.
2. Infrastructure and Economic Services – extending roads, electricity, water and ICT to rural communities to ease access to markets and services.
3. Financial Inclusion – providing affordable financial services and capital through Parish SACCOs to support enterprise development.
4. Social Services – ensuring access to quality health, education and social protection to improve household welfare.

5. Mindset Change – transforming community attitudes towards work, productivity, and self-reliance.
6. Parish-Based Management Information System (MIS) – collecting accurate data at parish level to guide planning and decision-making.
7. Governance and Administration – strengthening institutions and leadership structures at parish level for transparency and accountability.

By addressing these pillars simultaneously, the government hopes to transform parishes into hubs of economic activity and lift millions of Ugandans out of subsistence into the money economy.

Farmers Hail Micro Irrigation Scheme for Boosting Agriculture in Bunyangabu

*By Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer
Bunyangabu District*

A government-backed irrigation programme is transforming farming in Bunyangabu District, where smallholder farmers say they are overcoming years of losses caused by prolonged dry spells.

The Micro Irrigation Programme, funded by the World Bank, allows farmers to pay 25 percent of the installation cost while the government covers the remaining 75 percent. District officials say the initiative is easing water scarcity and positioning Bunyangabu as a model for modern agriculture.

For decades, farmers struggled to keep crops alive during dry seasons. Many lost entire harvests because gardens were far from water sources. Today, however, irrigation technologies are keeping plantations green and productive across villages and town councils.

In Nyakigumba Town Council, tomato and vegetable farmer Kasaija Match



Kasaija Match (in striped t-shirt) talking to the Bunyangabu district team led by CAO Haji Nsubuga Isa Hood (right)

says the scheme has ended years of frustration.

“My gardens are quite far from the water sources. Each dry season, my vegetables would dry up or yield very little. I always ended up counting losses,” he said.

Kasaija now uses a drag hose irrigation system, which he credits for boosting his output.

“Right now, my system is fully installed and functioning. My vegetables are doing so well. I foresee making huge harvests in the future because weather changes, especially dry seasons, can no longer hinder my progress,” he said.

He thanked both Bunyangabu District and central government for what he described as “visionary and

inclusive leadership that is enabling even grassroots farmers to access technologies to improve farming and household incomes.”

In Rwimi Town Council, Byaruhanga Ritah and her husband Ngomayondi Abel recently received a drip irrigation system for their 2.5-acre coffee plantation.

“All our coffee now looks so green and healthy because the system ensures the plants are well hydrated throughout the year,” Ngomayondi said.

The couple hopes the investment will increase household income once the coffee matures.

“Since our plantation is easily accessible and along a major road, other farmers can visit for benchmarking. We want this project to inspire others,” he added.

Encouraged by the results, the family

plans to expand the plantation to five acres and interplant with bananas.

In Kisomoro Sub County, coffee and passion fruit farmer Kaswara Robert is also benefitting. His farm, once limited by distance from water sources, now has a drip system with a water tank and solar-powered pump.

“My passion fruits are bearing, with some ready for harvesting, and the coffee is growing steadily. This project has restored my confidence as a farmer,” he said.

District officials say the scheme is designed not only for individual farmers but also for community-wide impact.

“The plantations of current beneficiaries will serve as farmer field schools. Other farmers, even those who are not direct beneficiaries, will be able to come, learn, and benchmark. That way, knowledge spreads far and wide,” said Brenda Orishaba, the district’s Micro Scale Irrigation focal person.

During a monitoring visit, Chief Administrative Officer Haji Nsubuga Isa Hood praised the progress made so far.

“I am impressed by the transformation happening in these gardens. As a district, together with central government, we are committed to ensuring that benefiting households get all the support they need to uplift their livelihoods and incomes,” he said.

Nsubuga also thanked President Yoweri Museveni and the central government for rolling out the programme, noting its strong impact at the grassroots.

From Kasaija’s thriving vegetables to Ritah’s flourishing coffee and Kaswara’s fruit-filled orchard, the irrigation initiative is offering a lifeline for farmers across Bunyangabu. What was once a district plagued by crop failures during dry spells is steadily becoming a hub of resilient, modern farming.

QUICK PICK

The systems provided include drag hose and drip irrigation kits, often with water tanks and solar-powered pumps, making it possible for farmers to irrigate crops even in dry seasons. District officials say the programme is not only improving household incomes but also creating demonstration farms that act as training grounds for other farmers.

Advertisement

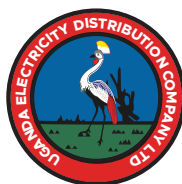


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What is the Weterezeeee Campaign all about?

The Weterezeeee Campaign is a social initiative by UEDCL that is intended to encourage customers with tampered or bypassed meters as well as those on illegal electricity supply to come forward and normalize their connection without facing any fines or legal action. All applications will be treated with the highest level of confidentiality.

How does a customer apply to normalize their connection?

Customers are required to visit www.uedcl.co.ug/weterezeeee and fill the form. For assistance, customers can visit any of the UEDCL offices or call our toll-free numbers **0800203088, 0800285285, 0800385385**.

How much does it cost to register for this campaign?

Registration for this campaign is entirely free and customers will not be charged for any energy utilized.

Who meets the cost of normalizing an illegal connection during this Campaign?

A customer will incur the relevant new electricity connection charges, where applicable, but will not be penalized for energy consumed without paying.

How long is the normalization window?

The normalization window will remain open until **5.00pm on September 30, 2025**.

What happens if a customer is caught with an illegal connection after the normalization window closes?

If a customer is caught stealing power after **5.00pm on September 30, 2025**, they will face penalties and possible legal action.

What does one require to get a legitimate connection?

Have your premises wired by an ERA certified power Kapo/Electrician. You are required to avail a sketch map to your home, a digital wire-man certificate, a letter of introduction from your local council 1, evidence of ownership of property and a copy of your valid national identity card.

The customer under this category pays to UEDCL **30,000 Ugx** only (23,600 Ugx is surveyor's fees, and 6,400 Ugx is for 10 units referred to as initial energy). This money is paid to UEDCL through mobile money or any other banking platforms.

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Kiko Health Centre General Ward

Shs 1.7Bn Kiko Health Centre III Commissioned to Expand Services

*By Stephen Ainganiza –Communication Officer
Kabarole District*

A state-of-the-art Shs 1.7 billion Kiko Health Centre III has officially been commissioned in Kiko Town Council, Kabarole District, bringing relief and joy to residents who previously had to travel long distances to access medical services at Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital, Kataraka Health Centre IV, and Ruteete Health Centre IV located over 10 kilometers away.

The newly established facility boasts a general ward that includes maternity, male, female, and children's sections, an outpatient department (OPD), two staff quarters, and pit latrines. It is equipped with advanced medical tools including an incubator for newborns, an incinerator, and dental extraction services, making it one of the well-

equipped Health Centre IIIs in the district.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony held on Tuesday, Kabarole District Chairperson Hon. Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga emphasized the importance of disease prevention over treatment. "We are here to commission this facility not just to treat, but to prevent diseases. Seventy-five percent of illnesses are preventable. Let us prioritize early diagnosis and preventive care," he urged.

Dr. Rwabuhinga also praised President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his visionary leadership in prioritizing the health sector and lobbying for the construction of health centers to serve communities more effectively.

Assistant RDC Kabarole, Mr. Asaba Frank, credited the district's improved health services to the proactive leadership of the district chairperson, who closely monitors projects from inception to completion. He cautioned health workers against absenteeism, which undermines service delivery and deprives the population of essential care.

“I urge mothers to utilize this facility for safe deliveries and avoid Traditional Birth Attendants, which can be life-threatening,” Asaba warned. He also highlighted the alarming rates of malnutrition among children under five in the Tooro region standing at 38%, despite its reputation as a food basket. “Feed your children balanced diets and avoid selling all the food while leaving them to starve,” he added.

District Health Officer Dr. Kalyegira Stephen noted that while the facility currently has 15 staff members, the approved structure requires 55. He assured the public that more staff would be post-ed once government funding is available. Plans are also underway to install a borehole and solar power to enhance service delivery.

Facility in-charge Mr. Ivan Akugizibwe shared an innovative approach to encouraging institutional deliveries: mothers who give birth at the center receive tea, all necessary supplies, and maama kits. Since operations began in May, the facility has served 3,304 patients, handled 123 antenatal cases, admitted 32 patients, conducted 20 deliveries, attended to 167 family planning clients, immunized over 700 children, and performed 38 dental extractions.

Mr. Mugarra Marvin, ACAO Kabarole, expressed gratitude to the Catholic Diocese of Fort Portal for donating land for the health center and a future seed secondary school. Kiko Town Council Mayor Mr. Bright Tabaho applauded the government for the facility, noting it serves over 100 people daily including residents from Haruaho, Rurama, Kasenda, and even Kamwenge District due to its strategic location along the highway.



District Leaders, Town Council Leadership and the residents pose in a photo after commissioning the facility

Kitagwenda Farmers Receive Seedlings Worth UGX 20M from Rising The Village NGO

By Ainomuhangi Justus, Senior IT Officer, Kitagwenda District

Over 500 households in Kitooma and Kengeya parishes, Kakasi Sub County, have received maize, beans, and Irish potato seedlings from Rising The Village, a local non-governmental organization, in an effort to boost agricultural productivity and household incomes. The distribution took place on Wednesday, 20th August 2025, at the Kakasi Sub County headquarters.



Each household received one basin of Irish potatoes and 3 kilograms each of improved maize and beans varieties. In addition to the seedlings, farmers were trained on modern farming techniques, including irrigation methods and best agronomic practices.

Mr. Mwesigwa Arnold, Project Manager for Rising The Village in the Kitagwenda cluster, urged farmers to use the seedlings responsibly, warning against selling them for immediate cash, which he said is often spent on meat and alcohol rather than invested in farming.

District Agriculture Officer Mr. Namanya Justus encouraged farmers to diversify beyond food crops, such as maize and beans, and consider cash crops like coffee and cotton to generate sustainable income and improve household wealth.



Senior Assistant Secretary Mr. Tumwiine David

Representing the Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Assistant Secretary Mr. Tumwiine David applauded the partnership between the district and Rising The Village, pledging continued support for the initiative. He also called on the sub-county chief, Community Development Officer, and assistant agriculture officer to monitor farmers and ensure the seedlings are properly planted, helping achieve the NGO's goal of poverty eradication.

The initiative, valued at approximately UGX 20 million, is part of Rising The Village's broader effort to modernize farming practices in Kitagwenda District and enhance food security and income generation for rural households.

Kitagwenda Trains Sub-County Water Source Committees on New Management Measures

By Ainomuhangi Justus, Communications Officer, Kitagwenda



Kitagwenda District Local Government conducted a one-day training for sub-county water source committee members on Thursday, 21st August 2025, at the district headquarters. The training targeted representatives from all nine sub-counties: Kakasi, Kicheche, Ruhunga, Mahyoro, Nyabbani, Rwenjaza, Kanara, Ntara, and Buhanda, with each sending five committee members.

The training focused on new water management measures introduced by the Ministry of Water and Environment, amid increasing calls from residents to decentralize



Asst. RDC Mr. Phillip addressing the water committee members

water supply management to the local level. Committee members requested stronger support and motivation from the district water board to enhance the performance and sustainability of existing water sources.

Addressing the participants, Assistant District Water Officer Ms. Iremera Sarah pledged improvements in water supply through tenders to qualified suppliers, emphasizing the importance of sanitation and regular coordination with village water committees. She highlighted that clean and safe water is key to improving public health.

Nyabbani Sub County Health Inspector urged committees to promptly report leakages and damages to the district water board to maintain functional water sources for community benefit.

Assistant Resident District Commissioner Mr. Phillip called for greater attention to water source sanitation to curb waterborne diseases. He also encouraged the inclusion of more women in committees to promote gender balance and assured the RDC's office support in protecting these vital water sources.

The training reflects Kitagwenda District's commitment to improving water governance, public health, and sustainable access to safe water for its communities.

Kamwenge Registers increase in students that sat Mock, Science Tops Performance

By Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer,
Kamwenge District



Kamwenge District has released the results of the 2025 Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) mock exams on 20th August, 2025 registering 5,027 candidates, an increase of 3.16% compared to last year.

Releasing the results at the District Council Hall, officials reported that Science was the best-performed subject, followed by English, Social Studies, and Mathematics.

Performance trends showed Division I candidates improved to 11.2% from 10.3%, while Division U (Ungraded) dropped from 24.5% in 2024 to 17.5% in 2025. However, Division IV rose to 25.8% from 17.1%, while Divisions II and III registered slight declines.

Mr. Tushabomwe Chriscent, Senior Education Officer, praised the role of the Headteachers' Association and the Academic Board led by Mr. Ninshaba Robertson, urging schools to align with UNEB assessment standards as national examinations approach.



Acting District Inspector of Schools Mr. Nuwagaba Edson commended the district's steady improvement and the teamwork shown in organizing and marking the exams.

The mock examinations, conducted on August 6th to 7th, 2025, were organized under the supervision of the District Inspector of Schools in collaboration with the District Academic Board. Competent teachers set, moderated, and marked the papers, while 16 officials verified and graded the results at Kamwenge Primary School under UNEB guidelines.

Among schools, private institutions dominated the top performers: Kamwenge Modern P/S (100%), Oxford Modern (98%), Prime Preparatory (97.1%), and

Lykahungu Town School (95.5%). Government-aided schools showed moderate improvement, led by Malere P/S (25%), Kyabenda P/S (20%), and Kamwenge P/S (17.2%).

District Chairman Hon. Karungi Joseph Omugabuzi applauded the education department's efforts, noting that teacher recruitment has risen from 66% to 82% since 2021, with plans to hire 200 more teachers. He urged parents to play their role in supporting learners.

Officials said the mock results reflect steady progress in Kamwenge's education sector, but called for intensified effort across schools, teachers, and parents as pupils prepare for the national PLE later this year.

Ripple Effect Uganda Project Boosts Youth Employment in Kamwenge

By Joy Kiiza, Senior IT-Officer, Kamwenge District

More than 3,400 young people in Kamwenge District have gained employment opportunities through the Youth Inclusive Dairy and Market Systems Project, implemented by Ripple Effect Uganda with support from the MasterCard Foundation.

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world, with 78% below the age of 35, according to UNICEF. Officials say the project is addressing the challenge of youth unemployment by providing skills training, enterprise support, and market linkages in the dairy value chain.

Expanding Market Access

The initiative has established three milk collection points; Nkoma Youth Dairy, Biguli Youth Dairy, and Bwizi Youth Dairy, as well as Hope for the Refugee Milk Centre. Each is equipped with modern infrastructure including coolers, freezers, and transport facilities.

The Nkoma centre alone handles 6,000 litres of milk weekly, securing markets and boosting youth earnings. Procurement of another 1,000-litre cooler for Bwizi is underway.

Youth Innovation Challenge Fund

Through a UGX 55 million Innovation Challenge Fund, seven youth groups and 30 individuals have received support to start or expand businesses. Beneficiaries, who co-funded 10% of costs, acquired motorcycles, solar freezers, milk cans, and other tools. More than 100 other young people have been assessed for similar support.

**Action Photos for
YIDaMS activities
skilling at farm schools
and businesses**



Diverse Enterprises and Training

So far, the project has enabled 3,405 youths (2,386 female and 1,019 male) to become self-employed, while 16 have secured wage employment in enterprises such as dairy processing, crafts, and fertilizer production. Training is delivered through farm schools, apprenticeships, and local artisans.

In addition, 31 youths trained in safe agro-input handling have opened agro-shops, each supported with UGX 3.5 million in startup capital. Four diploma

holders in animal health have also established veterinary drug shops in Biguli, Bwizi, and Nkoma.

A Ripple Effect of Change

Ripple Effect Uganda emphasizes that each trained youth impacts at least three others through knowledge sharing and household support, creating a multiplier effect in the community.

Officials say the project is building resilient, youth-driven rural economies and strengthening livelihoods across Kamwenge District.

Kamwenge Launches Construction of New Inpatient Ward at Rukunyu General Hospital

By Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Kamwenge District

Kamwenge District health services received a boost with the official handover of a construction site for a new 34-bed inpatient ward on 19th August 2025, at Rukunyu General Hospital, a UGX 999,961,438 (VAT exclusive) project implemented by the UPDF Engineering Brigade under the Ministry of Health in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs.



District chairperson handing over technical documents to UPDF Engineering Brigade Representative

The new ward will feature two standard private rooms, separate male, female, and pediatric units, and a designated area for tuberculosis patients, easing congestion in the overcrowded outpatient department, said Dr. Ivan Mujuni, Principal Medical Officer at Rukunyu Hospital. He called for more staff housing and recruitment of specialist doctors to complement improved infrastructure.



District Technical team on Ground center Engineer Birungi Annet Kobusinge pointing where the new facility will face

Mr. James Bigirimana, Chairperson of the Hospital Board, praised the government's investments in medicines, staff, and infrastructure, urging the Engineering Brigade to expedite construction. The facility is expected to be completed within one year, with oversight provided by a clerk of works and the district technical team, explained Mr. Bright Inomigisha, Civil Engineer from the Ministry of Health.

District Chairperson Hon. Joseph Karungi ("Omugabuuzi") highlighted Rukunyu's transformation from a single outpatient department in 1969 to a multi-ward hospital serving neighboring districts. He also commended staff

promotions and the hospital's top ranking in last year's National Health Assessment.

The Resident District Commissioner called on health workers to maintain high standards of care and urged close coordination between the Ministry of Health, the UPDF Engineering Brigade, and district authorities to ensure timely and efficient completion of the project.

The new inpatient ward marks a major milestone in strengthening healthcare delivery in Kamwenge District and the wider Rwenzori region, promising improved patient care and a stronger health system.

Agri Evolve Boosts Coffee Farming and Local Jobs as Minister Magezi Inspects Operations in Kasese

By Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese District

The Kasese District coffee sector is witnessing a boost in employment and farming practices as Agri Evolve Coffee Company continues to expand operations in Kisinga Town Council. Hon. Raphael Magezi, Minister of Local Government, visited the company on Wednesday 20th August 2025, to assess its work in the community ahead of a decision on a 49-year land lease request.

Agri Evolve, which buys, processes, and exports coffee to international markets, employs 100 full-time staff and an additional 300 seasonal workers during peak harvest periods. The company also supports local farmers with extension services, training, seedlings, and fertilizers, helping them improve yields and access global markets.

During his visit, Minister Magezi



Agri Evolve coffee worker explaining to the minister the coffee handling process

met with company officials, local leaders, and farmers. He toured the facility to better understand Agri Evolve's operations, emphasizing the need for informed decision-making on the land lease. "We need to ensure that land allocation benefits both investors and the community," the minister said.

Local leaders praised the company's impact. Mr. Bwambale Aliganisa, LCI Chairperson of Kinyankoko, noted that Agri Evolve has provided youth employment opportunities that might otherwise have been unavailable. LC III Chairperson, Mr. Thembo Dovico, commended the company's 40 coffee extension workers for training and empowering farmers on modern coffee farming techniques.

The district's Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Walakira Paul, encouraged farmers to increase production while maintaining quality standards for international markets, urging them to use their earnings to improve family welfare and support children's education.

Agri Evolve Director, Mr. Jonnie Rolland,



Agri Evolve coffee worker explaining to the minister the coffee handling process

highlighted the importance of proper harvest and post-harvest handling, saying, “Quality determines market value. Farmers who implement best practices benefit themselves, their communities, and the nation.”

The minister’s visit underscores the growing recognition of private sector-led agricultural development as a pathway to improving livelihoods, generating local employment, and positioning Kasese coffee on the world stage.



Director Agri Evolve showing minister the right and the bad coffee

What Does The Marathon Mean For Kasese's Ordinary People?

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese.

As Kasese prepares to host the 2025 Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon on August 23, the event is poised to be more than just a race; it's a catalyst for local economic growth and community pride. With nearly 6,000 runners from over 50 countries expected, the marathon is set to inject significant revenue into the region, benefiting small businesses and local entrepreneurs. From food vendors and boda-boda riders to artisans and hospitality providers, the influx of participants and visitors is creating a ripple effect of opportunity across Kasese. This surge in activity is not only boosting incomes but also fostering a sense of unity and pride among residents, as they showcase their culture and hospitality to a global audience. Sharon caught up with some residents and this is what they had to say!

**Halid Osman, 53,
Welder, Kilembe
Quarters**

"I've been training to run 21km in the upcoming Marathon, and I'm excited to participate. What I love about the Tuskerlite Marathon is that it makes our town vibrant and brings real business to Kasese. It also promotes fitness, which is very important. I will run with all my heart, and I encourage fellow Kasese people to join in. This Marathon means a lot to us."



**Tukamuhebwa Praise,
Chicken Roaster,
Stanley Street**

"This will be my fourth Marathon season roasting chicken. I was here in 2022 when it all started, and every year my sales go up. On normal days I serve about 30 clients, but during the Marathon, I serve over 70 in a single day! I use the profits to save in my savings group and usually withdraw during Christmas. The Marathon has boosted my business and my savings. I'm truly grateful to those who brought it to Kasese."



**Muhindo Angellica
Tibahwerwayo (Nya
Bashir), Vendor Kasindi
Market.**

"At first, I didn't pay attention to the Marathon or its benefits. But now I see the



opportunities it brings. Starting Thursday, I'll be cooking and selling Mulokoni on Messiah Radio Street for the runners and visitors. I've secured a strategic spot offered by my sister and I'm ready to make the most of it. We, the people of Kasese, feel blessed to have the Tuskerlite Marathon here, and it's up to us to take advantage of the opportunities it creates."

**Maliba Catherine,
Market Vendor,
Sauriyako Market**



"The Marathon season is always busy for me.

Hotel owners come to buy vegetables like dodo, onions, and tomatoes to cook for the runners. My stock clears so fast, and I make good profits. In the last Marathon, I was able to buy myself a new mattress from my earnings. I'm thankful to the organizers for bringing the Marathon to Kasese, it's really supporting small traders like me."

**Masereka Rabson,
Boda-Boda Rider,
UMEME Stage**



"For us boda-boda riders, the Marathon is a blessing. Even before the race day, we're already making more money. Normally, town service is UGX 1,000, but during this period it goes to UGX 2,000 because of the high demand. In the last Marathon, I bought two goats and repaired my motorcycle from my earnings. It's not just me my fellow riders also testify to this. The Marathon is putting money directly into the hands of ordinary people."

To sum it up:

The Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon has become a significant event for Kasese, not just for the runners but for the entire community. Past editions have shown a substantial economic impact, with the 2024 marathon injecting over UGX 15 billion into the local economy. Local businesses, from food vendors to transport operators, have reported increased sales and bookings during the marathon period. This influx of visitors has also led to improved infrastructure and services in the region. The event has not only boosted the local economy but has also brought a sense of pride and unity to the people of Kasese, showcasing their hospitality and resilience on a global stage.



✉ rwenzorieditorial@gmail.com

☎ 0701 498 242

Rwenzori
Tilnes 

