



FEATURE STORY | PG.12

MUSEVENI PLEDGES MASSIVE ECONOMIC BOOM, OVER 40,000 SUPPORTERS FLOOD KOLOLO NOMINATION PARTY

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TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

Chief Editor

Dear Reader. 

Welcome to this week's edition of Rwenzori Times. Our focus is on transformation and resilience across the region. From the construction of a Shs920 million health facility in Kabarole that promises improved healthcare access, to Kamwenge's rollout of SAGE payments supporting dignity for our elderly.

We also highlight major infrastructure projects like the Nyamugasani Water

Project in Kasese, and innovations in aquaculture led by Kijwiiga Fish Farm and the Tooro Skilling Hub in Kyenjojo. On the political front, President Museveni's nomination rally drew over 40,000 supporters, setting the stage for a heated 2026 race. And in Ntoroko, communities are turning seasonal floods into a valuable resource for growth.

Thank you for reading and for being part of the region's story.

**KABUGHO
SHARON**

Editor



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EXCITEMENT AS GOV'T BUILDS SHS920M HEALTH FACILITY IN KABAROLE



Leaders at the commissioning of Kidubuli HC3 (1)

By Ainganiza Stephen, Kabarole District Communications Officer

Residents of Rwengaju Sub-county, Kabarole District, are celebrating the commissioning of a newly constructed health facility, Kidubuli Health Centre III, valued at Shs920 million.

The project, funded in partnership with the World Bank, is part of government's drive to improve healthcare access in rural communities.

The facility comprises maternity wards, male and female wards, a pediatric wing, a placenta pit, and sanitation infrastructure. Officials say it is expected to significantly ease pressure on Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital, where many residents previously sought services.

Anna Tukahirwe, the Assistant District

Health Officer, said the health center will bring critical services closer to the community and urged health workers to uphold professionalism and ethical standards.

"Expectant mothers should take advantage of the facility for timely antenatal care. This is key to reducing maternal deaths," she said.

Local leaders welcomed the development as a milestone achievement. Tadeo Kusemererwa, the LCI chairperson of Nsahu Village, described it as "a sign of good leadership that brings services closer to the people."

Priscilla Tuhaise, the facility in-charge, noted a surge in patient numbers from 450 to 780 per month, reflecting growing trust in the new center.

"This shows the confidence people now

have in accessing health services within their community," she said.

Agaba Abdulla, the LC3 chairperson of Rwengaju Sub-county, said the project followed a land swap to secure adequate space.

"This is a historic moment for us. We even swapped land to secure space for this facility, thanks to the district leadership and President Museveni's collaboration with the World Bank to improve our health infrastructure," Agaba said.

He thanked President Museveni and the World Bank for supporting rural health infrastructure.

Karamagi Bon, the long-serving Chairperson of the Health Unit Management Committee emphasized the importance of sustainability.

"For years, we endured the burden of trekking to Buhinga Hospital. Today, we celebrate a facility of our own. What remains is for health workers and the community to protect and maintain it," Karamagi said.

District LCV Chairperson Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga said the idea for a health center in Kidubuli was first initiated by the late MP Kisembo Muleju but stalled after his death.

He praised government for reviving and expanding the vision into a modern health center.

Dr. Rwabuhinga further highlighted complementary government programs aimed at improving livelihoods, including a Shs27 billion irrigation project, poultry, piggery, and dairy initiatives.

"This facility, together with other programs, reflects government's commitment not just to health but also to household income improvement," he said.

Assistant RDC Asaba Frank urged health workers to serve with passion and commitment, noting that government had enhanced their remuneration and working conditions.

Before this development, residents relied on a modest Health Centre II, which referred most complicated cases to Fort Portal, often at high financial and emotional cost.



Health officials and leaders excited to see the well equipped facility

KAMWENGE DISTRICT BEGINS QUARTERLY SAGE PAYMENTS FOR ELDERLY PERSONS.

By Joy Kiiza , Kamwenge District Senior IT -Officer

Hundreds of senior citizens in Kamwenge District are set to benefit from the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE) program as the district kicked off its quarterly payment exercise on Wednesday.

The three-day exercise, launched in Biguli Town Council on Wednesday, 24th September 2025, will run until September 26, 2025.

The program, spearheaded by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and coordinated by the district's Community-Based Services Department, targets citizens aged 80 years and above.

Under SAGE, each beneficiary receives Shs25, 000 per month, disbursed in quarterly installments of Shs100, 000.

Payments are being facilitated by Centenary Bank, the official service provider, through direct cash disbursements at designated pay points.

Birungi Prime, the district's Senior Community Development Officer, hailed the program as a lifeline for the elderly.

"This grant has given dignity and relief to our older persons. Many can now buy food, pay medical bills, and even support their grandchildren's education. We recommend that government considers lowering the



SAGE beneficiaries

eligibility age to 65 or 70 years so more people can benefit," she said.

The SAGE initiative has been widely credited with improving the welfare of vulnerable households across Uganda. Officials in Kamwenge say the ongoing payments reaffirm government's commitment to providing social protection and financial empowerment for the elderly.



Elderly persons at Biguli Town Council headquarters

NYAMUGASANI WATER PROJECT TO IMPROVE SAFE WATER ACCESS IN KASESE

By Kabugho Sharon, Kasese District Communications Officer.



Construction of the water reserve tank (2)



Construction of the water reserve tank (1)

The government has embarked on the construction of Nyamugasani Water Supply and Sanitation Project, a multi-billion-shilling initiative expected to increase access to clean and safe water across Kasese District.

The project, being implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment in partnership with Kasese District Local Government and funded by the World Bank, seeks to raise safe water coverage in the district from the current 57 per cent to 63 per cent.

Phase I, already underway at a cost of Shs 62.3 billion, will be followed by Phase II and once complete, the modern piped water system will serve an estimated 122,764 residents in 12 sub-counties and town councils.

The areas include the following sub counties; Kyalhumba, Kyondo, Kisinga, Munkunyu, Lake Katwe, Kitabu, Kahokya, Nyakatonzi, Kyalhumba Town Council, Kisinga Town Council, Kinyamaseke Town Council, and Muhokya Town Council.

The initiative also incorporates sanitation improvements, including the construction of 18 water-borne toilets in schools, health facilities, and public places.

It further addresses climate resilience, with designs that consider future water demand and clean-energy solutions, and emphasizes community ownership through resident involvement in planning and management.

District officials say the project will deliver both economic and health benefits, reducing the spread of

waterborne diseases, boosting school attendance, and creating new business opportunities.

Syipuma B. Patrick, Senior Water Engineer, Kasese District said the project will significantly improve living standards across Kasese.

With construction progressing on schedule, the Nyamugasani Water Project is being hailed as a model of government, donor, and community collaboration set to provide cleaner water, better sanitation, and improved livelihoods for the people of Kasese.



Construction of the water reserve tank (3)

HOW KIJWIIGA FISH FARM, TOORO SKILLING HUB ARE SHAPING AQUACULTURE POTENTIAL IN KYENJOJO.

By Johnson Atuhaire, Communications Officer, Kyenjojo District



Kyenjojo District is emerging as a center of agricultural innovation, with Kijwiga Fish Farm leading the way in aquaculture and the Tooro Industrial Hub offering new opportunities for value addition, processing, and market access.

Together, these initiatives are not only changing livelihoods but also shaping the future of the district's economy.

Situated in the heart of Kyenjojo, Kijwiga Fish Farm has become a training and demonstration site for modern fish farming practices.

The farm specializes in tilapia and catfish rearing, using scientifically designed ponds, proper feeding techniques, and improved water



management.

The farm's success has inspired surrounding communities to take up aquaculture, diversifying away from traditional reliance on crops like tea and coffee, which face fluctuating prices.

Kijwiga Fish Farm has directly created jobs for youth and women through pond management, feeding, harvesting, and marketing. The farm also contracts local

suppliers for inputs such as feed and equipment, circulating money within the community.

Beyond employment, the farm serves as a training ground for farmers across Kyenjojo, who come to learn aquaculture techniques, pond construction, and fish husbandry. Many have since started their own small-scale fish projects, multiplying the benefits.

“Fish farming has proven to be a stable source of income and food. Farmers no longer depend only on cash crops but can also harvest fish throughout the year,” said Muhereza Robert, a farmer who benefited from Kijwiga’s training program.

Fish farming, or aquaculture, offers several unique advantages that include but not limited to year-round production, as unlike seasonal crops, fish can be harvested multiple times annually.

Fish also provides affordable protein and essential nutrients, improving diets especially among children and mothers.

Aqua culture has also been integral in environmental integration as pond water can be used for irrigation, while fish waste serves as natural fertilizer for crops.

By promoting integrated fish-crop-livestock systems, Kyenjojo farmers are maximizing land productivity and income.

Kijwiga Fish Farm has become a community resource center, training local farmers, creating jobs for youth and women, and boosting household incomes.

Fish availability within the district has also reduced dependence on imports, keeping money circulating locally.

Shem Ssekyanzi, the District Production and Marketing officer, and Rwenzori Regional PDM Coordinator, says aquaculture is strengthening the Parish Development Model (PDM) by offering an enterprise that is both profitable and



sustainable.

Local revenue is also growing through taxes and licensing. It is also helping communities diversify incomes beyond traditional crops like tea and coffee.

Complementing Kijwiga's efforts is the Tooro Industrial Hub, a presidential initiative established to promote industrialization, skilling, and value addition.

The hub provides value addition opportunities, including fish filleting, smoking, and packaging to meet market standards, entrepreneurship support, helping farmers and youth groups turn aquaculture into viable businesses.

By linking production at Kijwiga and other farms to processing and markets through the Tooro Industrial Hub, the aquaculture value chain in Kyenjojo is being strengthened from pond to plate.

The combination of grassroots initiatives like Kijwiga Fish Farm and regional infrastructure like the Tooro Industrial

Hub is creating a powerful synergy.

With improved skills, better markets, and expanded production, fish farming is set to become a pillar of Kyenjojo's economy.

Peter Birungi, the District Fisheries Officer noted, "Kijwiga Fish Farm is showing us how aquaculture can change lives. With the Tooro Industrial Hub supporting value addition, Kyenjojo can become a leader in fish production and processing in Western Uganda."

With continued support from district leadership, Kijwiga Fish Farm plans to expand production capacity, improve fingerling supply, and explore value addition such as fish filleting and packaging.

As fish farming takes root, Kyenjojo District is set to not only improve food security but also strengthen its position as a hub for aquaculture in Western Uganda.



MUSEVENI PLEDGES MASSIVE ECONOMIC BOOM, OVER 40,000 SUPPORTERS FLOOD KOLOLO NOMINATION PARTY



President Museveni with NRM leaders shortly after nomination

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has pledged to deliver a massive economic boom and improved service delivery in his next term of office after being nominated as a presidential candidate for the 2026 general elections.

The Electoral Commission (EC) Chairperson, Justice Simon Byabakama, on Tuesday confirmed Museveni's nomination at the EC offices in Lubowa, Wakiso District, noting that the long-serving leader had fulfilled all requirements for presidential candidates.

Museveni, accompanied by First Lady and Education Minister Janet Kataaha Museveni, senior NRM officials, and members of the Central Executive Committee (CEC), expressed gratitude for



President Museveni accompanied by First Lady Mama Janet arrived at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds after being nominated

the confidence his party continues to place in him.

“I want to thank the NRM members for entrusting me and electing me as

the NRM flag bearer for 2026–2031,” Museveni said.

He urged young people to reflect on Uganda’s transformation since 1986, citing Lubowa’s shift from a “coffee shamba” to an urban hub.

“I am glad the Electoral Commission selected this site. I challenge the NRM media team to go and get a satellite picture of 1986, get a satellite picture of this area which they call Lubowa, Lweza up to Bwebajja and now, then you will not have to campaign much. You Gen Z people, my comrade and supporters, you should see the satellite picture of here in 1986, and this was a coffee shamba. Now when you come here, it’s amazing. The satellite picture of now and then you will not speak so many words,” he said.

Later in the day, during his maiden campaign rally at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds attended by over 40,000 supporters, Museveni was officially handed the NRM flag by First National

Vice Chairperson Alhaji Moses Kigongo.

The rally was attended by Speaker of Parliament Anita Among, NRM Secretary General Richard Todwong, and former Prime Minister Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda.

In his address, Museveni said his campaign will run under the theme: “Protecting the Gains, Making a Qualitative Leap into High Middle-Income Status.”

He pledged to fully integrate the remaining 32 percent of Ugandans still outside the money economy, building on what he called a reduction in peasantry from 68 percent over the past 12 years.

The President unveiled a range of new initiatives, including a special fund for jobless graduates, financial support to cultural and religious leaders, Shs15 million allocations to leaders’ SACCOs at parish level, and a fishermen’s support fund. He also promised to scale up the Parish Development Model.



A huge group of NRM supporters who welcomed Museveni after nomination

Museveni highlighted four key sectors as the backbone of Uganda's economic transformation: commercial agriculture, manufacturing and artisanship, services, and ICT.

He further pledged free education in government schools, stronger preventive healthcare, safe water for all villages, and firm action against crime and corruption.

Alhaji Kigongo, the first NRM party National Vice Chairman called on NRM supporters to reject independents who lost in primaries, while Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, the former Prime Minister

praised Museveni as a "transformative leader who has steered Uganda from instability to peace and unity."

Secretary General Todwong said Museveni's candidature was "demand-driven by the party's broad support base."

With nomination secured and the party flag in hand, Museveni now heads into the campaign trail seeking to extend his nearly four decades in power.

Museveni will kick off his campaigns from Luwero region on 30th September, 2025.



President Museveni shortly after being nominated by the EC

NTOROKO DISTRICT TURNS FLOODS INTO RESOURCE

By Sahula Ibrahim – Ntoroko District Communications Officer, Ntoroko District

Ntoroko District, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), has embarked on a new initiative to convert recurring floods into a valuable water resource through the construction of valley dams.

The project, supported by the European Commission for Humanitarian Operations (ECHO) under WFP's Anticipatory Actions (AAs), targets the September–December (SOND) rainfall season.

Kamuhanda Herbert the District Environment Officer said the aim is to trap excess floodwaters and repurpose them for agricultural production during the dry spells that typically follow heavy rains.

In Kamahigi Village, Kajweka Parish, Kanara Sub-County, construction of a water dam is underway as part of the intervention.

“This project is designed to minimize the impact of flooding and turn water into a production resource,” Kamuhanda said.

WFP has also been collecting data in Kabimbiri and Bugando to prepare for



Dam construction in Kajweka Parish, Kanara Sub county, Ntoroko district (courtesy photo)

desilting works and cash-based assistance to vulnerable flood victims.

Officials say the intervention will not only mitigate disasters but also build resilience among affected communities.

The ECHO project further doubles as a capacity-building initiative, training engineers from flood-prone districts such as Kisoro and Kasese.

Ntoroko District Engineer, Bananuka

Jonathan, has already benefited from specialized training in earthwork resilience design and modeling.

Ntoroko, located in the greater Albertine region, remains one of Uganda's most disaster-prone districts, often suffering from flooding during the SOND season due to River Semliki's overflow.

The floods are usually followed by severe droughts, which devastate agriculture, livestock, and livelihoods.

With the valley dam project, local leaders and partners hope to break the cycle of disaster by transforming floodwaters into an opportunity for sustainable production.



NOMINATION DAY 2025



MYTHS / FACTS

UGANDA'S HEALTH SECTOR



Uganda's health infrastructure is underdeveloped and health care is inaccessible.



Uganda lacks emergency response capabilities.

91% of the population live within 5 km of a health facility (up from 80% in FY 2010/11). Government invested Shs 721 billion in medicines, completed three regional blood banks, operationalised 16 oxygen plants, and equipped hospitals with X-ray machines and CT scans.

The National Ambulance System was strengthened with additional ambulances. For FY 2025/26, Shs 5.87 trillion is allocated for functionalising Health Centre IVs, e-Health infrastructure, and specialised facilities.





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