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Rwenzori Times

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TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

CHIEF EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our weekly newsletter of Rwenzori Times. This edition highlights continued government commitment to strengthening communication, infrastructure, and leadership at both national and grassroots levels—key pillars of effective service delivery.

The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance's decision to equip 176 District Communication Officers with laptops marks a strategic boost to grassroots mobilization and information flow. By strengthening district-level communication, government is enhancing coordination, transparency, and citizen engagement across the country.

Infrastructure development remains a central driver of transformation. In Kyegegwa District, the commissioning of UGX 254 million in mechanized road works is improving access and supporting local economic activity. Meanwhile, the launch of the UGX 7.5 billion Nyahuka–Mirambi Bridge project in Bundibugyo District is set to resolve long-standing connectivity challenges and unlock new opportunities for trade and service delivery.

In Kasese District, administrative continuity is reinforced with the appointment of Mr. Kasagara Paul as Chief Administrative Officer, alongside plans to construct the

climate-resilient Katindo Suspended Hybrid Footbridge—bringing renewed hope to communities that have faced over a decade of isolation.

Politically, the Tooro Sub-Region reaffirmed its confidence in the National Resistance Movement, with H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni securing an emphatic 83 percent victory in Kabarole District. This outcome reflects sustained public trust in the NRM's leadership and development agenda.

We also showcase Bunyangabu District through a pictorial feature highlighting visible gains in infrastructure and service delivery—clear evidence of progress on the ground.

We conclude by congratulating H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on his landslide victory in the just-concluded presidential election, reaffirming a national mandate to steer Uganda forward on a path of stability, development, and inclusive growth.

Wishing you a nice reading.

**KABUGHO
SHARON**

Editor



**AINGANIZA
STEPHEN**

Editor

GROWING PATIENT LOAD SPURS CALL TO UPGRADE BWERA HOSPITAL

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer- Kasese

The Administration of Bwera Hospital has formally appealed to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for an upgrade to Regional Referral Hospital status, citing an overwhelming patient load, limited infrastructure, and its expanding role in providing specialized services to a growing population in Kasese District and the wider Rwenzori sub-region.

The request was presented during

the commissioning of the new Mother's Dormitory and Neonatal Care Unit at Bwera Hospital on Monday, January 12th, 2026, by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Atwine.

Presenting the hospital's report, the Chairperson of the Hospital Management Board, Mr Bwambale Erica, revealed that Bwera Hospital is operating far beyond its original mandate and capacity. He noted



Dr. Diana Atwine commissioning the mother's dormitory at Bwera Hospital.



Dr Diana Atwine inspecting Bwera hospital.

that the facility was declared a hospital in 1995 and commissioned in 2000 by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni as a 100-bed facility, but has since expanded to 202 beds due to increasing demand for services.

Despite this expansion, the hospital continues to struggle with congestion, with patient numbers exceeding capacity and some patients forced to sleep on the floor.

According to hospital management, Bwera Hospital has effectively become a semi-referral hospital, receiving large volumes of referrals from surrounding health facilities, a situation that underscores the need

for formal recognition as a regional referral hospital.

Mr. Bwambale informed stakeholders that the hospital is about 70 percent ready to assume regional referral status. However, he emphasized that critical infrastructure gaps remain, including the need to expand the general ward to separate male and female patients, enlarge the labour suite and maternity ward, and construct a dedicated tuberculosis (TB) ward to improve patient safety and infection control.

Responding to the request, Dr Diana Atwine acknowledged the hospital's appeal and noted that the issue

of upgrading a facility to regional referral status is a policy matter that requires consideration at a higher level. While she did not commit to an immediate decision, she assured stakeholders that the request had been duly noted and would be forwarded for further discussion.

Dr Atwine also recognized the challenges facing Bwera Hospital, including limited bed capacity, inadequate equipment, and constrained infrastructure, and pledged to push for support to strengthen the facility's ability to deliver services.

She commended the hospital's clinical staff and the district health team for their dedication to healthcare delivery and their efforts in controlling disease outbreaks within the community, despite operating under significant pressure.

However, she also issued a strong warning against staff absenteeism, describing it as a major threat to effective service delivery.

She specifically condemned the practice of planned absenteeism, where some health workers are reportedly scheduled to work only 15 days or fewer in a month. Dr. Atwine urged hospital administrators to

strictly enforce duty rosters and ensure that all staff meet their required working days.

To strengthen accountability, she emphasized the need for health facilities to adopt Electronic Medical Records (EMRs), regularly analyze staff attendance, and implement biometric systems to curb absenteeism. She stressed that government investments in health infrastructure must be matched by commitment and discipline from health workers.

After the commissioning ceremony at Bwera Hospital, Dr. Atwine proceeded to Nyabirongo Health Centre IV, where she also commissioned newly constructed facilities, including a modern theatre and staff houses, as part of ongoing efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure in Kasese District.

As Bwera Hospital awaits a policy decision on its request, hospital management maintains that upgrading the facility to a regional referral hospital would significantly improve service delivery, reduce congestion, and better address the healthcare needs of the region's rapidly growing population.

LEADERSHIP SHIFT: MR. KASAGARA PAUL TAKES OVER AS KASESE CAO

Sharon Kabugho, Communication Officer- Kasese

Kasese District has officially received a new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Mr Kasagara Paul, following the transfer of Mr Walakira Paul to Bundibugyo District Local Government after nearly one year of service in Kasese.

The handover ceremony was held on Monday, January 19th, 2026, at the Kasese District Headquarters

and was presided over by district leaders, technical staff, and invited guests.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Vice Chairperson of Kasese District, Hon. Monday Girivazio, warmly welcomed Mr. Kasagara Paul and the team that accompanied him. He congratulated the people of Kasese for their continued support of the National Resistance Movement



Mr Kasagara Edward new CAO Kasese receiving tools of Office from Mr. Walakira Paul



Chairperson Rubirizi District accompanied Mr. Kasagara Paul with a team of civil servants.

(NRM) government, which he said has enabled the district to attract government leadership and development.

Hon Girivazio commended the outgoing CAO, Mr. Walakira Paul, for accepting to serve Kasese District after being deployed from Katakwi District. He praised him for his strong leadership skills, effective time management, flexibility, and dedication to duty.

He noted that during his tenure, Mr Walakira played a key role in monitoring government projects, making critical follow-ups, and ensuring service delivery across the district, including hard-to-reach

areas affected by the challenging terrain.

“Kasese has difficult terrain, but Mr. Walakira ensured that services reached even the most remote areas. His commitment to monitoring government programmes is commendable,” Hon Girivazio said.

The Vice Chairperson further appreciated Mr. Walakira for promoting public-private partnerships, particularly his support to private investors such as Agri Evolve, a coffee processing company in Kisinga Town Council, which has strengthened local economic development.

Turning to the incoming CAO, Hon. Girivazio assured Mr Kasagara of maximum cooperation and a conducive working environment. He emphasized that Kasese District is supportive and enabling, contrary to perceptions that it is a difficult district to serve.

The District Speaker, Mr Johnson Mayora, echoed similar sentiments, assuring Mr. Kasagara of full cooperation from the District Council. He urged political leaders to work harmoniously with the new CAO and provide him with the support needed to effectively deliver services to the people of Kasese.

In his remarks, Mr. Kasagara Paul pledged to serve the people of Kasese diligently and to work closely with all stakeholders. He assured the gathering that he would uphold professionalism, strictly follow standing orders, and remain

politically neutral.

“I will keep within my lane and not mix administrative work with politics,” Mr Kasagara said.

The outgoing CAO, Mr. Walakira Paul, thanked the people of Kasese for the cooperation accorded to him during his service. He noted that transfers are part of the public service and encouraged continued teamwork.

He informed the new CAO that Kasese District has a workforce of over 1,600 staff who require effective leadership and coordination. He also highlighted the presence of minority groups in the district whose concerns need special attention, including matters previously raised with the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The ceremony marked a smooth transition in the district's top administrative leadership, with leaders expressing optimism for continued service delivery and development under the new CAO.

“Kasese has difficult terrain, but Mr. Walakira ensured that services reached even the most remote areas. His commitment to monitoring government programmes is commendable,” Hon Girivazio said.

AUTHORITIES ENFORCE LIVESTOCK RESTRICTIONS AS FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE HITS KYENJOJO

Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer- Kyenjojo

Stakeholders in Kyenjojo District have intensified community engagement and enforcement measures to curb the spread of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) following an outbreak that has affected several areas.

Rugombe Town Council and Butiiti Town Council in Kyenjojo District have been placed under

livestock movement restrictions due to the outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). This highly contagious viral disease has affected cattle in several parts of the district, authorities have confirmed.

The outbreak, first detected in the two sub-counties within the district, has prompted the suspension of livestock markets, the ban on the



The DVO together with the OC Rugombe Police Post, brief butchers on the outbreak, and subsequent closure of butcheries to counter the spread.

movement of cattle, goats, sheep, and pigs, and the ban on the sale of meat and milk products in the surrounding areas, in a bid to contain the spread of the disease.

According to the District Veterinary Officer, Mr. Amanyire Wilson, cases were first reported in Rugombe Town Council, where cattle exhibited excessive salivation, blisters on the mouth and hooves, and lameness. The disease, which spreads rapidly through contact and contaminated materials, poses a serious threat to farmers' livelihoods. District leaders have urged farmers to isolate sick animals and observe strict hygiene

measures as veterinary teams conduct surveillance and emergency vaccination.

He also said that animals in affected areas are exhibiting classic symptoms of FMD, including excessive salivation, mouth sores, lameness, and blisters on the hooves. Although the disease rarely kills adult animals, it severely reduces productivity, particularly milk yield, and disrupts trade.

“Foot and Mouth Disease spreads very fast through contact between animals, shared grazing grounds, and contaminated equipment. The restrictions are necessary to protect



An extension worker, assisted by a farm laborer, tries to get samples from the suspected infected cattle.

farmers and neighboring districts,” the veterinary officer said.

Local authorities report that, while the disease rarely causes death in adult animals, its economic impact is severe. Farmers have been warned against selling infected animals, as this risks spreading the disease to neighboring districts.

In sensitization meetings held at Rugombe Trading Center and Butiiti Trading Center, the DVO also met with butchers and milk vendors, instructing them to halt the sale of milk and meat, as well as the movement of livestock, in an effort to counter the spread of the disease.

This quarantine has dealt a heavy blow to them as livestock-dependent households across the district. Farmers report sharp declines in income as milk sales drop and cattle traders stay away from villages due to the restrictions.

“This is our main source of income,” said Kabasonga Resty, a farmer from Rugombe Town Council. “We cannot sell milk or animals, yet we still have to feed our families and pay school fees.”

District authorities have warned farmers against selling or secretly moving sick animals, noting that such actions could worsen

the outbreak and attract legal penalties. Local Council leaders have been tasked with enforcing the quarantine measures and sensitizing communities on disease prevention.

Meanwhile, veterinary teams have been deployed to conduct field surveillance, assess the extent of the outbreak, and guide farmers on isolating infected animals and disinfecting kraals. Plans are also underway to intensify vaccination once resources allow.

Local leaders are appealing for subsidized vaccines and relief measures to help farmers recover. They warn that repeated outbreaks could undermine poverty reduction efforts in livestock-dependent communities.

Foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks have been reported intermittently in the Tooro sub-region, often linked to animal movement across districts. Authorities say strengthening biosecurity at household and community levels remains critical to preventing future outbreaks.

As containment efforts continue, farmers in Kyenjojo are hopeful that timely intervention will bring relief and protect livelihoods that depend heavily on livestock production.

KASESE DISTRICT TO CONSTRUCT CLIMATE-RESILIENT KATINDO FOOTBRIDGE AFTER 10 YEARS OF ISOLATION

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer- Kasese

The people of Ibanda-Kyanya Town Council have welcomed plans by Kasese District Local Government to construct the Katindo Suspended Hybrid Footbridge, a long-awaited project expected to transform mobility, safety, and access to

essential services across River Mubuku.

The footbridge, to be funded by UNDP, UNCDF, LoCAL, and the Ministry of Local Government, will provide a safe, reliable, and all-season pedestrian crossing



Residents of Ibanda-Kyanya during the community sensitisation meeting.

linking communities within Ibanda-Kyanya. The project, costing UGX 600 million and scheduled for implementation over six months, is designed to withstand flooding and enhance climate resilience in an area historically affected by extreme weather events.

During a community sensitisation meeting held yesterday on 20th January 2026, at Ibanda Primary School, residents expressed deep appreciation to the district and development partners for addressing a challenge that has persisted for a decade. The original Katindo bridge was swept away by devastating

floods in 2013, leaving communities especially schoolchildren stranded whenever River Mubuku overflowed its banks.

Speaking during a community sensitisation meeting at Ibanda Primary School, LC I Chairperson representative Ernest Muthahinga described the project as a long-awaited breakthrough for his community.

“This bridge has been a cry of our people for many years. Its loss affected our children most, and today we are grateful that the district has listened,” Muthahinga said.



District LoCAL project implementation team meeting with Ibanda- Kyanya stakeholders.

The impact on education has been severe. Flooded riverbanks repeatedly forced learners from Ibanda Primary School to miss classes or remain stranded away from home.

For years, learners from Ibanda Primary School have been among the most affected. Flooding frequently disrupted school attendance, forcing some children to miss lessons or seek temporary shelter away from home. Mrs Ernest, a teacher at the school, recounted how pupils would sometimes sleep at her house after failing to cross the river when floods struck.

She said the bridge will finally remove a barrier that has shaped children's lives for years.

"Many times, children failed to cross back home and had to sleep away from their families. This bridge will allow them to attend school and return home safely, even when the river floods," she said.

Local leaders say the bridge will also restore access to health services and markets, improving household incomes and emergency response. Benard Masereka, the District Councillor representing the District Chairperson, urged residents to

value the investment and protect it.

"Government has allocated these funds to Ibanda-Kyanya for a reason. If we fail to protect our environment, floods can still destroy this bridge. Tree planting and riverbank protection must continue," Masereka said.

District technical leaders stressed that climate resilience remains central to the project. Senior Environmental Officer Augustine Kooli urged residents to support tree planting and riverbank protection, warning that failure to preserve the natural environment could expose the bridge to future flood damage. He highlighted ongoing efforts to plant bamboo along the river catchment to stabilize banks and mitigate erosion.

"When communities fight nature, nature fights back," "we will need to demarcate the river bank because that land belongs to the river and if not surrendered the river will claim it," Kooli said.

Leaders also emphasized social responsibility during construction. Representing the Chief Administrative Officer, Kikusa Mustafah cautioned the community to guard against gender-based violence, particularly sexual

exploitation.

“Development should not harm our children or families. Parents must talk to their children and remain vigilant throughout implementation,” he said.

The project will also create short-term employment for local residents. Assistant Engineer Kisembo Thomson said the community will participate in activities such as packing gabions, clearing access roads, and supplying materials, strengthening ownership and sustainability.

From the development partners' perspective, LoCAL Coordinator Mbusa Isaac said the Katindo footbridge reflects LoCAL's commitment to climate-responsive infrastructure that directly improves lives.

“This bridge responds to climate risks while solving a real community problem,” he said. “With cooperation,

it will deliver lasting impact.”

The community also put in place a community project implementation committee that will support implementation and monitoring of bridge construction project to ensure efficiency in implementation and proper coordination with the district implementation committee. The committee will also work with the district committee to handle grievances arising from the project.

The UGX 600 million project will take six months to complete, with procurement already underway and construction expected to begin within the current financial year. Once completed, the Katindo Suspended Hybrid Footbridge will do more than reconnect two riverbanks; it will reconnect children to education, families to services, and an entire community to opportunity after more than 10 years of isolation.

“When communities fight nature, nature fights back,”
“we will need to demarcate the river bank because that land belongs to the river and if not surrendered the river will claim it,” Kooli said.

WORKS MINISTRY KATUMBA WAMALA FLAGS OFF KYEGEGWA–KYENJOJO ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS

Baingana Samuel, Communication Officer- Kyegegwa



Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala flags off works on Kyegegwa–Kyenjojo Road.

Excitement filled the air in Kyegegwa District as the Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala, officially launched the long-awaited construction of the Kyegegwa–Kyenjojo road, a project residents are optimistic will transform travel, trade, and livelihoods across the region.

For years, motorists and traders navigating the road endured endless potholes, damaged surfaces, and frustrating delays. What was once a smooth 30-minute journey often stretched into a grueling three-hour ordeal. On Tuesday, hope was finally restored as government leaders, local officials, and community members gathered to witness the



The Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala giving his remarks

historic flag-off.

Addressing the gathering, Gen Katumba Wamala revealed that the project will cost approximately UGX 193 billion and is expected to be completed within two years. He emphasized that the upgraded road will significantly improve connectivity between Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, and neighboring districts, unlock trade opportunities, and enhance access to health, education, and other essential services.

Local leaders welcomed the development with praise and gratitude. Hon. Tom Bright Amooti, the Member of Parliament for Kyaka Central Constituency, thanked the Government of Uganda and the

Ministry of Works and Transport for responding to persistent calls from leaders and residents.

“This road is the backbone of our local economy. We are grateful that government listened to our voices and ensured that construction has finally begun,” Hon Tom Bright said.

He also applauded the contractor for prioritizing employment of residents, noting that the project is already putting money into households and creating much-needed jobs within Kyegegwa District.

The Kyegegwa–Kyenjojo stretch forms part of the wider Mubende–Kyegegwa–Kyenjojo road corridor,

a critical route that has suffered years of neglect. Persistent complaints from transporters cited increased vehicle breakdowns, high maintenance costs, and lost business opportunities due to the road's poor condition.

In response, the government in October 2025 began rehabilitation of about 89 kilometers of the corridor. The works are being undertaken using engineers and equipment from

the Ministry of Works and Transport, a strategy official say will lower costs while accelerating progress.

The rehabilitation is expected to take 18 months, with priority given to the most damaged sections, including areas around Kyegegwa town. Authorities have assured residents that work will continue progressively until the entire stretch is fully restored.

GOV'T EQUIPS 176 DISTRICT COMMUNICATORS WITH LAPTOPS TO STRENGTHEN GRASSROOTS MOBILIZATION NATIONWIDE

Sharon Kabugho, Communication Officer- Kasese

Over 100 District Communication Officers received laptops from the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance in a move aimed at improving the flow of government information and enhancing coordinated communication at the local government level.

During the handover that took place at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala on Thursday, January 8th, 2026, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Aminah Zawedde, called upon Local Government Communication Officers to actively engage citizens

through proactive communication and attentive listening, so that government interventions are aligned with the real needs of communities.

Zawedde urged officers to utilize community platforms, including WhatsApp groups, to highlight



Dr Aminah Zawedde, PS Ministry of ICT and NG hands over laptops to communications officers.

government plans and interventions. “As communications officers, I encourage you to join the local WhatsApp groups, use them to share information as much as you can. Use voice notes, use platforms like X, use handles for your local governments,” she said.

She stressed the importance of embracing digital tools, noting that they are no longer a luxury but a necessity in modern public communication.

She further directed the officers to ensure that issues raised by citizens

are addressed or, at the very least, responded to appropriately.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Local Government, Ben Kumumanya, has urged Local Government Communication Officers to proactively communicate government programmes and interventions to the public, noting that effective communication is essential for improved service delivery, transparency and accountability.

Kumumanya explained the strategic role of communication in ensuring

a steady flow of information to citizens on government policies, programmes and development initiatives implemented at the local government level.

The Permanent Secretary presided over the handover of brand-new laptops to the communication officers, observing that the equipment will enhance efficiency, timeliness and accuracy in information dissemination.

He explained that the laptops were provided in fulfilment of a pledge made at the previous meeting of communication officers held last year, reaffirming the Government's commitment to equipping officers with the necessary tools to effectively execute their mandate.

Kumumanya encouraged the officers to use the equipment responsibly and innovatively to strengthen public engagement and promote a positive image of government service delivery across the country.

He also emphasised the need to widely publicise local government job advertisements in order to attract qualified candidates, address unemployment and reduce unfilled positions.

The development comes at a time when the government continues to grapple with challenges related to information flow within and across its internal and external audiences, largely due to technological constraints.



RDC COMMISSIONS KYEGEGWA ROAD REPAIRS WORTH UGX 254 MILLION TO BOOST ACCESSIBILITY

Baingana Samuel, Communication Officer- Kyegegwa



Engineering Assistant, Musinguzi Howard, addressing residents of Isunga trading center in Nkakwa Sub-County.

The Government of Uganda has officially launched mechanized road maintenance works on the Mukyeeya–Isunga–Bugogo and Bugogo–Kidindimya roads in Kyegegwa District.

The works were commissioned by 12th, 2026.

Retired Col Bright Alex Nzirimu, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Kyegegwa District Local Government, on Monday, January

Col Bright Alex was accompanied by Mr Byamukama Kisoke John, the Kyegegwa District Chairman (LCV); Mr Ategeka Deuson, the Principal

Assistant Secretary representing the Chief Administrative Officer; Mr Musinguzi Howard, Engineering Assistant; and Mr Baine Andrew, the Internal Security Officer for Kyegegwa District.

The Mukyeeya–Isunga–Bugogo road, covering 14 kilometers, will be rehabilitated for UGX 129 million, while the Bugogo–Kidindimya road, stretching 10 kilometers, will cost UGX 125 million. The works are funded under the Ministry of Finance road maintenance grant, from which the district received UGX 1 billion. The maintenance is

expected to be completed within two months.

The scope of work includes bush clearing, grading, shaping, and compaction. The Mukyeeya–Isunga–Bugogo road will have 10 culvert lines installed, while 8 culvert lines will be installed along the Bugogo–Kidindimya road to improve drainage.

LCV Chairperson Byamukama Kisoke John urged the District Works Department to prioritize offshoots and proper drainage systems to prevent water from flowing along the road surface, which often



RDC - Kyegegwa Col Bright Alex at Bugogo primary school during the launch of road maintenance.



Chairman LC V Kyegegwa addressing stakeholders of Bugogo Town council, at Bugogo Primary school.



Chairman LC V Kyegegwa addressing stakeholders of Bugogo Town council, at Bugogo Primary school.

accelerates damage.

Speaking at the launch, Col Bright Alex emphasized the importance of the roads, describing them as critical arteries for local communities.

“These roads are vital for connecting people to essential services, markets, and opportunities. They will enable farmers to transport their produce more efficiently, reduce post-harvest losses, and secure better prices,” he

said.

Mr. Musinguzi Howard, the Engineering Assistant, informed residents of Isunga and Bugogo that the district intends to collaborate with community members who possess murram. The material will undergo testing and, upon approval, will be utilized for spot-gravelling on the most severely affected sections of the roads.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI’S WEALTH CREATION GOSPEL PAYS OFF, NRM SWEEPS KASESE PARLIAMENTARY SEATS FOR FIRST TIME!

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer- Kasese

The ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) has secured a clean sweep of all six parliamentary seats in Kasese District following the recently concluded 2026–2030 general elections, a victory widely attributed to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni’s sustained campaign message of peace, development, and household poverty eradication.

The electoral success comes shortly after President Museveni held massive campaign rallies in Kasese, including key engagements at Kisinga Town Council in Bukonzo

East County and Busongora North on January 12, 2026. During these rallies, the President highlighted the NRM’s long-standing achievements in the district and outlined his vision



President Museveni hands over NRM flags to the NRM flag bearers.

for transforming livelihoods through economic empowerment and job creation.

Addressing residents at Kisinga, President Museveni emphasized that the peace and stability currently enjoyed in Kasese form the foundation for economic growth, investment, and national unity. He noted that without peace, development initiatives cannot succeed.

In Kasese Municipality, NRM candidate Kambale Ferigo emerged victorious after polling 11,899 votes, defeating Kithula Francis, who garnered 9,787 votes, while Centenary Robert came third with 5,141 votes in a six-candidate race.

Busongora North was retained by

incumbent Sowedi Kitanywa, who secured 21,064 votes against William Nzoghu's 13,817. In Bukonzo East, NRM's Monday Julius Rude recorded a landslide victory with 28,195 votes, defeating FDC's Masereka Sylvester, who polled 9,032 votes. Incumbent Herold Muhindo of the pFF came third.

Bukonzo West also returned to the NRM fold, with Makerere University Kampala Chancellor Crispus Kiyonga winning the parliamentary seat after polling 35,899 votes, ahead of Katusabe Godfrey Atkins, who received 26,399 votes. Shahidu Muhindo finished third with 1,932 votes.

Political observers in Kasese say the results reflect growing



NRM supporters at Kisinga playground during Museveni's campaign.

voter confidence in the NRM's development agenda, which President Museveni strongly articulated during his campaign visit to the district.

At the Kisinga rally, the President underscored infrastructure development, industrialization, and commercial agriculture as key drivers of employment and wealth creation. He welcomed calls to operationalize the Kasese Industrial Park, describing industrial growth as critical to absorbing the district's youthful population.

A central theme of Museveni's campaign message was the four-acre model, which he promoted as a practical solution to household poverty. Video documentaries showcasing successful local farmers were screened at the rally, reinforcing the message that

disciplined land use, value addition, and commercialization can generate sustainable incomes even on small plots of land.

The President also urged residents to embrace government wealth-creation programs such as Emyooga, revealing that a training school had been established in Kasese to equip communities with skills in organization, savings, and enterprise development.

NRM leaders in the district, including Kasese District Chairperson Hon. Mbahimba James, credited the party's electoral success to President Museveni's hands-on engagement and fulfillment of previous pledges, including support extended to Rwenzururu veterans. However, leaders also raised outstanding concerns such as land conflicts, the resettlement of the Banyabindi community, poor road maintenance,

and limited access to secondary education—issues the President acknowledged and pledged to address.

Responding to the concerns raised, President Museveni assured residents that job creation remains a key government priority for Kasese. He noted that agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism form the backbone of the district's economic future and pledged continued government support to unlock the potential of these sectors.

The rally was attended by several

dignitaries, including Minister of State for Trade Gen. Mbadi Mbasu, Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Dr. Diana Atwine, and NRM flag bearer for Bukonzo West, Hon. Crispus Kiyonga.

In his closing remarks, President Museveni urged residents to continue supporting the NRM, stating that the party's development strategy is focused on empowering Ugandans to create jobs and wealth for themselves through production, value addition, and organized enterprise.

COL. NAKALEMA URGES YOUTH TO USE TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBLY AND LEAD CHANGE AT SOUTH RWENZORI CONVENTION

Sharon Kabugho, Communication Officer- Kasese

Col Edith Nakalema, the head of the State House Investors Protection Unit (SHIPU) has urged thousands of youths at St. Paul's Cathedral in Kasese Municipality to embrace faith, peace, and responsible use of the internet, warning that online misinformation and distractions could undermine personal growth

and national stability.

Addressing the congregation on January 9th, 2026 during the South Rwenzori Diocesan Youth Convention, Col Nakalema, who heads Uganda's State House Investors' Protection Unit, emphasized that while technology offers limitless opportunities, it also



South Rwenzori Diocese receives Col Judith Nakalema.

requires discipline and discernment. “Young people must desist from misleading information and instead choose educational and spiritually uplifting content,” she said.

Speaking under the convention’s theme, “Anchored in Christ for Unity, Stability and Peace,” Col. Nakalema drew from Ephesians 6:10–17, likening faith to the “armoured helmet of salvation.” She encouraged the youth to accept Jesus Christ as a foundation for peace, resilience, and stability in their lives.

She further urged them to prepare for a rapidly changing world by embracing innovation, practicing

effective time management, working in teams, developing their talents, and remaining obedient to leadership.

Col. Nakalema also highlighted the role of youth in national development, noting that the President and First Lady have prioritized young people because of their numerical strength and potential to shape Uganda’s future.

“The government has prioritized your welfare and future. It is your responsibility to contribute positively to national peace and development,” she said.

Earlier, South Rwenzori Diocesan



Over 3000 youths gathered at St. Pauls Cathedral.

Bishop, Rt. Rev. Nason Baluku, welcomed Col. Nakalema and reiterated the Church's commitment to youth empowerment. He revealed that the Diocese is intensifying evangelism to raise disciples who will spread the message of salvation within families and communities.

"Our focus is to nurture young people who will be firm in faith and become agents of transformation wherever they are," Bishop Baluku said.

Although the convention has ended, church leaders and participants say that its teachings particularly on faith, unity, responsible technology

use, and peace remain timely and crucial in guiding today's generation toward a disciplined and purposeful future.



Col. Nakalema speaking addressing the media at South Rwenzori Diocese.

BUNYANGABU STAFF HAILED FOR STRONG SERVICE DELIVERY, URGED TO EXCEL IN 2026



Mr Kenneth Bajenja, the town clerk of Nyakigumba, was awarded for being outstanding.

By Christopher Tusiime, Communication Officer, Bunyangabu District

Staff of Bunyangabu District Local Government have been commended for their commitment to service delivery and urged to sustain the momentum as they usher in the new year.

The call was made by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Haji

Nsubuga Hood, during the district's end-of-year staff party held on Friday, December 26th, 2025, at Kaije Country Cottages.

Haji Nsubuga praised staff for ensuring a stable and productive year, noting that the district concluded 2025 without major incidents that could have disrupted service delivery. He challenged staff



The CAO Haji Nsubuga Hood addressing the staff during the end-of-year party at Kaije Cottages.

to work even harder in 2026 to further improve performance across all sectors.

“The year has ended well, and this is largely because of your dedication and teamwork. As we move into 2026, we expect even better performance,” the CAO said.

In a gesture to motivate excellence, the district awarded certificates of recognition to staff who demonstrated outstanding performance and professionalism in their respective areas of responsibility.

Among the awardees was Mr Elasto Kasoro, Headteacher of Kibiito Primary School, who was recognised for leading the school to exceptional performance in the 2024 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE).

Nyakigumba Town Council was recognised as the best-performing lower local government during the annual assessment exercise, while its Town Clerk, Mr Kenneth Bajenja, was named Best Town Clerk of the Year.

Dr Robert Biija, in charge of Kibiito Health Centre IV, received an award for exemplary leadership and service, with the CAO noting that his office

had not registered a single complaint throughout the year. Ms Elizabeth Kobugabe was also recognised for her outstanding work as a Senior Planner.

Several other staff members from schools, health centres, lower local governments and the district headquarters were similarly recognised for their contribution to effective service delivery.

The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Baker Akampurira, who chaired the committee that selected the awardees, said the process was thorough and transparent, involving heads of departments and supervisors across the district.

Mr Akampurira cautioned staff that while excellence was being

rewarded, failure to meet required standards would attract sanctions in due course. The CAO described him as “one of the best deputies” he has worked with, commending his commitment to accountability and performance management.

Speaking as the Guest of Honour, the Bunyangabu Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Mr Nicholas Kamukama, congratulated staff for successfully concluding the year and pledged continued collaboration to ensure effective implementation of government programmes and projects.

The celebrations concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony, a luncheon and social interaction among staff.

FORTY YEARS ON! PRESIDENT MUSEVENI'S LONG ROAD TO RE-ELECTION SUCCESS

By Ninsiima Patrick- Guest Writer

President Yoweri Museveni was declared winner after his landslide victory in Uganda's election, showing the dominance of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party nationwide.

The Electoral Commission (EC) announced that he won with 71.65 percent of the vote, defeating his main challenger, Kyagulanyi Ssentamu (Bobi Wine), who received 24.72 percent of the vote.



President-Elect Yoweri Museveni and First Lady Janet Muhoozi

Other presidential candidates trailed in the following order based on the number of votes obtained. Nathan Nandala Mafabi of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) finished third with 209,039 votes, equivalent to 1.88 percent.

President Museveni's political strength has long rested on a carefully built coalition mostly of rural voters who credit him with stability after years of turmoil, security forces loyal to his leadership, and a ruling party with deep organizational reach.

In a country where memories of past conflict remain clear, the promise of order carries weight. Roads, health

centers, and expanded education programs often showcased during campaigns validate a message that experience matters.

Speaking on Sunday, January 18th, 2025 at his country residence in Rwakitura, Kiruhura District, a day after the Electoral Commission declared him winner, Museveni attributed his victory to what he described as a return to the founding principles of the NRM, citing peace, national unity and economic recovery as decisive factors shaping voter behaviour.

His careful tactic during the race leaned into a recurring legacy. One



in which Uganda stands with a steady hand in a volatile region.

Museveni recalled the 1996 elections, arguing that public support at the time was driven by a disciplined army, the absence of extrajudicial killings, the removal of sectarian politics and improvements in basic living conditions following years of instability.

“If you remember the elections of 1996, people were not willing to listen to any story from the opposition like Ssemogerere because that time we had dealt with the major needs of the army,” he said.

The card of peace and stability was one deserving of its flowers but the story of last week’s election cannot

be told without acknowledging the youth. Uganda is one of the youngest countries in the world, and many first-time voters who cast a vote for a leader with the highest hopes of employment, relative costs, reduced taxes and better political space.

Museveni is now set to extend his forty-year rule after having first gained power in January 1986, when his National Resistance Army (NRA) captured Kampala and ended years of political instability and civil war.

Museveni, who first took power in 1986 after leading a five-year guerrilla war, said peace remained the foundation of Uganda’s political and economic progress ahead of his swearing-in, traditionally set for May, if results hold.

BUNDIBUGYO STAKEHOLDERS WITNESS CONSTRUCTION OF LONG- AWAITED NYAHUKA–MIRAMBI BRIDGE



The Deputy RCD, District Chairperson, CAO and other stakeholders launching the road works.

Mbabazi Sylvia, Communication Officer- Bundibugyo

The Government under the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT) has launched the Nyahuka – Mirambi bridge construction project in Bundibugyo District valued at Ug Shs 7.5 billion, a major infrastructure investment expected to address the long-standing connectivity challenges in the area.

The Assistant Commissioner for drainage structures in the Ministry

of Works and Transport, Eng Okullu Jeroboam, revealed that the construction of the Nyahuka –Mirambi bridge had been a long-standing request to the ministry since 2010. However, the government believes this will significantly boost mobility, trade and access to key social services within Nyahuka town council.

“This has been a challenge to the community of Mirambi and

neighboring sub-counties, especially during rainy seasons whenever the river overflows,” he remarked.

He explained that the ministry signed a construction contract for this bridge with Ruwangananyama Engineering Services Limited on May 3rd, 2024. After, construction at the site commenced on April 1st, 2025, which was witnessed at the launch and also revealed that the project had reached a significant level.

The commissioner clarified how the project is timely as the government is implementing the Parish Development Model (PDM) program, where improvement of transport systems within the district is key to enabling the local community to effectively participate in trade of both goods and services.

He made the remarks while addressing Bundibugyo District stakeholders who had gathered at St Mary's Simbya Secondary School during the ground-breaking ceremony for this mega project.

The Bundibugyo District chairperson, Mr Tibakunirwa Robert, appreciated government for prioritizing Bundibugyo District and granting it such a mega project. He reminded the Commissioner about a prior request of 39 billion to the Ministry focusing on addressing challenges connected to the damages caused by the 2019 floods, especially on the road infrastructure within the district. This included the renovation of the Fort Portal-Lamia Road and the Construction of Nyahuka market.

Mr Tibakunirwa appealed to the contractors to ensure quality work, after the District reported the loss



Nyahuka-Mirambi bridge under construction.

of large sums of money due to shoddy work done by contractors. He implored the local community to cooperate and monitor this project.

PATRICK FRIDAY: PDM FUNDS EMPOWER LOCAL FARMER TO BECOME POULTRY MODEL IN KIRERE VILLAGE

Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer- Kabarole

50-year-old Patrick Friday, hailing from Kirere village in Busoro sub-county, Kabarole district, has greatly benefited from the Parish Development Model (PDM) Program. Previously engaged in subsistence farming, Friday faced significant difficulties in generating income to support his family and educate his children.

However, to address these challenges, he joined the Village Savings and Credit Association in his village to save his meagre

earnings and obtain loans to sustain his family.

A hardworking and committed citizen, Friday has a passion for establishing a poultry farm but initially lacked the necessary capital. In December 2024, he received one million shillings (shs 1m) under the PDM through his group, the Kirere Enterprise Group, where he serves as a leader.

"When I received the one million shillings PDM funds, I bought 17 bags of maize and stored them.



Friday Patrick in his feed store.



Mr. Friday Patrick in his Poultry Farm.

I later went to the Kirere village SACCO and secured shs 4.5 million, which I used to buy chicks," Friday explained.

Currently, he is earning a good income to support my family and pay off my loan debts, which I am close to completing. Each day, 26 crates of eggs are collected, each crate amounting to 11,000 shillings, translating to earnings of shs 286,000. After deducting the costs of feed and medication, he remains with 70,000 shillings per day, which amounts to shs 2,110,000 per month. Friday expressed his gratitude. "I'm thankful to President Yoweri Museveni for introducing the PDM Program, which has significantly improved my income and enabled

me to educate my children. I am now recognized as a model farmer in Kirere village because of my hard work."

Many people visit his farm to learn from his practices, and he is optimistic that the village will be transformed as he takes the initiative to mentor all the members in Kirere SACCO, who are eager to start income-generating projects.

"Poultry is a viable project that can lift people from poverty to middle-income status, but it requires hard work and commitment. It's a project that demands proper feeding and initial capital; fortunately, I have survived because I have friends and

groups to support me," Friday stated. He encouraged individuals and groups to apply for PDM funds and engage in enterprises to alleviate poverty in their families.

"If you receive the funds and utilize them wisely, it will undoubtedly change your life," Friday remarked.

However, he urged President Museveni to reconsider the methodology of distributing the funds. He noted that when funds are given to the poor, they are often mismanaged, leading to expenditures on alcohol, clothing, and meat. He suggested that funds should be allocated to the "active poor," who are well-assessed by district leaders and the office of the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) before the release of funds. This approach, he believes, would create a lasting impact on the lives of Ugandans.

Muzora Kenneth, the Commercial Officer and PDM focal person for Kabarole, commended Friday for his hard work and encouraged him to teach others in his village and group. He stated that Friday would be selected as a model farmer for others to learn from.

Since the PDM's launch in the

financial year 2021/2022, Kabarole District has received a substantial allocation of 16,079,226,540 shillings, distributed over the financial years 2021/2022 to 2024/2025.

According to Muzora Kenneth, the PDM initiative has directly benefited 16,079 households across 52 parishes. The district has seen the establishment of 968 enterprise groups and 260 enterprises, with an average of five enterprises per parish. The most successful ventures include vegetable farming, goat rearing, dairy production, and pig farming.

The Parish Development Model (PDM) is Uganda's government strategy to eradicate poverty by making the parish the core unit for planning and delivering services. It focuses on wealth creation through seven pillars, including production, infrastructure, financial inclusion, and mindset change, aiming to transition households from subsistence to the money economy by providing targeted support, affordable credit via Parish Revolving Funds (PRF), and connecting citizens directly to essential services like healthcare, education, and markets.

NRM DOMINANCE IN TOORO: INSIDE MUSEVENI'S 83% WIN IN KABAROLE



NRM Flag bearers and DEC at Busoro, the new Kabarole district headquarters.

Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer- Kabarole

In the recent presidential and parliamentary elections held on Thursday, January 15th, President Yoweri Museveni Tibuhaburwa of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party achieved a remarkable victory, despite a low voter turnout. Museveni secured 51,886 votes, representing an impressive 83%, defeating his closest rival,

Kyagulanyi Robert Bobi Wine of the National Unity Platform (NUP), who garnered only 9,870 votes.

Other candidates, including Nandala Mafabi (FDC) with 238 votes, Mubarak Munyagwa (133 votes), Mugisha Muntu (ANT) with 399 votes, Kasibante Robert (142 votes), Frank Bulira (202 votes), and

Mabirizi Joseph, who received just 51 votes, trailed significantly behind.

Historically, the NRM has dominated elections in Kabarole and Tooro regions, often achieving over 90% of the vote, with citizens actively participating in the electoral process. So, what factors contributed to this latest victory?

Hon Victoria Businge Rusoke, the State Minister for Local Government and District NRM chairperson for Kabarole, attributed the NRM's success to its deep-rooted connection with the community. "The NRM is a party for the people because they love it, feel it, and live it,"

she stated. Rusoke emphasized that the party's delivery on its manifesto, which includes improvements in infrastructure, healthcare, and education, has resonated with the electorate.

"The effective coordination between the NRM District Executive Committee and the well-organized party structures from the village to the district level, along with our dedicated efforts, enabled us to secure this victory," she added. Rusoke also highlighted the importance of their outreach initiatives, such as the weekly radio program "VOT NRM Manifesto Program," which has been instrumental in educating the public



Hon Victoria Businge Rusoke mobilizing the people in VOT.

about the NRM's achievements and manifesto over the past two years.

Dr Richard Rwabuhinga, the General Secretary of NRM Kabarole district, echoed Rusoke's sentiments, stating that the president's win was expected due to the significant benefits the region has received from the NRM government.

"Tooro region has achieved a lot under the NRM and President Yoweri Museveni. The granting of the Mountain of the Moon Public University has alleviated the burden of long-distance travel for education, while the annual allocation of one billion shillings for road maintenance has significantly improved our infrastructure," he noted.

However, Timothy Ruhweza, the Kabarole district speaker and an NRM supporter, expressed concerns about the low voter turnout, suggesting that Museveni could have achieved over 90% support if turnout had been higher. He attributed the lack of voter engagement to the failure of NRM parliamentary candidates to mobilize the electorate effectively. "The position of the district woman Member of Parliament was unopposed, and the Burahya county Member of Parliament faced weak competition. These candidates did

not adequately campaign or mobilize the people," he explained.

Pamela Kirungi won the woman MP seat unopposed, while Joseph Mugenyi Owebikorwa (NRM) claimed the Burahya MP seat with 50,111 votes, defeating his rivals Muhumuza Ronald (NUP) with 5,445 votes and Tusiime Denis (ANT) with 2,870 votes.

Ruhweza pointed out that the low turnout could also be linked to youth unemployment in the region, urging the president to prioritize the establishment of industrial parks to create job opportunities for the youth in Tooro during his current term.

While President Museveni's victory in Kabarole reflects the NRM's stronghold in the region, the challenges of voter mobilization and youth unemployment remain critical issues that need to be addressed for future electoral success.

President Museveni introduced the Youth Skilling Program at district level and Parish Development Model (PDM) offering shs100m to each parish where 30 percent of the applicants should be youth with the intention of fighting youth unemployment.

BUILDING ON LEGACY: BUNDIBUGYO DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Mbabazi Sylvia, Communication Officer- Bundibugyo

Bundibugyo District Local Government is going through a major leadership reshuffle to ensure excellent service delivery. On 21st June 2026, the outgoing Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Mr Ouma Charles, officially handed over office to the incoming CAO, Mr Walakira Paul.

The ceremony was witnessed by the technical team, the Vice District Chairperson, and the District

Resident Commissioner (RDC).

Mr Ouma has been transferred to Kalungu District Local Government, while Mr Walakira joins from Kasese District Local Government.

During the handover at the RDC's boardroom, Mr Ouma expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders, including the technical team, political leadership, and the RDC, for their support during his three and a half years of service in the district.



The incoming CAO (left) receiving the instruments of office from the outgoing CAO.



The outgoing CAO receiving a gift from the farewell organizing committee.

He urged the incoming CAO to work closely with the technical team, guiding them like a parent, to ensure excellent service delivery. He also called on all stakeholders to extend to Mr. Walakira the same support they offered him.

Mr Walakira Paul, in his remarks, thanked the political leadership and technical team for the warm welcome. He called on all stakeholders to collaborate with him in improving service delivery in the district.

The handover was followed by a farewell party attended by the outgoing and incoming CAOs, a 30-member technical team from Kasese District, the RDC and his deputy,

the Vice District Chairperson, development partners, and the district technical team.

At the event, Mr Ouma thanked the organizers for arranging the party, noting that it set a positive tone for the incoming CAO to work with a supportive team.

The Vice District Chairperson, Mr Bwambale Joel, commended Mr. Ouma for his dedication, particularly in mobilizing resources to fill vacant positions, and urged Mr. Walakira to continue working collaboratively for improved service delivery. Retired Major Jones Mugabirwe, the RDC, praised Mr Ouma's teamwork and pledged full support to the incoming CAO to ensure enhanced service delivery in the district.

STELLAR ACHIEVEMENTS IN BUNYANGABU DISTRICT



Rubona Health Centre 3



Kisomoro Technical Institute



Kiyombya Seed Secondary School



Kabonero Coffee, a product of the Agriculture Cluster Development Project.



Sanitation facilities at Kiboota Health Centre III.



Classroom blocks at Kiyombya Seed Secondary School.



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