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TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

CHIEF EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the September edition of Rwenzori Times. This issue brings together stories of cultural preservation, local enterprise and investments aimed at improving lives across our region.

President Museveni's appeal to cultural leaders to preserve languages and customs while keeping politics separate invites reflection on our shared responsibility to protect our heritage. In Kasese, the Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon

demonstrates how sport can promote tourism, support local businesses and create economic opportunities.

Education and water also feature prominently. Ntoroko has commissioned four school projects following an investment of about Shs320 million. Kamwenge reports progress in school water, sanitation and hygiene, alongside stronger management of rural water services under the USWIFI project.

Meanwhile Kyenjojo's Shs600.7 million Rugombe Water Supply Project promises improved access to safe water for surrounding communities.

In health, Fort Portal's new Shs1.5 billion

maternity and inpatient ward at Kataraka Health Centre IV expands capacity to meet growing demand. Bunyangabu's graduation of 100 Community Health Extension Workers brings renewed hope for disease prevention and basic healthcare across its parishes.

These developments deserve attention beyond commissioning ceremonies. Their lasting value will depend on effective management, maintenance and the involvement of the communities they serve.

As you turn these pages, we invite you to reflect on the part each of us can play in sustaining progress and preserving what makes the Rwenzori region distinctive.

**KABUGHO
SHARON**

Editor



**AINGANIZA
STEPHEN**

Editor

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI URGES CULTURAL LEADERS TO PRESERVE LANGUAGES, CUSTOMS AND KEEP POLITICS SEPARATE



The President poses with the new king and Babiito Clan members

By Stephen Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer ,Fort Portal City

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has urged Uganda's cultural leaders to keep politics separate from culture and focus on promoting indigenous knowledge, languages, customs and values.

Museveni made the appeal at the enthronement of Tooro's new king, Prince Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I, at the royal palace in Harukoto, Fort Portal City. He encouraged cultural leaders to promote indigenous science and traditional wooden and clay utensils, which he



King Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I and his wife, Rebecca Amoding Kijanangoma Abwooli

described as safer alternatives to plastics.

“Cultural leaders should be the patrons of indigenous science and promote the wooden utensils that are not poisonous to our health,” Museveni said.

He added that traditional utensils were safe compared with modern plastics and other products that, he said, could harm people’s health and contribute to cancer.

The President called on cultural leaders to take the lead in preserving local languages and customs. “As cultural and kingdom

leaders, take the lead in language, cultural customs and interest yourselves in indigenous science, and guide people wherever you can,” he said.

Museveni said he restored kingdoms and cultural institutions after observing that local languages were fading. He contrasted Uganda’s approach with Kenya and Tanzania, where schools teach Kiswahili.

“The modern systems have neglected language,” he said, urging cultural and religious leaders to

prioritise language because schools had not given it enough attention.

He praised the Queen of Buganda, Sylvia Nagginda, for mobilising women and girls to learn Buganda's customs, norms and values.

Museveni said he had supported her Hakasaka programme by providing his Runyankore dictionary, Katondogorozi.

The President also urged cultural and religious leaders to teach young people African customs and values, respect clan identities and prevent marriages between close relatives. He asked religious leaders to establish couples' clan and family backgrounds before conducting marriage ceremonies.

Museveni also linked the preservation of cultural practices to social challenges, including HIV. He cited high HIV prevalence in parts of southwestern Uganda, including Mbarara, Kabarole and Fort Portal, and contrasted it with lower rates in Karamoja and West Nile.

He further called on cultural leaders to mobilise their communities to embrace government wealth-creation programmes and fight

poverty. He said some Ugandans had followed his advice on wealth creation and the four-acre model and were now earning millions.

Museveni congratulated King Edward and donated 100 head of cattle to the kingdom. He also remembered the late King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru IV and the work he had done for Tooro.

King Edward said the kingdom belonged to the people of Tooro and called for unity and cooperation. He pledged to work with residents, elders and religious leaders to encourage children's education, promote government programmes to fight poverty and teach cultural customs and values.

He also pledged to support environmental conservation and protect wetlands from destruction, while assuring residents that the palace would remain open to everyone.

Prince Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I assumed the throne on September 29, 2026, following the death of King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru IV, who died of cancer in the United States on August 27, 2026.

COUPLES URGED TO TEST FOR SICKLE CELL BEFORE MARRIAGE

By Lucky Patrick, Communication Officer, Kabarole District Local Government

Couples planning to get married have been urged to undergo sickle cell testing before marriage to establish their status and reduce the risk of having children born with sickle cell disease.

The call was made by Dr. Shaban Abdullah, a member of the National Medical Stores (NMS) Board, during a meeting between NMS board members and district stakeholders held at Kitumba, Kabarole District headquarters.

Dr. Shaban said the increasing demand for medicines used in the management of sickle cell disease is an indication of the continued burden of the condition and should encourage communities to prioritise prevention, early detection and proper management.

He urged couples not to focus only on HIV testing before marriage but also include sickle cell screening as part of their pre-marital health checks.

“Couples should know their sickle

cell status before entering marriage because this is an inherited condition that can be passed from parents to their children,” Dr. Shaban said.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder. A person carrying the sickle cell trait may be healthy and show no symptoms, but when two carriers have a child, there is a risk that the child will inherit sickle cell disease.

Uganda has one of the highest sickle cell burdens in Africa. The Ministry of Health estimates that about 20,000 babies are born with sickle cell disease in Uganda every year. Approximately 15 percent of Uganda’s population, or about six million people, is estimated to carry the sickle cell trait, although prevalence varies considerably across the country. Some high-burden districts have recorded prevalence of about 24 percent.

The Ministry of Health reported in February 2026 that 70–80 percent of children born with sickle cell disease die early, particularly before the age of five, highlighting the

importance of early detection and proper care.

Kabarole District Health Officer Dr. Stephen Kalyegiira said many couples routinely test for HIV before marriage but overlook sickle cell screening despite its potential consequences. He said the district is supporting awareness campaigns encouraging communities to establish their status before marriage.

The campaign involves religious leaders, who are being encouraged to incorporate sickle cell counselling into marriage preparation programmes, alongside media campaigns and community sensitisation.

Dr. Kalyegiira said religious leaders are important partners because many couples seek guidance from churches and other faith institutions before marriage. He

encouraged health workers and the media to use their platforms to educate the public.

Uganda is also strengthening early detection through nationwide mandatory newborn screening for sickle cell disease, launched by the Ministry of Health in February 2026.

Health authorities stress that testing should not be used to stigmatise or discriminate against people who carry the sickle cell trait. Instead, it should help couples understand their status, access appropriate counselling and make informed reproductive decisions.

Dr. Shaban urged communities to embrace sickle cell testing as a preventive health measure, saying early knowledge can help families make informed decisions and prepare for appropriate healthcare.



Kabarole District Health Officer Dr. Stephen Kalyegiira said many couples routinely test for HIV before marriage but overlook sickle cell screening despite its potential consequences. He said the district is supporting awareness campaigns encouraging communities to establish their status before marriage.

PLU LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP BOOK IN KAMWENGWE AS MEMBERS DISCUSS PATRIOTISM AND 2031 POLITICS



LCV(middle) RDC, Brig Gen Kisembo & other members holding the PLU book that was launched

By Kiiza Joy, Senior IT Officer-Kamwenge

Leaders, members and supporters of the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) in Kamwenge District have gathered at the District Council Hall to launch the organisation's membership book and discuss its vision, values and role in national affairs.

The gathering, held on September 14, 2026, also featured discussions on Uganda's political transition ahead of the 2031 presidential election, including an endorsement of Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba by participants at the meeting.

The event was attended by



Dr. Asiimwe Leo PLU District Coordinator addressing the members.

Brig. Gen. Dr. Charles Kisembo, Kamwenge District PLU Coordinator Dr. Leo Asiimwe, Resident District Commissioner Aharikundira Africana, Kamwenge PLU Mobilising Team Chairperson Birungi Faylin, Secretary Kenya Moreen, Treasurer Chosen Isaac, Kamwenge District LCV Chairperson Hon. Karungi Joseph, Assistant RDC Brian Karongo and Kamwenge Town Council Mayor Ninshaba Winnie Shine, among other guests.

Opening the programme, Birungi Faylin thanked members for attending and encouraged them to uphold patriotism, unity, discipline and responsible citizenship in their

communities.

According to PLU materials, the organisation promotes a vision of a united, patriotic, disciplined, prosperous, self-reliant and sovereign Uganda. Its stated values include patriotism, national unity, discipline, service to the nation, integrity and accountability, socio-economic transformation, youth empowerment, sovereignty and self-reliance, constitutionalism and the rule of law, and community mobilisation.

Dr. Asiimwe urged members to translate these values into practical community service and responsible conduct. He encouraged them



to reject corruption and criminal behaviour and comply with laws and regulations. He also cautioned members against covering vehicle number plates with PLU stickers.

He introduced online membership registration and encouraged members with access to digital services to register through the organisation's official platform.

Hon. Karungi Joseph urged members to understand patriotism as more than signing a membership book, calling for active participation in community development, accountability, discipline and cooperation with local leaders. He also expressed support for the proposed political transition involving Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba.

Guest of Honour RDC Aharikundira Africana encouraged members to

remain disciplined, patriotic and active in their communities. He also drew comparisons between PLU's stated values and those associated with the National Resistance Movement.

The launch of the membership book was presented as part of efforts to strengthen PLU structures and improve grassroots member participation.

The gathering concluded with calls for members to remain organised and contribute to community development, while the endorsement of Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba featured prominently in the political discussions surrounding the 2031 election.

TUSKER LITE MT. RWENZORI MARATHON POSITIONS KASESE AS SPORTS TOURISM DESTINATION



By Kabughho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese.

Kasese District is increasingly emerging as a destination for sports tourism, with the fifth edition of the Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon demonstrating how sporting events can drive tourism, stimulate local businesses and create new economic opportunities for communities across the Rwenzori

region.

Held on Saturday, August 22, 2026, the marathon attracted thousands of runners, visitors, tourism enthusiasts and sports lovers from Uganda and beyond, turning Kasese into a hub of sporting, cultural and tourism activity.

The impact of the event extended beyond the race itself, with hotels, restaurants, transport operators,



food vendors, tourism businesses and other service providers benefiting from the increased number of visitors.

Local hotel owner Joseph Mbusa said his hotel had been fully occupied for the week leading up to the marathon, attributing the increased business to visitors attending the event. He thanked the organisers for creating an opportunity for local businesses to increase their earnings.

Similarly, Livingstone, a boda boda rider at Bishop Masereka Boda Boda Stage, said business had increased significantly, forcing him to work longer hours to meet demand.

“We have so many clients these

days, so I am very busy working. I hope to complete my loan from the money I have been making,” he said.

The 2026 marathon also featured a significantly increased prize purse of Shs252 million, more than double the Shs92 million awarded in 2025. Winners of the full marathon received Shs40 million in both the men’s and women’s categories, while winners of the half marathon received Shs15 million, with equal rewards for men and women.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Chief Guest and Second Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Crispus Kiyonga commended the organisers and participants for raising the profile of the region. He also noted

that improved peace and stability had helped create an environment capable of hosting major events.

Kiyonga called for greater involvement of leaders and communities to ensure that the economic benefits of the marathon reach more residents. He also proposed greater participation of schoolchildren to help nurture young sporting talent and expose learners to opportunities in sports and tourism. He pledged Shs10 million towards the marathon's continued growth.

Amos Wekesa, proprietor of



the marathon, thanked runners, residents, partners and stakeholders for supporting the fifth edition. He said international media coverage

had helped showcase Kasese and its tourism attractions to audiences around the world.

The marathon was supported by Tusker Lite, Britam, Explore Uganda, Rwenzori Water, Coca-Cola, the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, the Ministry of Sports, NITA-U and other partners.

On the competitive front, Uganda's Leonard Chemonges won the men's 42.2-kilometre race in 2:13:25, setting a new course record. Fellow Ugandan Alex Mutai finished second in 2:13:36, while Gabon's Fred Cherotwo was third in 2:13:49.

Kenya's Margaret Jepchumba won the women's marathon in 2:39:15, followed by Uganda's Vanice Chemutai in 2:43:32 and Joan Chebet in 2:44:08.

With organisers targeting about 8,000 participants from 26 countries, the fifth edition reinforced the marathon's growing role as a platform connecting athletics, tourism, business and community development in Kasese and the wider Rwenzori region.

FORT PORTAL CITY TARGETS SINGLE-DIGIT HIV PREVALENCE THROUGH STRONGER FINANCING AND PREVENTION



Assistant RDC, Mr. Bwarale Robert addressing the AIDS committee

By Steven Waddell Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer -Fort Portal City

Fort Portal City has set a target of reducing its HIV prevalence to single digits as leaders and health stakeholders seek to strengthen prevention, service delivery and domestic financing for HIV programmes.

The commitment was made during a high-level meeting held in the RCC Boardroom, bringing together officials from the Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organizations (UNASO), the Ministry of Health

and the Fort Portal City AIDS Committee. The meeting, chaired by City Speaker Mugume William on behalf of the mayor, focused on integrating health services and mobilising local resources to support the city's HIV response.

UNASO facilitator Were Edward said equipping city leaders and technical officials with effective frameworks for health service integration and domestic financing was critical. He urged stakeholders to prioritise local financing for HIV



The City AIDS committee after the meeting

programmes and ensure that the 0.1 percent policy on HIV financing is implemented across all city departments.

Fort Portal City HIV Focal Person Amara Evans said HIV prevalence remains high at 14.1 percent, stressing the need for a coordinated, multi-sectoral response. She noted that prevention efforts must particularly focus on vulnerable populations and other groups facing a higher

risk of infection.

City Health Officer Dr Emma Mugisa said Fort Portal is ranked second nationally in HIV prevalence, after Mbarara City. He called for intensified prevention efforts across the city, saying achieving the single-digit target would require coordinated action from all sectors.

City Speaker Mugume appealed to the government and Ministry of Health to give Fort Portal special

consideration in HIV interventions, similar to the targeted attention given during outbreaks such as Ebola and COVID-19.

Assistant



The City Speaker, Mr, Mugume William addressing the committee

Resident City Commissioner Bwarale Robert called for collective responsibility, urging the City AIDS Committee to hold regular meetings, organise awareness activities and rely on data to guide interventions.

The committee recommended increased domestic resource mobilisation, enforcement of the 0.1 percent HIV financing policy, faster implementation of police guidelines encouraging men to

test alongside their partners, and development of locally relevant behaviour-change communication messages.

With HIV prevalence remaining a major concern, Fort Portal leaders say stronger coordination, financing and targeted prevention will be central to reducing new infections and improving the health of city residents.

NTOROKO INVESTS SHS320 MILLION IN EDUCATION, COMMISSIONS FOUR SCHOOL PROJECTS

By Sahula Ibrahim, Communications Officer, Ntoroko District Local Government

Ntoroko District has commissioned four education infrastructure projects constructed under the School Facilities Grant (SFG) programme during the 2025/2026 financial year, with a total investment of about Shs320 million.

The projects, commissioned on September 22, 2026, are aimed at improving the learning environment in primary schools across the district. The works were

implemented under the Ministry of Education's primary education infrastructure programme and were completed in time for the beginning of the third term.

The projects include a two-classroom block at Rwebinyonyi Primary School valued at Shs125 million; renovation of two blocks containing four classrooms and an administration office at Kamuhigi Primary School at Shs99 million; a two-classroom block with an administration office at Kabimbiri



ARDC Mwesigye hashim commissioning Kabimbiri Primary Schol, two classroom block

Primary School worth Shs45.6 million; and a five-stance VIP latrine at Butungama Primary School costing Shs32 million.

Assistant Resident District Commissioner Mwesige Hasheem Uthman urged parents to ensure that all children enrol in school and take advantage of government opportunities available within their communities.

“Education is the beginning of building a nation and once it is lost, the nation bleeds,” Mwesige said, emphasising the importance of keeping children in school.

The commissioning

team, led by the Office of the Resident District Commissioner, included representatives from the District Internal Security Organisation, the Chief Administrative Officer’s office, political leadership and technical staff.

Representing the CAO, Deputy CAO Mbonye Emmanuel called for community ownership of the completed projects and pledged



Renovated 2 classroom block with admin office at kamuhigi Primary School



ARDC Mwesigye hashim(left) at the commissioning of a five stance pit latrine at Butungama Primary School on 22nd September 2026

commitment to ensuring value for money. The works were executed by Kibiito Civil Works Ltd and Bunyangabu Agencies Ltd.

Mwesige also raised concern over residents who block water and drainage channels along roads by extending fences onto road reserves, particularly in Greater

Rwebisengo.

He warned that such practices undermine road maintenance and called on local leaders and communities to protect public infrastructure.



At Rwebinyonyi Primary School, area LCI Chairperson Baguma James welcomed the new classroom block but said the school still needed staff quarters, office accommodation, staff toilets and classroom desks. The school has seven classes and eight teachers.

“Community roads are a necessity for production hence economic transformation,” he said, stressing that proper drainage is essential for maintaining the roads.

BISHOP KISEMBO URGES NEW TOORO KING TO PROTECT KINGDOM RESOURCES AND BUILD ON OYO'S LEGACY



King Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I and his wife, Rebecca Amoding Kijanangoma Abwooli

By Stephen Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer, Fort Portal City

The Bishop of Ruwenzori Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Reuben Kisembo Amooti, has urged Tooro's newly installed king, His Royal Highness, Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I, to manage kingdom resources transparently and clearly distinguish

institutional property from his personal assets.

Bishop Kisembo made the call while speaking at a dedication service for the new king at St John's Cathedral in Fort Portal City. He encouraged His Royal Highness King Edward

to protect kingdom resources, empower communities and build on the legacy of the late King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru IV.

The bishop said accountability had been a concern in the past and would be important in building public trust in the institution.

“Accountability and the use of kingdom resources and funds have been issues here previously. You need to be accountable to the people,” he said.

Bishop Kisembo further urged the new king to view himself as a steward of the kingdom and clearly separate his personal property from assets belonging to the institution.

“As a new king taking over the reign, you need to differentiate personal property from institutional property, because the people want their kingdom,” he said.

The bishop also prayed for God to guide the king and encouraged him to remain faithful to his



Bishop Reuben Kisembo Amooti of Rwenzori Diocese

church marriage vows, while acknowledging some of the challenges that can arise in polygamous marriages.

His comments come amid cultural expectations surrounding the succession. Prince Edward is married to Rebecca Amoding Kijanagoma Abwooli, who is from the Iteso community. According to the account presented at the service, Tooro tradition requires the

king to marry a Mutooro woman, with children born to that wife eligible to inherit the throne. If the king does not marry a Mutooro woman, succession could pass to another member of the Ababiito clan.

Bishop Kisembo also called on the king to promote hard work and help the people of Tooro and Uganda overcome poverty. He urged him to mobilise communities and encourage parents to educate their children, while criticising those who discourage parents from contributing towards school costs.

Citing the Constitution, the bishop said parents have a responsibility to educate their children, while the state is responsible for providing basic education.

He further asked King Edward to continue the late King Oyo's environmental and public health initiatives, including the campaign to plant one million trees. He also called for action on HIV and drug abuse in Fort Portal and the wider region.

"Like King Solomon in the Bible, who led the people of Israel, I pray that God gives you wisdom

to lead the people of Tooro, unite them and guide the Ababiito clan," Bishop Kisembo said.

The bishop thanked the government for supporting the transition and urged Tooro subjects to respect and support their king. He pointed to the recent fundraising effort for Musuga Charles Kamurasi Akiiki, head of the Ababiito clan, in which Tooro residents and members of the diaspora raised Shs180 million to purchase a new Land Cruiser for his work. The fundraising is expected to continue through the Musuga Foundation.

The service concluded with the king travelling in a convoy to Karuzika Palace for his enthronement.

His Royal Highness King Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I assumed the kingship on September 29, 2026, following the death of King Oyo, who died in the United States on August 27, 2026. Before becoming king, King Rukidi Nyabongo worked as a broadcast journalist at UBC TV for more than 15 years as a news anchor and editor.

KABAROLE DISTRICT LAUNCHES FOURTH PHASE OF HEADQUARTERS CONSTRUCTION



Hand over of site

By Lucky Patrick, Communication Officer, Kabarole District Local Government

Kabarole District Local Government has commenced the fourth phase of construction works at its district headquarters in Busoro Town Council, with the latest phase focusing on roofing of the long-awaited administrative building.

The fourth phase of the project is valued at Shs982 million and has been handed over to Arcadian

Construction Consultants Limited, which will undertake the roofing works within the period specified in the contract.

The handover of the construction site was conducted on Monday by district authorities, marking another step towards completing the district headquarters project and providing Kabarole with improved administrative facilities.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Kabarole District

Chairperson Reuben Kimome Araali Makubebe urged the contractor to ensure that the works meet the required construction standards and are completed within the agreed contractual period.

Kimome emphasised the importance of quality workmanship and value for money, calling on the contractor to use the allocated funds responsibly and ensure that the quality of the completed works reflects the investment made in the project.

He also urged district technical officers and other stakeholders to closely monitor the construction process to ensure that the works are executed according to the approved designs, specifications and other contractual requirements.

The Kabarole District Assistant Resident District Commissioner, Frank Asaba, called for cooperation among all stakeholders involved in the project to ensure its successful completion.

Asaba stressed the importance of close supervision and monitoring, saying stakeholder involvement would help promote transparency, accountability and quality workmanship throughout the construction process.

He also cautioned the contractor to properly secure construction materials delivered to the site to prevent damage, wastage or loss. He said proper management of materials would help safeguard the project's resources and ensure that the roofing works are completed efficiently within the allocated budget.

Meanwhile, Robert Isoke, a director at Arcadian Construction Consultants Limited, assured district authorities that the company would execute the works professionally and according to the required standards.

Isoke said the company would deploy qualified personnel and complete the roofing works within the contractual timeframe. He also pledged that the contractor would work closely with district authorities and technical teams throughout the construction process.

The launch of the fourth phase brings the district headquarters project closer to completion. Once completed, the facility is expected to provide Kabarole District Local Government with improved working space and better administrative facilities.

District officials said continued

supervision, accountability and cooperation between the contractor, technical teams and other stakeholders will be essential to ensuring that the project

is completed to the required standards and delivers value for money.

FORT PORTAL REGIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL GETS SHS700 MILLION BOOST FOR MEDICINES



The leaders touring the facility

By Steven Waddell Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer -Fort Portal City

The government has increased the annual medicines budget for Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital from Shs1.4 billion to Shs2.1 billion, adding Shs700 million to help the facility meet the growing demand for treatment and address recurring drug shortages.

The hospital serves patients from across the Tooro region and also caters to parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It handles more than 300 outpatient visits each day and records between 1,350 and 1,780 admissions every month, with numbers varying during peak periods.

Despite its strategic role and high



The ministers and Fort Portal leaders touring the facility at the commissioning

patient numbers, the hospital has faced challenges including inadequate staffing and shortages of medicines, affecting its ability to provide timely and quality care.

Dr Richard Mugahi, a Ministry of Health Commissioner responsible for Reproductive and Child Health, announced the increased medicines allocation during the commissioning of a new maternity and inpatient ward at Kataraka Health Centre IV in Fort Portal City.

Mugahi said reports from Fort Portal City leaders and Minister of State for Urban Development Margaret Muhanga Mugisa had highlighted the heavy patient load at the regional referral hospital and the pressure this was placing on its

medicines supply.

He said the additional Shs700 million would help address drug shortages and stock-outs at the hospital.

Mugahi also revealed that the hospital had received Shs5 billion to facilitate the recruitment of 126 health workers, including senior specialists. The recruitment is expected to strengthen clinical teams, improve service delivery and reduce long queues at the facility.

He said the hospital had already received an orthopaedic surgeon, senior consultants and surgeons, as well as a senior consultant for the psychiatric department.

The announcements were made during the commissioning of a Shs1.5 billion maternity and



The leaders and ministers at the commissioning of the facility

inpatient ward at Kataraka Health Centre IV. The facility was constructed under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UGIFT) programme, funded through the World Bank and Government of Uganda.

Chief Guest Dr Charles Ayume, Minister of State for Health in charge of Primary Health Care, also urged Fort Portal City leaders to intensify public education on HIV prevention. He expressed concern over the high HIV prevalence reported in Fort Portal and Mbarara cities.

Deputy Mayor Margaret Kabajwara, representing Mayor Rev. Willy Kintu Muhanga, called for additional support from the Ministry of

Health. She cited a reported HIV prevalence of 14.1 percent in Fort Portal and urged stakeholders to strengthen coordinated prevention efforts.

Minister Muhanga also asked the Ministry of Health to consider upgrading Ibaale Health Centre II to a Health Centre III, noting that land donated by her late father was available to support expansion.

The increased medicines budget and planned recruitment of health workers are expected to strengthen Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital's capacity to respond to the growing demand for healthcare services in the region.

AFTER KING OYO'S DEATH, PRESIDENT MUSEVENI CALLS FOR RENEWED FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

By Stephen Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer, Fort Portal City

The death of Tooro's King Oyo Nyimba Rukidi IV has renewed attention on Uganda's cancer burden, with President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni calling for stronger efforts in cancer prevention, early detection, public awareness and access to treatment.

King Oyo died aged 34 while receiving treatment in the United States on August 27, 2026. His death sparked mourning across Tooro and the country and brought renewed focus to the impact of cancer on Ugandan families and communities.

At the king's burial, Museveni's message was delivered by Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa. The President said Oyo had been more

than a king to him, describing him as his grandson and a visionary cultural leader who worked with the central government and mobilised his people around health, social and economic development.



King Oyo wearing the crown



King Oyo

“I have lost my dear grandson, and not just a king,” Museveni said.

“We shall always miss a visionary cultural leader,” he added.

Museveni used the occasion to call on health professionals, leaders and the public to work together in confronting cancer. He particularly emphasised the importance of prevention and ensuring that communities have accurate information about the disease and its risk factors.

“Doctors must prioritise the documentation and dissemination of the causes of cancer to help our people prevent it,” he said.

According to estimates from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), about 36,000

people in Uganda were diagnosed with cancer in 2022, while an estimated 24,000 died from the disease. The figures are among the latest comprehensive estimates

available and underline the scale of the challenge facing the country.

Museveni cited pollution, fumes, plastics, processed products and human papillomavirus (HPV) infection among concerns. Cancer has many different causes and risk factors, while HPV is linked to several cancers, including cervical cancer. Vaccination, screening and early treatment can help reduce the risk and impact of some cancers.

King Oyo’s death has also highlighted the importance of access to cancer care. Health experts encourage people to learn about recommended screening, seek medical attention for persistent or unusual symptoms and access HPV and hepatitis B vaccination where available.

Avoiding tobacco, limiting alcohol consumption, maintaining a healthy diet and staying physically active can also lower the risk of some cancers.

Museveni's message places responsibility on individuals, health professionals and government institutions. Stronger public education and prevention need to be matched with access to screening, diagnosis and treatment, particularly for people facing high costs, long distances or limited specialist services.

The President also conveyed condolences to the people of Tooro and the Babiito royal family and called for unity and a peaceful transition in the kingdom.

King Oyo's death has therefore become a moment not only of mourning, but also of renewed reflection on Uganda's cancer burden and the need to turn public concern into sustained action through prevention, early detection, research and care.

KAMWENGE RECORDS PROGRESS IN SCHOOL WASH AND RURAL WATER GOVERNANCE UNDER USWIFI PROJECT

By Kiiza Joy, Seniroy IT Officer-Kamwenge

Kamwenge District Local Government has registered significant progress in improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in schools and strengthening the institutional management of rural water infrastructure under the Uganda Sustainable Water for All

Initiative (USWIFI).

The progress was highlighted during the Kamwenge District-Level Advocacy and Planning Meeting on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene held at Club Africa Complex Hotel on September 16, 2026. The meeting brought together district stakeholders to review WASH performance, assess



District Chairperson giving his remarks

governance milestones and identify areas requiring further investment.

During the meeting, Eng. Agaba Asiimwe presented the district's performance in school WASH services and outlined institutional governance achievements recorded under the USWIFI project between 2024 and 2026.

Kamwenge has recorded strong performance in access to water in schools, with 80 percent of schools classified as having basic water services, compared to the Uganda rural benchmark of 55 percent. A further 18 percent have limited water services, while only two percent have no water service,

compared to 12 percent under the national rural benchmark.

The district has also performed positively in sanitation, with 77 percent of schools attaining basic sanitation services, against the national rural benchmark of 74 percent. No school in the assessed category was reported to have no sanitation service, although 23



Eng Micheal Byamukama Ass water officer making a presentation



Madam Harriet Katusiime CAO -Kamwenge

percent were classified as having limited services due to inadequate pupil-to-stance ratios or gaps in disability accessibility.

However, hygiene remains a major area of concern. Only 24 percent of schools have basic hygiene services, while 31 percent have limited services and 45 percent have no handwashing service. The figures point to the need for greater investment in handwashing facilities, reliable water and soap, as well as hygiene education and behaviour-change programmes.

Beyond school WASH, Kamwenge has made institutional advances in managing rural water infrastructure. The district is

implementing the National Framework for Operation and Maintenance of Rural Water Infrastructure, including establishing three-member Water Source Committees for new and rehabilitated water sources.

Sub-County Water and Sanitation Boards have also been established, with active escrow accounts across all sub-counties to strengthen community participation, accountability and local ownership.

A key milestone was the gazetting of Kamwenge District Local Government as a Rural Water Authority on October 1, 2024.

The District Water and Sanitation Services Board was approved by the

Directorate of Water Development on March 17, 2024.

The district has also registered its Hand Pump Mechanics Association as KAWATECO Ltd, designated as the Area Service Provider to support maintenance and repair of rural water facilities.

According to Water Officer Eng. Michael Byamukama Ass, the district has embraced digital approaches to water management. It signed a three-year performance management contract in October 2025 and has begun digitising revenue collection through the WENDI mobile wallet, with 403 of 1,946 rural water sources

registered.

Kamwenge also established a centralised district-level Operation and Maintenance collection account in May 2025 and created a quality spare-parts store to support faster repairs.

The achievements provide a foundation for continued WASH improvements, although stakeholders identified handwashing infrastructure, inclusive facilities and sustainable maintenance of rural water systems as priorities going forward.

METEOROLOGY WARNS OF POTENTIALLY DESTRUCTIVE RAINS AS KASESE STRENGTHENS EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

By Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese.

The Department of Meteorology has warned of potentially destructive rainfall during the ongoing rainy season, raising concern in Kasese District where communities continue to face flooding and

other weather-related hazards.

The warning was issued by George William Omonyi of the Department of Meteorology during a three-day Co-Design and Validation Workshop on Strengthening



Participants from flood vulnerable areas pose for a photo after the workshop

Community Early Warning Systems held from September 2 to 4, 2026, at Rwenzori International Hotel in Kasese.

Omonyi told participants that prevailing seasonal conditions could result in heavy and potentially destructive rainfall, underscoring the importance of using timely weather and climate information to prepare communities before

hazards occur.

The warning comes as parts of Kasese are already experiencing the effects of heavy rainfall. River Nyamwamba has recently burst its banks and flooded communities in parts of Kasese Municipality, while water levels in Rivers Nyamugasani and Mubuku have also risen significantly. More than 80 houses were reportedly affected

and at least 20 households displaced following the recent rains.

Kasese District Disaster Focal Person Joseph Isingoma described the flooding



George William Omonyi and Emmanuel from OPM guiding participants on coordination during disaster management



Participants from flood vulnerable areas pose for a photo after the workshop

as a warning to communities, particularly with more rainfall expected.

“The latest rains left more than 80 houses affected while 20 households were displaced. This is a serious warning while more rains are still expected,” Isingoma said.

Kasere remains vulnerable to floods, landslides and strong winds, with several major rivers, including Nyamwamba, Mubuku, Nyamugasani, Lhubiriha, Sebwe and Rwembya, passing through the district. In 2020, heavy rains caused seven rivers to burst their banks, resulting in extensive destruction of homes, roads, bridges, schools, health facilities, crops and other infrastructure.

Kasere Municipality Deputy Town Clerk Zedekiah Kayiri said some

sections of River Nyamwamba remain vulnerable to overflowing and called for urgent intervention.

“The river has known weak points where water can break out of its channel and disrupt communities within the municipality, and therefore we ask the relevant Ministry to act swiftly towards River Nyamwamba,” Kayiri said.

The three-day workshop brought together the Kasere District Disaster Management Committee and representatives from Karusandara, Maliba, Kyarumba Town Council and Nyamwamba Division. It focused on strengthening systems for communicating early warnings and ensuring that communities can take timely action.

A key component was Impact-

Based Forecasting, which helps communities understand not only what weather is expected but also the potential effects and actions required.

Participants also worked on integrating scientific weather information with indigenous knowledge, developing community hazard calendars, identifying warning triggers and establishing clear communication channels.

The workshop resulted in the development and validation of Community Early Warning Action Plans for the four participating areas.

Speaking at the closing session, Senior Environmental Officer

Kooli Augustine, representing the Chief Administrative Officer, urged stakeholders to apply the knowledge and tools developed at community level.

Assistant Resident City/District Commissioner Henry Kabiriri also called for stronger coordination and resources for disaster preparedness.

With more rainfall expected, residents in flood- and landslide-prone areas have been urged to follow official weather information, heed alerts and take precautionary measures before hazardous conditions escalate.

TOORO COMMUNITY GIFTS MUSUUGA CHARLES KAMURASI SHS180 MILLION LAND CRUISER PRADO

By Stephen Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer, Fort Portal City

The people of Tooro have presented Musuuga Charles Kamurasi, head of the Babiito clan, with a new Land Cruiser Prado valued at Shs180 million in recognition of his efforts to protect the Tooro Kingdom's traditions and cultural

heritage.

The vehicle was handed over ahead of the planned coronation of the new Tooro King, Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I, on September 29, 2026. Organisers said the vehicle would support Musuuga in his



Musuuga Charles Kamurasi receives his keys

movements as he carries out his responsibilities to the kingdom.

Mugisa Michael, one of the campaign leaders, said the money to purchase the vehicle was contributed by people in Uganda and abroad, including political and religious leaders, elders and young people.

Although the fundraising campaign is still ongoing, Mugisa said organisers decided to hand over the vehicle before the coronation. He emphasised that the vehicle was a personal gift to Musuuga and

not an official palace vehicle, while thanking him for his long service to the kingdom.

He said that once the campaign raises enough money to cover the full cost of the vehicle, organisers plan to establish a permanent foundation in Musuuga's name.

Mgr. Isaiah Mayombo, who handed over the vehicle keys, said the community had chosen to give Musuuga the vehicle to facilitate his movements and help him fulfil his responsibilities.

Musuuga thanked God for giving him the strength to honour a



The brand new Land Cruiser donated to The Omusuuga

promise he made to his late brother. He said he had continued to serve as regent following his brother's death while safeguarding the kingdom's traditions and culture.

He urged the people of Tooro to remain united and protect their cultural heritage. He also called on them not to shy away from Butwarane, using the expression, "Batahemukira Butwarane."

Musuuga became emotional during

the ceremony as he thanked the community for standing with him through the challenges that followed the death of King Oyo.

Fort Portal Tourism City Central Division Mayor Jorum Bintamanya said the vehicle was a recognition of Musuuga's efforts to protect Tooro's culture, traditions and dignity. He added that Musuuga's actions had set an example for people across the kingdom.

KASESE HOSTS NATIONAL PRIVATE SCHOOLS DAY AS EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS HIGHLIGHT CLIMATE RESILIENCE



By Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese

Kasese District on Thursday hosted the 2026 National Private Schools Day celebrations, bringing together education stakeholders to recognise the growing contribution of private education institutions to Uganda's education sector while highlighting the need to strengthen climate-resilient learning in the district.

The national celebrations, held at Nyakasanga Playground in Nyamwamba Division, Kasese Municipality, provided a platform for government officials, private education providers and other stakeholders to reflect on progress in expanding access to education and discuss challenges affecting learners and education institutions.

The event was graced by Michael Mawanda, Director of Mobilisation for the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) and Member of Parliament for Igara East, who represented Second Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Crispus Kiyonga, who had been expected to serve as the chief guest.

The celebrations also provided



an opportunity to discuss how Kasese's education sector can become more resilient to climate-related challenges, particularly recurrent flooding and prolonged dry spells that have disrupted learning in some communities.

Hasadu Kirabira III, Chairman of the National Private Education Institutions Association (NPEIA-Uganda), said recurrent floods have affected families and disrupted the education of children in affected communities. He particularly highlighted flooding along River Nyamwamba, noting that when families are displaced, children can lose their learning materials while parents may temporarily struggle to meet education-related expenses. "Some of them lost learning items when the river flooded, their parents could no longer support their education, among other

psychological challenges," Kirabira said.

The concerns highlighted the need for stronger cooperation between government, private education providers, communities and development partners to ensure that children can continue learning even when communities experience climate-related shocks.

Kasese District Disaster Focal Person and member of the District Disaster Management Committee, Joseph Isingoma, said disasters have claimed 62 lives in the district



since 2013, while property and infrastructure estimated at Shs88 billion has been destroyed.

The affected infrastructure includes 217 kilometres of roads, bridges, schools, churches and other community facilities. Isingoma also reported that approximately 1,500 people are currently living in Muhokya IDP camp after being displaced by floods from several rivers in the district.

The experiences have reinforced calls for disaster preparedness and climate resilience to be integrated into district development planning, including the education sector.

Meanwhile, the private education sector used the national celebrations to highlight its contribution to expanding access to education and supporting Uganda's human capital development. Kirabira called for continued dialogue between government and private education providers, particularly on taxation, access to textbooks and ICT equipment.

"Especially the issue of taxation has forced our colleagues to pull out of the service," he said.

Mawanda commended private schools for educating millions of Ugandans who have gone on to contribute to different

sectors of the economy and their communities. He also recognised the employment opportunities created by private education institutions and their investment in laboratories, libraries, playgrounds and other learning facilities.

"But again, you give employment opportunities to thousands of our people," Mawanda said.

He assured stakeholders that their concerns had been taken note of and expressed confidence that the central government would engage the relevant ministry to address the challenges affecting private education providers.

The National Private Schools Day celebrations ultimately highlighted the importance of partnership between government and private education institutions in expanding access to quality education. For Kasese, the event also underscored the need to build an education system capable of withstanding floods, displacement and other climate-related challenges while ensuring that children continue to access learning.

FORT PORTAL COMMISSIONS SHS1.5 BILLION MATERNITY AND INPATIENT WARD AT KATARAKA HC IV



The female ward

By Stephen Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer -Fort Portal City

Fort Portal City has commissioned a new maternity and inpatient ward at Kataraka Health Centre IV, marking a major expansion of the facility's capacity to provide maternal, inpatient and other essential health services.

The new facility was commissioned by Minister of State for Primary Health Care, Hon. Dr Charles Ayume, during a ceremony

attended by city leaders and health officials. The project, described during the event as a Shs1.5 billion investment, is expected to respond to the growing demand for quality healthcare services in the city.

Ayume said the new ward represents an important improvement in Fort Portal's health infrastructure. He commended Minister Margaret Muhanga Mugisa for lobbying for the project and the city leadership for securing land



The commissioned structure

for its construction. He added that the facility could serve as a national model for benchmarking and learning.

Kataraka Health Centre IV has recorded significant demand for its services. During the 2025/2026 financial year, the facility registered 697 first antenatal care visits, exceeding its target by 225 percent. It also managed 640 deliveries, served 1,287 family planning clients and recorded 12,729 outpatient visits.

The facility also provides HIV services, with 1,156 clients receiving

antiretroviral therapy. Between April and June 2026, 28 new clients were initiated on ART, making Kataraka the largest ART provider among health centre IVs in Fort Portal City.

According to the facility in-charge,



Dr. Ayume Charles, the State Minister for Healthcare speaking at the commissioning of the maternity and in-patient ward



Minister Ayume Charles commissioning the building

Dr Kawesi Francisco, the new ward has a capacity of 50 beds and will help the health centre accommodate the growing number of inpatients, expectant mothers and antenatal clients.

City Health Officer Dr Emma Mugisa said the facility will strengthen maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response while consolidating Kataraka's role in maternal health, child welfare and HIV services. She said the project was constructed under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Programme (UGIFT), jointly funded by the World Bank

and Government of Uganda.

Mayor Rev. Willy Muhanga, represented by Deputy Mayor Margaret Kabajwara, thanked the Ministry of Health for the investment, saying it would bring maternal healthcare closer to residents and reduce referrals caused by limited space.

City Town Clerk Francis Nyamugo called for increased Primary Health Care funding to meet recurrent operational costs, while RCC Nasike Nasumin urged residents to utilise the new facility and embrace preventive healthcare.

NTOROKO MOCK RESULTS SHOW PRIVATE SCHOOLS LEADING AS BOYS OUTPERFORM GIRLS



By Sahula Ibrahim, Communication Officer, Ntoroko DLG

Ntoroko District Department of Education has released the results of the 2026 Primary Seven mock examinations, with private schools recording stronger performance than government-aided schools.

The results were released on September 25, 2026, during a ceremony at the district headquarters in Kibuku, presided over by Assistant Resident District Commissioner Twahirwa Richard. Great Valley Junior School emerged among the top-performing schools,

recording 39 pupils in Division One. New Hope Primary School in Rwebisengo Town Council followed with 24 pupils in Division One and 33 in Division Two. Among government-aided schools, Kamuhigi Primary School led with 18 pupils in Division One and 38 in Division Two.

According to the performance report presented by Ninsiima Paul, Chairperson of the Ntoroko District Academic Board, about 200 candidates attained Division One, representing 11 percent of the candidates. Another 500 candidates, or 28 percent, obtained

Division Two, while 257 candidates, representing 15 percent, were in Division Three. Division Four accounted for 180 candidates, or 10 percent, while two candidates were recorded in Division X. Ungraded candidates accounted for 36 percent of the results.

Ninsiima said the analysis showed that private schools performed

to staffing gaps in some schools, learner absenteeism attributed to parental negligence and poor handwriting among pupils. In some cases, learners reportedly struggled to correctly write their names and examination index numbers.

The board recommended increased sensitisation of parents and greater funding for the academic

committee to allow regular and consistent monitoring of schools, rather than relying mainly on mock examination setting and marking.

District Education Officer Ahebwa Seth congratulated the best-performing schools and urged headteachers to record pupil attendance daily

and submit accurate records to the education department to support planning.

He also commended the Academic Board for vigilance against examination malpractice and warned that malpractice would be dealt with at all levels.

Ahebwa further cautioned staff who will participate in the forthcoming Primary Leaving Examinations to strictly observe examination regulations and education ethics.

better than government schools. He also noted a difference in performance between boys and girls, with 402 boys compared with 295 girls obtaining Division One and Division Two.

However, the report identified several challenges affecting learning and examination performance. Some schools failed to provide accurate registered enrolment figures, while others delayed submitting enrolment information to the district education office.

The Academic Board also pointed



TOORO'S NEW KING LAUNCHES NATIONAL MEASLES-RUBELLA VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

By Stephen Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer, Fort Portal City



Just two days after his coronation, the newly enthroned King of Tooro, Prince Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I, has officially launched the National Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign at Karuzika Palace, making public health one of his first activities as king.

During the launch, King Rukidi Nyabongo I urged parents and caretakers across Uganda to embrace the vaccination exercise and ensure that eligible children receive the vaccine. He emphasised that both the Tooro Kingdom and the Government of Uganda depend on a healthy and energetic younger generation to build a prosperous future.

The head of the Tooro Kingdom Babiito Clan, Musuga Charles Kamurasi Akiiki, commended the King for prioritising public health immediately after his installation on September 29, 2026.

“The King wants to rule over a healthy and productive population,” Musuga said. “By launching this campaign, His Majesty fulfils the vital health commitments he made during his coronation.”

Musuga also praised President Yoweri Museveni and the central government for prioritising

the health of Ugandans. He pledged the support of the Babiito Clan for government health initiatives and called on parents, guardians and teachers to ensure that every eligible child receives the vaccine.

Fort Portal City Health Officer Dr Emma Mugisa said the nationwide integrated vaccination campaign runs from October 1 to 5, 2026, targeting children aged between nine months and five years.

In Fort Portal City, 90 specialised vaccination teams have been deployed at health facilities, designated community outreach points and churches. Dr Mugisa emphasised that the vaccine is provided free of charge.

City Resident Commissioner Nasike Asumin urged parents and caregivers to use the five-day campaign window to protect their children against measles and rubella. She also warned healthcare workers against charging members of the public for the vaccines.

“These vaccines are distributed freely by the government,” Asumin said, warning that any health worker found



selling them would face arrest and prosecution.

The launch was attended by officials from the National Drug Authority, members of the City Executive Committee and city councillors led by Speaker William Mugume. One of Mugume’s children was among those vaccinated by the new king during the launch.

The campaign marks one of King Rukidi Nyabongo I’s first public activities following his coronation. He ascended the Tooro throne on September 29, 2026, following the death of King Oyo Nyimba Rukidi IV, who died of cancer in the United States on August 27 at the age of 34. The launch at Karuzika Palace



has placed the new king at the centre of a national public health campaign, with leaders calling on

families to ensure that all eligible children are reached during the five-day vaccination exercise.



KABAROLE RECEIVES 200 MAMA KITS FROM CARE INTERNATIONAL TO SUPPORT EMERGENCY MATERNAL CARE

By Lucky Patrick, Communications Officer Kabarole District



Leaders receive Mama kits

Kabarole District has received 200 mama kits from CARE International to support expectant mothers and help health facilities respond to emergency maternal health needs.

The donation was handed over to district authorities at Kitumba District Headquarters, where health officials welcomed the support, saying the kits would

help address gaps in maternal healthcare, particularly when mothers require urgent assistance.

Receiving the donation, Kabarole Assistant Resident District Commissioner Mukiibi Mike appreciated CARE International for supporting the district's health sector. He said the mama kits were particularly important because health facilities occasionally experience shortages of essential supplies needed to respond to

emergencies involving pregnant women and mothers.

Mukiibi noted that continued support from development partners can strengthen the capacity of health facilities to provide timely services to mothers and newborns, particularly in situations requiring immediate intervention.

Also present at the handover was Kabarole Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Stephen Birungi, who commended CARE International for what he described as a meaningful contribution towards improving maternal health services in the district.

Birungi said providing expectant mothers with essential supplies can improve their experience at health facilities while supporting efforts to protect the health of both mothers and newborns.

Anna Tukahirwa, Assistant District Health Officer for Kabarole, called for continued collaboration between the district and development partners to address challenges affecting the health sector.

Tukahirwa said health facilities routinely encounter emergencies that require immediate intervention and additional supplies, making support from development partners important in complementing government efforts. She appealed to more organisations to support the district's health facilities with essential medical supplies and other resources.

The 200 mama kits are expected to be distributed to selected health facilities across the district to support mothers who may require assistance during delivery and other emergency situations.

District health officials said continued investment in maternal and newborn health remains important in ensuring that pregnant women can access safe and timely care, particularly during emergencies.

The district has therefore called for continued collaboration with development partners to strengthen health services and ensure essential support reaches mothers and newborns who need it most.

FORT PORTAL STEPS UP NATIONAL CLEAN-UP DRIVE TO IMPROVE CITY SANITATION



Fort Portal leaders and community members combing the city during the National Cleaning Day

By Stephen Ainganiza , Senior Communications Officer , Fort Portal City

Fort Portal City Mayor Rev. Kintu Willy Muhanga has called on residents and business owners to take an active role in the National Clean-Up Day campaign, saying collective participation is essential to improving sanitation, hygiene and the appearance of the city.

The Government of Uganda has designated the last Saturday of every month for clean-up activities in cities and urban centres. Businesses are expected to close

from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to allow owners, workers and other members of the community to participate.

However, participation in Fort Portal remains limited despite many shops, banks, pharmacies and other businesses closing during the designated hours. City authorities say many business owners do not take part in the actual cleaning, leaving much of the work to city officials, schools and the police.

During the September 2026



National Clean-Up Day, activities started at Mpanga Market, where leaders addressed the cleaning teams before they moved through Kabundaire, Fort Portal Secondary School, the Public Library and Balya Street, ending at the entrance to the Tooro Kingdom Palace.

Mayor Muhanga urged residents and businesses to view the campaign as a shared civic responsibility rather than a government activity. He said lasting improvements in sanitation could

only be achieved when residents, businesses and authorities worked together and warned that the city would enforce the clean-up requirements.

Fort Portal Central MP Ronald Muhenda Omusoromi said the city could not fully live up to its status as a Tourism City unless residents took responsibility for keeping it clean. He commended schools for involving children and young people in the activities, saying their participation would help develop

a culture of cleanliness and respect for the environment.

Fort Portal Woman MP Linda Irene also encouraged residents to participate in



Pupils and students participate in the National Cleaning Day

the clean-up and maintain proper sanitation and hygiene at home. She said a cleaner city would contribute to attracting more visitors.

Assistant Principal Town Clerk Peter Kusemererwa, who led the clean-up team, said maintaining a greener and cleaner Fort Portal could help attract investors and

tourists.

He also announced another clean-up exercise for Monday, September 28, starting at Rwengoma Palace, ahead of Empango and the enthronement of Prince Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I as the new Tooro king on September 29, 2026.

MOSQUITO NET DISTRIBUTION CREDITED FOR DECLINE IN MALARIA CASES IN KABAROLE

By Lucky Patrick, Communication Officer, Kabarole District Local Government

The distribution and use of treated mosquito nets has contributed to a significant reduction in malaria positivity rates in Kabarole District, according to the District Health Officer, Dr. Stephen Kalyegiira.

Dr. Kalyegiira said malaria-related illnesses have reduced considerably in communities following the distribution of treated mosquito nets to households across the district. He attributed the decline to increased access to and use of the nets, which protect households from mosquito bites, particularly

at night when malaria-transmitting mosquitoes are most active.

He made the remarks on Monday during a meeting between National Medical Stores (NMS) Board members and Kabarole District stakeholders held at the district headquarters in Kitumba.

Dr. Kalyegiira emphasised that continued distribution and proper use of treated mosquito nets remain important in the fight against malaria. He urged residents to consistently sleep under the nets and complement their use with other preventive measures to sustain the progress made in



NMS officials in the meeting

reducing infections.

The intervention has also been welcomed by residents who benefited from the mosquito net distribution, with some reporting fewer malaria cases and reduced expenditure on treatment.

Kabarwani Sarah, a resident of Bwanika in Kicwamba Sub-county, said her family has not experienced a malaria case for the past four months since receiving a treated mosquito net.

She said malaria had previously been a major burden to her household, forcing the family to spend money on treatment and medication. According to Kabarwani, the mosquito net has helped her family strengthen its protection against malaria and reduce the financial burden associated with repeated illness.

Another beneficiary, Busobozi Martin from Kasisi in Kiko Town Council, said his family previously spent significant amounts of money treating malaria among household members.

He said the situation has improved since receiving the treated mosquito nets, with a reduction in the frequency of malaria cases and related medical expenses.

The beneficiaries appealed for continued government support in supplying treated mosquito nets to households, saying the intervention is helping communities prevent malaria before it occurs rather than relying solely on treatment after infection.

Health authorities have meanwhile encouraged residents to use

mosquito nets correctly and consistently, while maintaining other preventive measures such as keeping surroundings clean and eliminating stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed.

Dr. Kalyegiira said sustained

community participation and continued access to preventive tools will be important in maintaining the reduction in malaria infections and protecting households across Kabarole District.

KAMWENG DISTRICT LEADERS ORIENTED ON PILOT SOCIAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMME FOR ELDERLY REFUGEES

By Kiiza Joy, Senior IT Officer-Kamwenge

Kamwenge District leaders have been oriented on the Pilot Social Cash Transfer Programme for Elderly Refugees, an initiative aimed at strengthening the welfare, income security and social inclusion of vulnerable elderly refugees aged 80 years and above.

The orientation was held on September 16, 2026, with support from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), World Food Programme

(WFP) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The programme is being



District Chairperson Hon Karungi Joseph giving out his remarks



commitment between government and development partners to supporting vulnerable populations.

The three-year pilot programme was launched in August 2024 and is scheduled to run until December 2027. Programme information presented during the orientation

implemented under Uganda's Refugee Self-Reliance Model and is aligned with existing national social protection interventions for senior citizens. It seeks to extend social protection to elderly refugees while strengthening their participation in community-based support systems.

Speaking during the orientation, WFP Team Leader Rutsinde Emmanuel thanked the Government of Uganda for accepting the programme to be extended to refugees. He said aligning the intervention with the national senior citizens grant promotes social inclusion and demonstrates a shared

indicated that people aged 80 years and above account for approximately 0.3 percent of Uganda's refugee population, making them a particularly vulnerable group requiring targeted support.

Under the programme, eligible elderly refugees will receive Shs25,000 per month, paid quarterly. Each beneficiary will therefore receive Shs75,000 every three months to help meet basic household and personal needs.

The programme also includes a cash-plus component designed to



In photo is Mr Rutsinde Emmanuel TL WFP giving an overview on the project

strengthen beneficiaries' wellbeing and resilience. Participants will receive financial literacy training, as well as information on nutrition and health. Active screening and referral services will also be provided to help beneficiaries access appropriate health and social services.

Kamwenge District Chairperson Hon. Karungi Joseph appreciated the Government and development partners for their continued support to refugee-hosting communities. He commended partners for making use of available resources despite funding

challenges affecting humanitarian and development programmes.

Karungi reaffirmed the district's commitment to effective service delivery in refugee-hosting areas and highlighted the importance of maintaining feeder roads within refugee settlements to improve accessibility, connectivity and access to essential services.

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Loy Namara Batuuze also thanked the Government for including refugees in the social cash transfer programme and appreciated district leaders and development partners for

supporting the initiative.

Namara offered free radio airtime to support communication and awareness among elderly beneficiaries, which is expected to help disseminate information about the programme within refugee-hosting communities.

The orientation provided district leaders and stakeholders with an opportunity to understand the programme's objectives, eligibility requirements, payment arrangements and complementary services.

With Kamwenge hosting a significant refugee population, the initiative is expected to provide additional social protection for elderly refugees who may face limited livelihood opportunities and increased care needs.

Its implementation will require continued coordination among government, district authorities, humanitarian partners, refugee representatives, community structures and beneficiaries to ensure eligible elderly refugees are identified and supported.

KYENJOJO LAUNCHES UGX600.7M RUGOMBE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

By Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer Kyenjojo District



The assistant RDC Thaddeo Kasaijja gives his remarks at the launch. He is flanked on his right by Deputy CAO, Mr. Vincent Kyaligonza, on his left, the DISO, Mr. Ebong Innocent and Secretary.



Assisatnt RDC hands over the contract agreements for the Rugombe Water Project to the contractor

Kyenjojo District Local Government, in partnership with the Mid-Western Umbrella of Water and Sanitation, has launched a UGX600.7 million water supply project aimed at improving access to safe and reliable water for communities in Rugombe and surrounding areas.

The Rugombe Water Supply Project is valued at UGX600,697,220 and is jointly funded by Kyenjojo District Local Government and the Mid-Western Umbrella of Water and Sanitation. Kyenjojo District is contributing UGX300 million towards the implementation of the project.

The launch marks the beginning of works to expand and improve the existing Rugombe water supply system in response to the growing demand for clean and safe water in the area.

The improved system is expected to

serve approximately 16,414 people in Kasenyi, Kahungeera, Hima, Kachwampare, Nyamasobya, Mahanngwe, Kisangi and Kasamba.

According to the project design, the works will include approximately two kilometres of transmission pipeline, as well as the construction and extension of distribution and service pipelines.

The project will also provide seven public stand pipes and approximately 200 new consumer connections, enabling more households and community members to access piped water closer to their homes.

The intervention will further strengthen the existing pumping system and associated infrastructure. The current water source is a borehole with an estimated yield of 18 cubic metres per hour, with the project providing

a pump of similar capacity to support the expanded system.

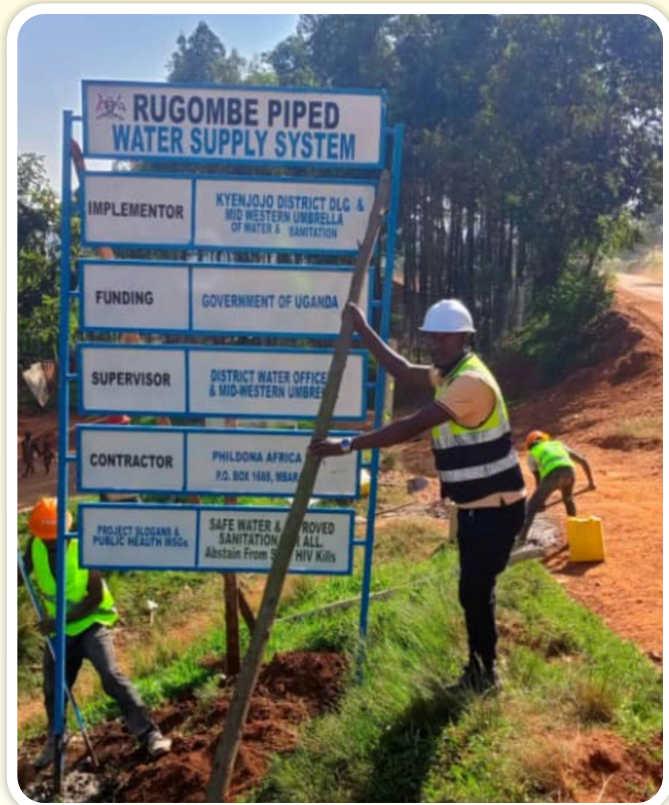
To facilitate pumping operations, the project will include the extension of a three-phase power line and installation of a 50KVA transformer, alongside pump controls, switchgear and other associated electromechanical works.

The project builds on existing piped water infrastructure serving Kyarusozi and Rugombe. The Kyarusozi piped water supply system was designed in 2008 and construction was completed in July 2011. It was initially designed to serve a projected population of 9,114 people by 2033.

However, demand for water services continued to increase, with the existing system reportedly reaching approximately 710 connections by August 2022. The growing number of connections demonstrated the need to expand the network and increase its capacity.

The new intervention is therefore expected to increase the coverage and capacity of the water supply system while improving the reliability of services for the growing population.

The works are being undertaken



Rugombe Water Supply signpost

by M/s PhilDona Africa Ltd and are expected to take eight months. Construction commenced on July 23, 2026, with completion scheduled for April 23, 2027.

Speaking during the launch, Assistant Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Kyenjojo Thaddeo Kasaija, accompanied by Secretary for Finance, Administration and Planning Hon Giscard Rusoke, District Internal Security Officer Innocent Ebong and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Vincent Kyaligonza, emphasised the importance of collaboration between local governments and sector partners in addressing critical service delivery needs.

Kasaija particularly highlighted the importance of partnerships in expanding access to clean and safe water and commended Kyenjojo District Local Government and the Mid-Western Umbrella of Water and Sanitation for investing in improved water services.

He also called on beneficiary communities to take ownership of the project, protect the infrastructure and work closely with implementing agencies to ensure that the investment provides sustainable benefits.

Once completed, the Rugombe Water Supply Project is expected to contribute to improved public health and household welfare by increasing access to safe water while supporting economic and social activities in the beneficiary communities.

The project is scheduled for completion in April 2027 and is expected to form part of Kyenjojo District's broader efforts to expand reliable water services to its growing population.





Assistantt RDC plants a tree in commemoration of the project, and to encourage environmental conservation

FORT PORTAL CITY ADOPTS SCART TO MODERNISE LOCAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

By Stephen Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer-Fort Portal City

The Ministry of Local Government has deployed the Simplified Computerized Accounting and Reporting Tool (SCART) to Fort Portal City, marking a step towards modernising financial management and improving accountability at the local

government level.

SCART is a web-based system designed to standardise accounting, budgeting and financial reporting across lower local government units and service delivery departments. Its implementation is intended to streamline financial processes,



The city officials attending the meeting at Tooro Botanical Gardens

improve the accuracy of records and strengthen transparency in the management of public resources.

The system was officially launched by Onesmus Mulondo,

Programme Specialist for Local Government Public Finance Management Reforms (PFM), on behalf of Permanent Secretary Ben Kumumanya. The launch took

place at Tooro Botanical Gardens, where ministry officials also handed over two laptops and two routers to Fort Portal City authorities to support the implementation of the system.

The equipment will provide dedicated workstations for entering financial information, while the routers will facilitate reliable



Mr. Kusemererwa Peter, The Principal Assistant TownClerk receiving the laptops



Fort Portal City Team and District Officials pose for a photo after the meeting

internet connectivity and allow reports to be synchronised with the central system in real time.

Finance officials and Principal Assistant Town Clerk Kusemererwa Peter welcomed the introduction of SCART, noting that the city had faced challenges associated with manual financial reporting and record-keeping.

Micheal Twinomujuni, a Principal Finance Management Specialist under PFM, explained that SCART will integrate with existing government financial platforms, including the Integrated Revenue Administration System (IRAS) and the Integrated Financial

Management System (IFMS).

The integration is expected to strengthen financial oversight and control across local governments.

Twinomujuni said the system is designed to address delays in financial reporting, inconsistencies in record-keeping and weaknesses in financial monitoring. He added that computerised reporting would help reduce errors while improving transparency, accountability and access to financial information.

Finance leaders and town clerks from Fort Portal Central and Fort Portal North divisions welcomed the system, describing it as an important tool for moving away

from manual reporting and improving efficiency in local financial management.

The deployment of SCART is expected to give Fort Portal City officials a more coordinated approach to accounting and reporting while strengthening links between local financial operations

and the wider government financial management system.

NTOROKO COUNCIL ESTABLISHES 21-MEMBER ELDERS FORUM, APPROVES KABAROLE SERVICE COMMISSION SUPPORT

By Sahula Ibrahim, Communications Officer, Ntoroko District Local Government

Ntoroko District Council has established a 21-member Ntoroko Elders Forum to provide guidance on community development, preserve local history and promote social cohesion across the district.

The forum was constituted during a council session chaired by Speaker Tusime Erick on September 16, 2026, following a motion tabled by District Chairperson Muhumuza Etyen. The proposal was presented as being in line with the National Council for Older Persons Act,

2013, which provides for structures representing older persons at district level.

Muhumuza said the proposed forum would support advocacy, coordination and monitoring of programmes targeting older persons while promoting their welfare. Beyond these responsibilities, the Ntoroko Elders Forum will provide guidance on development matters, environmental conservation, family issues and the preservation of community identity and history.

The initiative comes as Ntoroko



Mr. Muhumuza Etyen, Ntoroko District Chairperson during Council Session on 16 September 2026

continues to face recurring natural disasters, particularly flooding and drought. The district has attributed some of these challenges to environmental degradation, including deforestation and

encroachment on the Semliki River and its riverbanks. Such disasters have repeatedly affected communities and livelihoods, particularly in the Greater Rwebisengo area.

The elders' forum is also expected to contribute to social cohesion in a district characterised by multiple cultures and languages and where

leaders have identified the need for mechanisms that can help address tensions and strengthen community relations.

Council also considered a separate



Ntoroko council in session on 16 September 2026

motion by Muhumuza seeking approval to use the Kabarole District Service Commission to recruit key personnel for Ntoroko. The move followed the expiry of



Mr. Tusiime Erick, Ntoroko District Speaker

the tenure of Ntoroko's service commission, which had previously been operating under a waiver that was extended twice.

Muhumuza said recruiting a suitable commission had proved challenging, particularly because the law requires representation of persons with disabilities

alongside other members who must be retired government servants of credible reputation and residents of the district.

Following a debate lasting nearly an hour, council approved the use of Kabarole's

services but called for close monitoring. The district executive was also tasked with ensuring that Ntoroko establishes its own service commission and fills the required positions by December 2026.

BUKUUKU COMMUNITY SEED SCHOOL HANDOVER MARKS MAJOR BOOST FOR EDUCATION IN FORT PORTAL

By Stephen Ainganiza,

Senior Communication Officer -Fort Portal City

Residents of Karago Town Council in Fortportal City and neighbouring communities in Kazingo and Kihondo have welcomed the

completion and technical handover of Bukuuku Community Seed Secondary School in North Division, Fort Portal Tourism City, describing the project as a major



The Administration block at Bukuku Seed School

step towards improving access to quality education.

The Shs2.4 billion school was constructed under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Programme (UGIFT), a partnership between the World Bank and Government of Uganda aimed at improving infrastructure and service delivery in underserved communities.

Fort Portal City Engineer Kaihura Herbert said the school

comprises three classroom blocks, an administration block, a multipurpose hall, science and ICT laboratories, a library, latrines and three staff quarters. He also directed the contractor to provide ramps and accessible walkways to ensure that learners and other users with special needs can access the facilities.

Peter Nkurunungi of Genes Uganda Limited, the company that constructed the school, said the firm prioritised quality and went beyond some of its contractual obligations. These included a self-contained head teacher's office, a waterborne staff toilet and tiled floors in the administration block. Drawing on the company's experience of constructing 11 schools, Nkurunungi also appealed for consideration of terrazzo



ICT and library block



The RCC hands over keys to the Headteacher

flooring in future projects to minimise cracking.

Head teacher Katuhebwe Jackeline thanked the government for establishing the facility and commended the contractor for the quality of the work. She said improved infrastructure had contributed to increased enrolment, from 535 students before construction to 677 currently.

However, she raised concern over inadequate staffing. The school has 17 teachers on the government payroll, two non-staff members and 15 additional teachers supported by parents.

PTA Chairperson Patrick Muganzi said the community was committed to protecting and maintaining the

facilities so that the investment benefits learners for years to come.

City Education Officer Tumwsigye John Bosco said the improved infrastructure had motivated both teachers and students, while City Secretary for Health and Education Amutuhair Rose Mary Hadijjah described the project as an important step towards improving academic performance.

City RCC Nasike Asumin commended the contractor and urged the school administration to maintain the facilities and use the improved learning environment to strengthen academic outcomes.

Bukuuku is now the second seed school in Fort Portal City after Kagote Seed School in Central Division.

KYENJOJO APPROVES NEW DISTRICT SERVICE COMMISSION LEADERSHIP TO ADDRESS STAFFING GAPS

By Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer Kyenjojo District



RDC, Mrs. Julian Sarah Ayesiga, together with ARDC, Thaddeo Kasaijja follow the proceeding closely

Kyenjojo District Council has approved new leadership for the District Service Commission (DSC), ending a six-month period during which key positions remained vacant and affecting the recruitment and promotion of civil servants.

During a special sitting of the District Council, councillors

approved Mrs. Grace Kemigisa Masiko as the new Chairperson of the District Service Commission and Mr. Nyakana David as a member.

The positions fell vacant following the deaths of the former DSC Chairperson, Mrs. Joyce Kwebiha, who passed away in February 2026, and Mr. Tushabeomwe William, who died in April 2026.



Hon. Gilbert Rubahaiyo, The District Chairperson, accompanied by the CAO Mr. Malik Mahabba addresses the council session during the approval of the new DSC chair and member

The prolonged vacancies had affected the district's ability to carry out critical human resource functions, including recruitment and processing of personnel matters. The approval of the new leadership is therefore expected to give the Commission renewed capacity to address staffing gaps and strengthen the district's public service.

Introducing Mrs. Masiko to Council, Kyenjojo District LCV Chairperson Hon. Gilbert Rubaihayo described her as an active and proactive decision-maker, committed and

result-oriented administrator. He highlighted her experience in planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of government programmes as important strengths for her new role.

Rubaihayo also pointed to her experience in staff development, conflict management, communication and strategic planning, saying these skills would support effective decision-making and oversight within the Commission.

A functional District Service Commission is important to service delivery because health centres require adequate health workers, schools need teachers and departments depend on qualified technical staff to implement government programmes.

The Commission is responsible for personnel decisions including appointments, confirmations and promotions, making its effective operation central to attracting, developing and retaining qualified personnel in the district.

The approval of the new leadership is expected to facilitate the processing of pending recruitment and promotion matters and enable Kyenjojo to respond more effectively to identified staffing needs.

The development comes as Kyenjojo District Local Government implements programmes aimed at improving service delivery and institutional performance. The district will require an adequately staffed and professionally managed workforce for these programmes to achieve their intended objectives.

With Mrs. Masiko and Mr. Nyakana now approved, attention turns to operationalising the Commission and addressing outstanding human resource matters. For Kyenjojo residents, the return of a fully functional DSC is expected to strengthen the district's capacity to recruit staff, support staff development and improve the delivery of essential government services.



*The
incoming
DSC
Chairperson,
Mrs. Grace
Masiko*



Heads of Department follow council proceedings



Council in session during the approval of the new Chair and DSC member

RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL LEADERS PLEDGE TO STRENGTHEN PEACEBUILDING IN RWENZORI REGION



By Lucky Patrick, Communication Officer, Kabarole District Local Government

Religious and cultural leaders in the Rwenzori sub-region have pledged to strengthen their efforts to promote peace, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among communities.

The commitment was made during a Regional Transitional Justice Convention held at New Fort View Hotel in Fort Portal Tourism City.

The convention brought together religious and cultural leaders, civil society organisations and other transitional justice actors and was organised by the Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ).

The meeting focused on strengthening transitional justice, reconciliation and peacebuilding in the region, with participants calling for greater involvement of cultural and religious institutions

in addressing conflicts, rebuilding trust and restoring harmony among communities.

Swib Swaleh from the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC) said religious and cultural leaders have a critical role to play in promoting peace within the Rwenzori region and beyond.

Swaleh revealed that religious leaders, through the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, plan to establish a joint team to spearhead peacebuilding initiatives in churches and mosques. He said the team will promote joint preaching and other activities encouraging communities to embrace peace, forgiveness, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.

Meanwhile, Kyakimwa Deirdre Lilian, a Human Rights Assistant at RFPJ, called for greater attention to positive traditional approaches that historically helped communities resolve conflicts and maintain peaceful relationships.

She cited practices such as cross-ethnic blood pacts, special recognition of individuals and communities, and land donations as examples of traditional mechanisms that contributed to peaceful relations among families and communities. She called for

such practices to be documented and considered alongside modern approaches to transitional justice.

Representing the Obusinga bwa Rwenzururu in the Attorney General's Office, Baluku Herbert said cultural and sporting activities could also provide platforms for rebuilding trust.

Presenting recommendations from a group discussion, Baluku proposed inter-cultural galas featuring music, dance and drama, as well as sports tournaments. He said such activities could bring people from different cultural and social backgrounds together, creating opportunities for interaction, dialogue and cooperation while reducing divisions.

RFPJ Executive Director Tuhaise Francis said the convention was informed by consultations conducted through district-level roundtable discussions, where stakeholders shared views and recommendations on transitional justice, reconciliation and peacebuilding.

He said consultations will continue at regional and national levels to ensure community concerns are incorporated into broader transitional justice processes.

The leaders called for continued collaboration among religious and cultural institutions, government, civil society organisations and communities to address causes

of conflict and strengthen peace, reconciliation and social cohesion across the Rwenzori region.

TOORO PLU WOMEN ENDORSE GEN. MUHOOZI KAINERUGABA FOR 2031 PRESIDENCY



By Stephen Ainganiza , Senior Communication Officer –Fort Portal City

Women affiliated with the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) in the Tooro sub-region have endorsed Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba for the 2031 presidential election, adding their support

to a nationwide endorsement drive being conducted by the organisation. The endorsement was made at the Mountains of the Moon Hotel in Fort Portal, where women leaders from Kamwenge, Kabarole, Ntoroko,



Bunyangabu, Kyenjojo and Kyegegwa gathered to discuss the movement's agenda and mobilisation activities.

The meeting was led by Judith Mukiidi, the Tooro Women's League Coordinator, who presented a document outlining what she described as Gen. Muhoozi's proposed manifesto. She highlighted issues including women's empowerment, anti-corruption measures and increased participation of women in national development.

Mukiidi urged the women to participate in upcoming PLU endorsement activities, including

the planned inauguration of PLU offices in Bunyangabu District.

Fort Portal Resident City Commissioner Nasike Asumin welcomed the endorsement and spoke in support of Muhoozi's political ambitions. She said she viewed his involvement in women's empowerment, peace and anti-corruption efforts as important areas of his leadership agenda.

"Gen. Muhoozi is our son, and it is our duty to support his vision for Uganda's future," Asumin said.

The women also raised economic empowerment as a key concern,

particularly access to SACCOs and programmes supporting single mothers. Namara Dianah, one of the women leaders, said their support should be accompanied by practical programmes capable of improving household livelihoods.

Another participant, Hajjat, credited government programmes with creating opportunities for women to engage in economic activities and improve their livelihoods, expressing hope that such opportunities would continue.

The Tooro endorsement forms part of a wider PLU mobilisation exercise that has expanded across several regions in recent

weeks. PLU launched its national endorsement drive in September and has been collecting support for Muhoozi ahead of the 2031 presidential election.

The organisation has also recorded endorsements from leaders and groups in other regions, including Members of Parliament from Ankole and supporters in Sebei.

The Tooro women are expected to continue participating in the endorsement activities as PLU strengthens its structures and mobilisation networks in the sub-region.

BUNDIBUGYO RESIDENTS IN DISASTER-PRONE AREAS URGED TO RELOCATE AHEAD OF HEAVY RAINS

By Tibesigwa Rajab

Communications Officer, Bundibugyo

Residents living in disaster-prone areas of Bundibugyo District have been urged to relocate to safer locations to reduce the risks associated with flooding, hailstorms and landslides expected during the coming rainy season.

The call was made by Bundibugyo District Forestry Officer and UNHCR focal person Faita Lawrence during a disaster awareness meeting organised by the District Disaster Management Committee at the district boardroom.



Members of the District Disaster management committee heading for inspection. (Photo by Tibesigwa Rajab CO Bundibugyo)

Faita said the sensitisation was part of preparations for anticipated heavy El Niño rains between September and December 2026. He warned that the expected weather conditions could trigger flooding, hailstorms and landslides, putting lives and property at risk while disrupting economic activities and damaging infrastructure.

He urged residents in vulnerable areas to take the warnings seriously and move to safer locations before disasters occur rather than waiting until emergencies

force them to evacuate.

Faita said the Office of the Prime Minister, working together with UNHCR and other development partners, was preparing measures to minimise the impact of disasters and strengthen the district's response.

Addressing the same meeting, Principal Assistant Secretary



Some Disaster committee members inspecting a disaster prone area at Kisenyi, Bundibugyo town council. (Photo by Tibesigwa Rajab CO Bundibugyo)

of Bundibugyo District Local Government and Chairperson of the Disaster Management Committee, Kisungu Zakayo, called on stakeholders to intensify community sensitisation on the dangers associated with heavy rainfall.

Kisungu also tasked different sectors to prepare and submit work plans and budgets specifically addressing disaster management to enable the district to respond quickly when emergencies occur.

He expressed concern over the anticipated severity of the weather conditions and stressed the need for early preparedness to prevent

loss of lives and destruction of property.

The warnings follow an earlier climate outlook from the Ministry of Water and Environment indicating that most parts of the country were expected to receive near-normal to above-normal rainfall, accompanied by warmer-than-average temperatures.

District authorities are therefore encouraging communities, particularly those in areas vulnerable to flooding and landslides, to remain alert, follow official guidance and take precautionary measures as the rainy season progresses.

KYENJOJO RECEIVES 17,050 BAGS OF TEA FERTILIZER TO BOOST PRODUCTION

Kyenjojo District has received 17,050 bags of tea fertilizer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) to boost tea production and improve the livelihoods of tea-growing communities.

The consignment was received

on behalf of Kyenjojo District Local Government by District Chairperson Gilbert Rubaihayo and Deputy Resident District Commissioner Allan Bamuha.

Rubaihayo welcomed the support, saying access to appropriate agricultural inputs was essential for farmers seeking to increase production and household incomes.



One of the trucks of fertilizer being offloaded upon receipt at the District headquarters

He urged beneficiaries to use the fertilizer for its intended purpose and combine it with proper management of their tea plantations.

“This fertilizer support is a major boost to our tea farmers. We appreciate MAAIF for responding to the needs of our farmers,”

Rubaihayo said.

He also called on farmers to follow recommended agricultural practices and pledged continued cooperation between the district, government agencies, tea stakeholders and development partners to promote sustainable agricultural production.

Deputy RDC Bamuha emphasised accountability, urging local leaders and technical officers to ensure the fertilizer reaches the intended beneficiaries and is properly used.

“Government is investing resources to support our farmers and improve



Bags of fertilizer in store after receipt at the district



Deputy RDC, Mr. Buhamba, 3rd left, District Chairperson, Hon Gilbert Rubaihayo(right), together with DEC members pose after receiving the 17,050 bags of tea fertilizer

agricultural productivity. We must therefore ensure that these inputs reach the intended beneficiaries and are used appropriately,” he said.

District Agricultural Officer Edson Tsumbira explained that fertilizer would help maintain soil fertility and support healthy tea growth when applied at the recommended rates and at the right time.

He urged farmers to complement fertilizer application with

proper weeding, pruning, soil and water conservation, pest and disease management and regular maintenance of their tea gardens.

Tsumbira also encouraged farmers to make full use of agricultural



The trucks that ferried the fertilizer at the District Headquarters

extension services and technical guidance during the distribution and application of the fertilizer.

Tea remains an important agricultural enterprise in Kyenjojo, providing income and employment for many households along the value chain. The arrival of the fertilizer is therefore expected to give farmers an opportunity

to improve productivity and strengthen the crop's contribution to the local economy.

For tea-growing families, the 17,050 bags represent more than an agricultural input. They offer an opportunity to improve plantation productivity, increase household earnings and strengthen livelihoods through commercial agriculture.

MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON UNIVERSITY COMMISSIONS TISSUE CULTURE LABORATORY

By Lucky Patrick, Communication Officer, Kabarole District Local Government

Mountains of the Moon University (MMU) has commissioned what it describes as Uganda's first Tissue Culture Laboratory and the second of its kind in East Africa, marking a major milestone in agricultural research, biotechnology and climate-resilient farming.

The newly established Laboratory for Applied Plant Biotechnology is expected to strengthen the university's contribution to sustainable agriculture while providing farmers, researchers,

students and other stakeholders with access to modern plant biotechnology services.

The facility was established under an initiative titled "Safeguarding Carbon Sinks and their Sequestration with Agrotech Solutions in Western Uganda." The initiative seeks to promote innovative agricultural technologies that can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable land use and improved agricultural productivity.

Speaking during the commissioning, MMU Chancellor Professor Edward B. Rugumayo

described the laboratory as an exciting opportunity for the university to demonstrate the quality of education and research it offers, particularly within its niche areas of Agriculture, Tourism and Environment.

Professor Rugumayo said the facility places the university in a stronger position to demonstrate practical solutions to some of the challenges affecting agriculture and the environment. He added that it will also help equip learners with skills that are increasingly relevant to the modern agricultural sector.

The laboratory is designed to support efforts to strengthen climate resilience, sustainable agriculture and local biotechnology capacity in Western Uganda and beyond.

MMU Vice Chancellor Professor Pius Coxwell Achanga said the specialised facility will enable the university to provide services in in-vitro plant propagation, production and supply of quality planting materials, practical training and technical consultancy.

Prof. Achanga explained that the laboratory will provide an important platform for students and researchers to gain hands-on experience in plant biotechnology,

molecular biology and crop science. This, he said, will help bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical applications in agriculture.

He further noted that having the facility within the university will contribute to building local expertise in biotechnology and reduce reliance on external facilities for specialised agricultural research and plant propagation.

The Vice Chancellor commended development partners and other stakeholders for supporting the establishment of the laboratory, saying their contributions had helped turn the university's vision into reality.

The facility is also expected to support the production of high-quality and disease-free planting materials, giving farmers access to healthier crops and potentially improving productivity.

By strengthening research, training and access to modern agricultural technologies, the laboratory is expected to contribute to more resilient farming systems and support sustainable agricultural development in Western Uganda and beyond.

FORT PORTAL TARGETS OVER 100% COVERAGE IN MEASLES-RUBELLA VACCINATION DRIVE

By Stephen Ainganiza, Senior Communications Officer –Fort Portal City



The City Executive members pose for a photo in the CHO's office after the briefing

Fort Portal City has intensified community mobilisation ahead of a five-day measles-rubella vaccination campaign, with leaders aiming to reach every eligible child and achieve more than 100 percent vaccination coverage.

The campaign will run from October 1 to 5, 2026, targeting

children aged nine months to five years across the city.

Fort Portal City Health Officer Dr Emma Mugisa said the campaign is intended to strengthen children's immunity and prevent measles outbreaks in the city.

Addressing members of the City Executive and the General Purpose Committee, Mugisa urged councillors to mobilise communities

and encourage parents and caregivers to take responsibility for their children's health by taking them to designated vaccination points.

He warned that 28 districts, including neighbouring Kagadi and Kyegegwa, had reported measles-rubella cases this year, highlighting the need for Fort Portal to strengthen prevention. According to Mugisa, the disease spreads rapidly, with one infected child capable of transmitting it to between 12 and 28 others within a school or community.

He described the exercise as part of a nationwide campaign aimed at providing children with additional protection against measles and rubella.

Assistant City Health Officer in charge of Child Health Annet Kabahenda said Fort Portal has deployed 90 vaccination teams to ensure the campaign reaches communities across the city.

The teams will operate from existing outreach sites, schools, churches and health facilities, making the vaccine more accessible

to parents and caregivers. Children who receive the vaccine will be issued vaccination cards and marked with ink to prevent double vaccination.

Komuntale Traxier, a member of the City General Purpose Committee and Woman Councillor representing Central Division, pledged the support of local leaders in mobilising communities.

She said councillors would work closely with LC I chairpersons and Village Health Teams to ensure information about the campaign reaches households and that parents bring eligible children for vaccination.

City health officials and leaders are targeting coverage of more than 100 percent during the five-day exercise, reflecting their intention to reach not only the projected target population but every eligible child accessible during the campaign.

The city is banking on extensive community mobilisation and the 90 vaccination teams to maximise coverage and strengthen protection against measles and rubella.

BUNYANGABU PASSES OUT 100 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TO STRENGTHEN PARISH-LEVEL CARE



*By Christopher Tusiime,
Communications Officer, Bunyangabu District*

Bunyangabu District has passed out 100 Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) following six months of intensive training, strengthening efforts to prevent disease and expand access to basic healthcare services across all parishes.

The graduates received their certificates during a ceremony held

at the district headquarters on September 23, 2026. Each CHEW was provided with a bicycle and a kit containing essential equipment, including a blood pressure machine. They will receive a monthly stipend of Shs150,000, while their services will be provided free of charge to communities.

The CHEWs will treat common



illnesses at community level, support malaria prevention, promote hygiene, sanitation and proper nutrition, monitor maternal and child health, track disease outbreaks and report unexplained deaths.

Chief Guest Dr Charles Ayume, State Minister for Primary Health Care, congratulated the graduates and reminded them that joining government service comes with responsibilities, including adherence to public service laws and employment conditions. He cautioned them against partisan local politics, saying political alignment could undermine

community trust, and urged them to work within the limits of their training.

Ayume also asked District Health Officer Dr Richard Obeti and Chief Administrative Officer Wamburu Wasikye to provide the CHEWs with clear employment terms outlining their responsibilities and expected conduct.





Wasikyie thanked the Ministry of Health for coordinating the training, describing the CHEWs programme as an important intervention that would strengthen links between communities and health facilities, expand access to care and improve public confidence in health services.

Obeti urged the workers to serve diligently, warning that those who fail to perform would be dropped. CHEW chairperson Bwambale Enos of Kyamukube Town Council pledged that the graduates would put their training and equipment to use. District Vice Chairperson Kato Hussen urged them to make use of the bicycles provided. “You now have means of transport—the

bicycles. Please go and work,” he said.

The ceremony also renewed calls for Kibiito Health Centre IV, the district’s only facility at that level, to be upgraded to a district hospital. Kato said only 36 percent of approved health

positions were filled and cited more than 9,000 annual deliveries at the facility as justification for the upgrade.

Obeti supported the appeal, while Commissioner for Reproductive and Child Health Dr Richard Mugahi pledged to work with area MPs towards securing the hospital. Mugahi said CHEWs would help strengthen prevention, noting that 70 percent of diseases in Uganda are preventable.



BUNDIBUGYO LEADERS URGE POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL TEAMS TO WORK TOGETHER



District chairperson Hon Tibakunirwa Robert addressing Busunga town council stakeholders during a harmonization meeting.(Photo by Tibasigwa Rajab CO Bundibugyo)

By Tibesigwa Rajab ,Communications Officer, Bundibugyo

Bundibugyo District LCV Chairperson Robert Tibakunirwa has called on political leaders and technical staff to put aside their differences and work together to improve service delivery to communities.

Tibakunirwa made the call during a harmonisation meeting between the political and technical wings of Busunga Town Council, following concerns that disagreements

between the two sides had affected the delivery of services to residents.

The meeting, chaired by Tibakunirwa, followed complaints from Busunga Town Council LC3 Chairperson Mugabe Locus that some technical staff were not adequately involving elected leaders in the day-to-day management of the town council. He also raised concerns that politicians were not being informed

about planned activities, projects were being tendered without their knowledge, and budgets and work plans were not being shared with the political leadership.

Tibakunirwa expressed concern over the reported disagreements, saying failure to involve political leaders could frustrate government efforts to deliver services. He noted that elected leaders represent the communities and therefore need to be engaged in decisions and activities affecting their constituents.



Political and technical officials of Busunga town council after the harmonization meeting.

He also cautioned the town council leadership on the management of locally generated revenue. He directed officials to ensure all money collected is deposited into the appropriate accounts through the Integrated Revenue Administration System (IRAS) and used for its intended purposes. He warned that misuse of public funds

would not be tolerated.

Representing the Chief Administrative Officer, Kandole Nicholas said public servants were expected to report for duty consistently. He warned that employees who failed to report for more than 15 days in a month without a valid explanation and supporting evidence could have their salaries withheld.

Kandole also pointed to several potential sources of local revenue, including property tax,

development tax and tendering of services. He said proper mobilisation and management of these revenues could provide additional resources for development

and enable the town council to give back to the community.

At the end of the meeting, the political and technical teams agreed to work together, share information and coordinate their activities to improve service delivery to residents of Busunga Town Council.



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