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RWENZORI ATTACKS: UPDF ASSURES RESIDENTS OF TOP-NOTCH SECURITY

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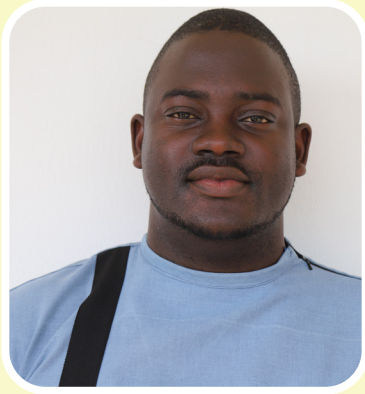
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TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

Chief Editor

Dear Reader.

Welcome to the 14th edition of the Rwenzori Times. True to our mission, we continue to bring you authentic stories from the heart of Western Uganda, framed by the majestic Rwenzori Mountains.

In this edition, we present timely updates, insightful analyses, and in-depth features that shape Uganda and the broader East African region. From political shifts and economic trends to social initiatives and community-driven projects, we aim to keep you informed and connected to the issues that truly matter.

We commend the Government of Uganda and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF)

for their swift and effective response in maintaining peace and security in the Rwenzori region following the attacks on November 1, 2025. Their vigilance and dedication have been crucial in safeguarding communities, restoring calm, and reinforcing stability in these challenging times.

We also explore the challenges and opportunities defining our region. Whether it's sustainable development efforts, the impact of government policies, or cultural initiatives preserving our rich heritage, our coverage provides the context and clarity you need.

We honor the visionary leadership of His Majesty

King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV. Under his guidance, the Kingdom of Toro flourishes, fostering unity, cultural pride, and development that uplift the community.

Above all, we celebrate the often-unsung triumphs of our people. Each edition brings inspiring stories of resilience, creativity, and community spirit proof that even amid challenges, the people of the Rwenzori region continue to shape a brighter future.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Dive in, explore, and stay connected to the stories that define our region.

**Warm regards,
Rwenzori Times.**

KABUGHO SHARON

Editor



AINGANIZA STEPHEN

Editor

BRAC'S AIM 2.0 PROGRAM ENGAGES KAMWENGU LEADERS TO DRIVE CHANGE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

By Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer- Kamwenge



District Officers and Stakeholders pose for a photo during the engagement meeting.

BRAC Uganda, in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation (MCF), hosted a key sensitization and engagement meeting for district stakeholders in Kamwenge, focusing on the implementation of the five-year, Accelerating Impact for Young Women in Africa (AIM 2.0) program.

The event, held at Igogora Country Resort, aimed to deepen understanding of the program's cost-sharing model and foster stronger collaboration with local governments to ensure its successful roll-out.

The AIM 2.0 program is designed to empower 1.2 million adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) across Africa, with a goal of lifting them out of poverty by 2030. The initiative adopts a comprehensive approach, addressing social and economic empowerment

alongside creating an enabling environment that fosters long-term community impact. By equipping young women with the skills and resources they need to succeed, AIM 2.0 aims to create a more equitable and prosperous future for the next generation of African women.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders from Kamwenge District, including the District Police Commander, Chief Administrative Officer, Town Clerks, Veterinary Officer, Community Development Officers, and Subcounty Chiefs from areas set to benefit from the program. These leaders were briefed on the program's key components, with a focus on the cost-sharing model, which emphasizes joint responsibility between BRAC, local governments, and the community for the program's success and sustainability.

The cost-sharing approach encourages active participation by local governments and communities, ensuring that they not only support but also take ownership of the program's outcomes. By aligning local resources with those of BRAC and MCF, the AIM 2.0 initiative aims to build a lasting foundation for young women's economic independence in the district.

Mrs Namara Loy Batuuze, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner (RDC), was a key speaker at the event. She expressed strong support for the program, commending BRAC's ongoing efforts to uplift the lives of young women in Kamwenge. "We are grateful to BRAC for their commitment to empowering our young women and for contributing significantly to poverty reduction in the district," Mrs Batuuze said.

She pledged to continue offering support for this important initiative, including providing airtime on local radio stations to help sensitize communities about the program.

Her remarks reflected the strong commitment from the district administration to ensure the program's success. Stakeholders from the meeting also shared their enthusiasm for the initiative, emphasizing the critical role of local ownership in ensuring the sustainability of AIM 2.0's impact.

A Holistic Approach to Empowerment

The AIM 2.0 program takes an integrated approach to empowerment, focusing on three key pillars: social empowerment,

economic empowerment, and creating an enabling environment. This holistic model is designed to address the interconnected challenges faced by young women in Kamwenge, including limited access to education, vocational training, and financial independence.

In addition to providing essential skills training, the program will offer mentorship opportunities, access to microfinance, and a supportive community environment to help young women overcome barriers to success. The goal is not only to help them build livelihoods but to equip them with the tools to become resilient leaders in their communities.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment from BRAC, the Mastercard Foundation, and district stakeholders to strengthen coordination and ensure that the program's objectives are met. Over the coming months, the implementation phase will begin, with local governments and community leaders taking active roles in supporting the program's rollout.

With the support of local government and a solid cost-sharing framework, AIM 2.0 is poised to make a lasting impact on Kamwenge District, helping young women break free from the cycle of poverty and achieve long-term success.

About the AIM 2.0 Program

The Accelerating Impact for Young Women in Africa (AIM 2.0) program is a five-year initiative implemented by BRAC Uganda in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation. The program seeks to equip adolescent girls and young women with the necessary tools, skills, and resources to become

economically independent, resilient, and active contributors to their communities. Through education, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support, AIM 2.0 aims to transform the lives of young women across Africa and achieve measurable impact by 2030.



BUNYANGABU TARGETS TOP TEN SPOT IN NATIONAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

By Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer-Bunyangabu

Bunyangabu District is gearing up to make a mark in this year's annual Local Government Performance Assessment, coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

Speaking during the entry meeting with OPM assessors on Wednesday morning at the district council hall, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Baker Akampurira, said the district aims to rank among



Deputy CAO Bunyangabu District, Mr Baker Akampurira, speaking to the staff and assessors during the entry meeting.

the top ten local governments in the country this year. “We want to assure everyone that we are fully prepared for this assessment, and we believe our performance will greatly improve compared to previous years,” Mr Akampurira said.

The annual OPM assessment aims to enhance public service delivery by holding local governments accountable, promoting efficient use of resources, and rewarding good performance through performance-based grants. It also helps identify gaps in administration and service delivery for targeted improvement.

The leader of the assessment team, Mr Moses Kanyarutooky, explained that the exercise is designed to evaluate compliance with government laws, standards, and procedures. He noted that all assessors had undergone rigorous training to ensure a professional and transparent process.

“The entry meeting is meant to introduce the team, explain the objectives, processes, and requirements of the assessment. We will evaluate both the district headquarters and field institutions such as health centres, primary schools, sub-counties, and town councils to verify reported results,” Mr Kanyarutooky said.

He also read a letter from the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr Alex Kakooza, urging heads of departments to cooperate with the assessors to ensure a smooth exercise.

In his remarks, the District Vice Chairperson, Mr Alex Twinomuhwezi, welcomed the assessment team, commending the district’s steady improvement in recent years. He said such progress reflects better service delivery and strengthened local governance. “As political leaders, our goal is to see Bunyangabu among the top ten performing districts in Uganda,” Mr Twinomuhwezi said.



Assessors with Bunyangabu District Local Government staff during an entry meeting on Wednesday

KABAROLE'S NEW WATER INITIATIVE BRINGS HOPE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BILHARZIA

By Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer-Kabarole



The commissioned water project in Kasenda.



The Kinombe water project in Kasenda sub county.

Kabarole District is making significant strides in improving public health and access to clean water, thanks to the launch of a 1.2 billion-shilling water project aimed at reducing the prevalence of Bilharzia in local communities.

In partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment, this initiative, which includes the establishment of two piped water extension sites in Kasenda Sub-County, brings renewed hope to a community that has long struggled with waterborne diseases like Bilharzia.

The project, executed by Nexus Green Limited, features water supply sites that will serve multiple villages. According to Jonathan Kutosi, the lead supervisor at Nexus Green, the Iruhura water supply site will benefit the villages of Rweraza A and B, while the Kinombe water

supply site will cater to seven additional villages, including Rwenjuba, Nyabweya, Kibuga, Mwezi, and Kinombe. This expansion is crucial, as many residents have relied on unsafe water sources, leading to health complications.

Eng Nsabimanah Robert, Assistant Manager at Mid-Western Umbrella, emphasized the importance of accessibility. “The water extension was primarily installed along roadsides, with public tap stands constructed for community use,” Eng Nsabimanah explained.

Residents living within a 0-50-meter radius of these taps can apply for a home water extension at a cost of 220,000 shillings through the Kasenda Sub-

County office. “To ensure the sustainability of this initiative, a comprehensive water extension sustainability plan has been developed, which includes conducting needs assessments to facilitate further water access in deeper village areas,” he added.

Mr Sam Tinkasimire Tusiime from the Ministry of Water highlighted the historical challenges faced by Kasenda in terms of water supply. “The commissioning of this project is a vital step towards alleviating the burden of Bilharzia disease that the people of this sub-county have been facing. I urge residents of Kasenda to engage in environmental protection and conservation efforts to maintain the water supply,” he remarked.

Mr Muhumuza Joseph, the Secretary for Health, representing the District Chairperson, encouraged residents to adopt safe water practices. “I advise you to use clean jerricans for fetching water and to boil water before consumption to prevent waterborne diseases, thereby fulfilling the objectives of the water extension project,” Muhumuza said.

Community leaders, including area Councilor Ruta Gideon and Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Mugarra

Marvin, urged residents to take ownership of the water sources and warned against vandalism, emphasizing the importance of sustaining the project. “We have noticed many times that projects are extended in the area, but to our dismay, the people who have been crying foul over lack of water are the ones who vandalize the facilities. It’s a bad habit that affects development, and we stand warned,” they stated.

Residents like Kemigisha Joyce and Nkusiima Johnson expressed their gratitude for the project, sharing their past struggles with water sourced from contaminated crater lakes, which had led to health issues. The commissioning of this water project addresses the long-standing concerns of female district councilor Madam Nasasira Annet, who has tirelessly advocated for clean water access in Kasenda.

This water project not only represents a significant investment in public health but also symbolizes a commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Kabarole District.

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL: HOW KITAGWENDA IS TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING

Tumwiine David, Ag Communication Officer- Kitagwenda



Kitagwenda District Local Government has held a Budget Conference as one of the requirements for the Preparation of the Budget Frame Work Paper for the Financial year 2026/2027 with emphasis on improved service delivery, transparency, accountability to the Local People

The Budget Conference brought together Key stake holders, and leaders to share ideas and make priorities for the district in the upcoming Financial Year. According to Mr Tayanga Moses Amooti, the Kitagwenda District Planner/ Statistician, the budget Conference is aimed discussing priorities and strategy for the district, challenges that affect service delivery, and measures to improve the challenges so that the common man enjoys the services of the Government. The District Vice Chairperson Kitagwenda Mr Ashaba Peter informed participants that there is need to promote infrastructure development, and sustainable development measures

to contribute to the sustainable development Goals, agenda 2040 (Uganda Vision 2040) and NDPIV.

Mr Akankwasa Moses the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Kitagwenda informed participants that the Strategy for the district is to improve household incomes, provide services nearer to the people and also improve the quality of life of the people of Kitagwenda

Mr Byarugaba Kanyamahane Isaiah the RESIDENT District Commissioner Kitagwenda thanked the District Leadership for Organizing the budget conference and emphasized the commitment t of the NRM Government to uplift every person and deliver them to the money economy so that we can take off to a devolved county. He said that Uganda is endowed with natural Resources, Good Governance, prevailing and sustainable peace and infrastructure which are all necessary for transforming Uganda into an developed economy. He challenged the technical Staff to appreciate the Government Incentives and cascade them to the common person so that nobody is left behind.

The Kitagwenda District Local Government recently convened

an active Budget Conference, marking a critical step in preparing the Budget Framework Paper for the 2026/2027 financial year. This gathering focused on driving improved service delivery, enhanced transparency, and accountability to the local community.

Bringing together key stakeholders and district leaders, the conference served as a platform for sharing ideas and setting priorities that will shape the district's development trajectory in the coming year. Mr Tayanga Moses Amooti, the District Planner and Statistician, outlined the conference's purpose: to thoroughly discuss the district's priorities, identify challenges affecting service delivery, and brainstorm practical measures to overcome these hurdles so that every resident benefits from government services.

Kitagwenda's District Vice Chairperson, Mr Ashaba Peter, urged participants to prioritize infrastructure development and sustainable practices that align with the Sustainable Development Goals, Uganda Vision 2040, and the National Development Plan IV.

His call emphasized that lasting growth must be built on a foundation of strategic investments and responsible stewardship of resources.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Mr Akankwasa Moses further outlined the district's strategic goals: boosting household incomes, decentralizing service delivery to bring government closer to the people, and overall improving the quality of life for residents of Kitagwenda. These objectives reflect a thoughtful approach-centred on empowering communities and fostering economic resilience.

Mr Byarugaba Kanyamahane Isaiah, the Resident District Commissioner, expressed his gratitude to the district leadership for organizing the conference. He reaffirmed the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government's unwavering commitment to uplifting every citizen and integrating them into a vibrant money economy; an essential phase for transitioning to a devolved country.

"Uganda is endowed with natural Resources, Good Governance, prevailing and sustainable peace and infrastructure which are all necessary for transforming Uganda into an developed economy," Mr Kanyamahane remarked.

Mr Byarugaba challenged technical staff to fully embrace government incentives and ensure these benefits reach all citizens, leaving nobody behind on Uganda's path to development.

The Kitagwenda Budget Conference demonstrated a powerful spirit of collaboration and forward-thinking, setting a strong foundation for a year of impactful development and inclusive growth.



KASESE LEADS WITH INCLUSIVE BUDGET APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*By Kabugho Sharon, Communications
Officer-Kasese*

Leaders, technocrats, and community representatives from across Kasese District gathered at the Multipurpose Hall for the annual District Budget Conference, setting the stage for a transformative financial year 2026/2027. The meeting graced by District Chairperson Hon Muhindi Bukombi Eliphaz on October 30, 2025, was not merely a statutory event but a vision-setting moment that showed the district's commitment to turning planning into tangible impact.

Under the national theme, "Full Monetization of Uganda's Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialization, Expanding and Broadening Services, Digital Transformation and Market Access," the Chairperson's remarks framed Kasese's budget priorities around economic empowerment, infrastructure resilience, and human development.

Hon Muhindi's address was a call to action urging all stakeholders to look



District officials, religious leaders participating in the budget conference.



Stakeholders participating in the Budget Conference.

beyond numbers and see the lives behind each allocation. The district's Shs 120.1 billion resource envelope, comprising locally raised revenue, central government grants, and donor funding, will directly target areas that touch everyday livelihoods. Among the top priorities are:

- Strengthening the Parish Development Model (PDM) to enhance household incomes and community-driven growth.
- Agro-industrialization and water for production aimed at shielding farmers from erratic weather patterns while boosting agricultural value chains.
- Education and health service quality,

ensuring the next generation grows healthier, more skilled, and ready to compete.

- Road rehabilitation and maintenance, a key to unlocking market access and regional trade potential.

These priorities are not abstract, they promise to bring visible change to rural communities, schools, and health facilities across the district.

Kasese's development story is one of steady progress shadowed by recurring hurdles. The Chairperson candidly highlighted issues such as rapid population growth, land fragmentation, unpredictable weather patterns, and inadequate road funding factors that threaten to erode gains made over the past decade.

In response, the district is turning to innovative solutions:

Irrigation initiatives under the Local and Micro-Scale Irrigation programmes to combat drought and ensure all-season farming.

- Security strengthening to protect farmers and investors from theft and vandalism.
- Skilling programs like the Kasese Youth Polytechnic and Katwe Training Institute to empower young people with employable skills.
- A proposed tree planting ordinance to combat climate change and promote environmental stewardship.

These initiatives reflect a governance model that listens, adapts, and acts in response to emerging realities.

Beyond infrastructure and investment, the Chairperson's remarks placed a strong emphasis on human capital. He pointed to growing concerns over malnutrition and stunted growth, especially among children and women, and the rising cases of HIV/AIDS that threaten social progress.

By calling for increased household-level nutrition campaigns and anti-stigma health drives, the district leadership is reframing development not just as economic output, but as the well-being of its people.

Hon Muhindi's closing message was both inspirational and pragmatic: true transformation will come only when every citizen of Kasese takes ownership of the district's agenda. From local council leaders to farmers, teachers, and business people, everyone's input into the budgeting process was portrayed as vital to crafting an inclusive and people-centered development framework.



KYENJOJO DISTRICT SETS SERVICE DELIVERY PRIORITIES IN ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

By Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer-Kyenjojo



CFO Mr James Fred Mugabi presenting at the Budget Conference on Resource Envelope.

Kyenjojo District Local Government hosted its annual Budget Conference on October 31st, 2025, at the District Headquarters in Kasiina, as part of efforts to strengthen participatory planning and align local priorities with Uganda's national development agenda.

The conference brought together over 250 participants, including district political leaders, technical staff, civil society organizations, religious and cultural leaders, development partners, and members of the media, with a focus on discussing the Budget Framework Paper for the Financial Year 2026/2027, setting clear priorities for service delivery and local economic transformation.

The budget conference provides a platform for all stakeholders to contribute ideas that will shape the district's spending priorities, this process



Mrs Grace Atuheire speaking at the Budget conference.

ensures that our plans respond directly to community needs while aligning with national goals.

The FY 2026/27 budget will represent the second year of implementing the District Development Plan IV (DDP IV) and the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), both of which emphasize economic transformation through production, industrialization, and inclusive growth.

The budget conference concerted efforts on emerging priorities under programs such as agro-industrialization, human capital development, natural resources management, road infrastructure, and

local economic development.

Cross-cutting issues such as nutrition, gender equality, climate change, HIV/AIDS, and disaster preparedness, also featured prominently in the discussions. The budget conference will help the district consolidate feedback from sub counties and departments, agree on budget ceilings, and set a coordinated path toward achieving better service delivery.

With the conference completed, Kyenjojo District expects to finalize its Budget Framework Paper for FY 2026/2027 and prepare a work plan aligned with national priorities. This will also lead to the creation of anticipatory action plans for improved planning and coordination, ensuring the district remains proactive in addressing community challenges.

The District Planner, Ms Immaculate Atuhurra Mpaka, explained that the conference will also generate anticipatory action plans to guide implementation and monitoring. “The feedback gathered will help us prepare a realistic, evidence-based budget,” she said. “Our goal is to ensure efficient service delivery and value for money in every project we implement.” She remarked. The budget process is designed to be inclusive and consultative, in line with Article 155 of the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), Cap 171.

The Kyenjojo Chief Administrative

Officer, Mr. Masereka Amis Asuman, underscored the importance of deepening citizen participation in the planning and budgeting process, urging everyone to deepen citizen participation in the budget process, not just to identify problems but to find lasting solutions that drive transformation, and urged departments to integrate gender, climate change, nutrition, and environmental protection into their plans for inclusive and sustainable development.

He called upon all departments to integrate cross-cutting issues such as gender, environment, and climate change into their plans for inclusive and sustainable development. He also highlighted the ongoing challenge of malnutrition in the district. which still remains a big challenge for our district urging everyone to take responsibility, starting at the household level, to fight it.

Representing the District Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Grace Atuheire, informed the congregation that the district leadership believes that the 2025 budget conference will mark another important step toward the district’s vision of “A Healthy, Productive and Prosperous and self-sustaining community by 2040.” She called upon every stakeholder to take part in shaping Kyenjojo’s development journey, “Together, we can build a stronger district that leaves no one behind”, she remarked.

The RDC Kyenjojo, Ms Julian Sarah Ayesiga, commended the district leadership for keeping the planning process open and participatory.

She urged local leaders to use the opportunity to prioritize sectors that directly impact households. “Planning must start from the people,” She emphasized. “We want to see a budget that supports families, empowers youth, and uplifts women through sustainable income-generating projects,” Ms Ayesiga stated.

She also encouraged development partners and private sector players to continue supporting district initiatives through technical and financial collaboration. She rallied the electorate to rally behind National Resistance Movement (NRM) candidates in the forthcoming elections, so the government can continue with the good

work already in place.

As Uganda moves toward full implementation of the NDP IV and the Ten-Fold Growth Strategy, Kyenjojo’s leaders believe that local ownership and citizen participation will be key to unlocking sustainable progress.

The 2025 budget conference is therefore expected to serve as a rallying point for collaboration, accountability, and collective action toward building a more prosperous Kyenjojo District.



RDC Mrs Julian Sarah Ayesiga presenting at the Budget Conference.



The District Planner Mrs Immaculate Atuhurra guiding on the district priorities at the budget conference

CAO MASEREKA APPEALS FOR INTEGRITY, CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN KYENJOJO BUDGET 2026/2027 PREPARATIONS

Johnson Atuhire, Communication Officer- Kyenjojo



Participants at the budget conference

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Kyenjojo District, Mr Masereka Amis Asuman, has called upon district leaders, technical staff, and development partners to uphold integrity, discipline, and citizen participation as the district begins preparations for the 2026/2027 Financial Year Budget.

Mr Masereka made the remarks while delivering a keynote address during the Budget Consultative Conference held at the District Headquarters, an event that officially launched the district's budget formulation process for the coming financial year.

"It is my singular honor and pleasure to welcome you all to this Budget Conference for Kyenjojo District, which kick-starts the process of preparing our budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027," the CAO said in his opening remarks.

The budget conference was convened

in line with the Public Finance Management Act (2015), as part of the national budget preparation calendar that ensures all local governments develop their budgets in a transparent and consultative manner.

Mr Masereka revealed that the FY 2026/2027 budget will be the second year of implementing the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), guided by the national theme: "Full monetization of Uganda's economy through commercial agriculture, industrialization, expansion and broadening of services, digital transformation and market access."

He explained that the district's focus

areas will include agro-industrialization, tourism, mineral development, science and innovation, and infrastructure improvement, alongside enhanced delivery of education, health, and water services.

“The budget process must remain transparent, consultative, and aligned with both the national priorities and the aspirations of the people of Kyenjojo,” he noted.

The CAO urged all departments to prepare realistic and evidence-based budgets, guided by accurate revenue projections and sound expenditure planning, guided by accurate revenue projections and clear priorities to avoid underperformance and ensure value for money. He further reminded leaders to ensure that completed government projects are fully functional and sustainable.

He cautioned against misallocation of public funds, noting that integrity and discipline in budgeting are essential for effective service delivery, emphasizing that Public resources must only finance activities that create economic value and improve services for the people of Kyenjojo.

Mr Masereka underscored the importance of deepening citizen participation in the planning and budgeting process, urging everyone to deepen citizen participation in the budget process, not just to identify problems but to find lasting solutions that drive transformation.

He further urged departments to integrate gender, climate change, nutrition, and environmental protection into their plans for inclusive and sustainable development calling upon all of them to integrate cross-cutting issues such as gender,



Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Masereka Amis Asuman, giving his remarks at the just concluded Budget Conference.

environment, and climate change into their plans for inclusive and sustainable development. He also highlighted the ongoing challenge of malnutrition in the district which still remains a big challenge for our district urging everyone to take responsibility, starting at the household level, to fight it.

The CAO commended the dedication of staff and leaders in implementing government programs and called for continued teamwork in serving the people of Kyenjojo. “Compliance with guidelines and timelines will ensure that the budget reflects the true priorities of Kyenjojo District and delivers tangible benefits to our communities,” Mr Masereka said.

The Budget Consultative Conference brought together district political leaders, technical officers, Members of Parliament, civil society representatives, cultural and religious leaders, and development partners. Their collective input will shape the district’s Budget Framework Paper for the Financial Year 2026/2027, aligning local development with national goals under NDP IV.

KAMWENGE OPERATIONALIZES NEW CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT, REINFORCES REMOTE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

By Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer- Kamwenge

Kamwenge District officially commissioned the Kamwenge Chief Magistrate's Court, in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, graced by the Hon Justice Dr Flavian Zeija, the Deputy Chief Justice of Uganda.

Upon arrival at the newly constructed court premises on November 5, 2025, Justice Zeija was warmly received before he proceeded to unveil the new building. The Chief Guest then took part in a series of events including; a guided tour of the new court premises, inspecting key facilities including the court cells, children's room, and courtrooms.

In his keynote address, Hon Justice Dr Flavian Zeija, the Deputy Chief Justice, expressed his gratitude to the Kamwenge Chief Magistrate's Court for the honor of presiding over its commissioning. He extended appreciation to H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for providing the funds that facilitated the court's construction and commended the District Administration for the land allocation.

Justice Zeija called upon all judicial staff to uphold professionalism, transparency, and efficiency in their service delivery. He emphasized the importance of excellent



Justice Dr Flavian Zeija commissions the new Kamwenge Chief Magistrates Court as District officials look on.



Chief Guest with invited dignitaries

customer care, timely delivery of judgments, anti-corruption practices, and strong stakeholder engagement. He also thanked the Mayor of Kabujogera for allocating land to establish another court in Kitagwenda, reiterating that these facilities are key to bringing justice closer to the people.

He urged the people of Kamwenge to make proper and responsible use of the new court facilities, emphasizing that true justice begins with accountability, integrity, and community cooperation.

In her remarks, the Chief

Magistrate of Kamwenge, Mrs Atim Harriet Okello, appreciated her supervisor from Fort Portal for continuous mentorship, and to the District leadership; notably Hon Karungi Joseph (District Chairperson), the CAO, and the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) for their unwavering support and co-operation. She commended the RDC's office for providing free airtime on local radio stations to sensitize the community about access to justice and acknowledged Kamwenge District Local Government for allocating half an acre of land where the new court now stands.

Mrs Atim further appreciated the Mayor of Kabujogera Town Council for offering land for the establishment of a future court in Kitagwenda District. She called upon the public to actively engage with the court for legal advice and conflict resolution. While celebrating these achievements, she also highlighted challenges including limited DPP services, inadequate prison facilities for criminal offenders, and the lack of a juvenile remand home.

Representing the District Chairperson, Hon Fred Mbonigaba, the Secretary for Social Services, welcomed the Deputy Chief Justice to Kamwenge and

reaffirmed the district's commitment to promoting access to justice. He emphasized that the new court would save residents from traveling long distances to Fort Portal High Court, thereby reducing costs and improving service delivery.

He revealed that the district had allocated an additional half-acre of land for the establishment of the Office of the Resident State Attorney, urging residents to utilize these judicial services responsibly.

Speaking on behalf of the Office of the President, Deputy RDC Madam Namara Loy Batuze congratulated the Judiciary for this great milestone, noting that the establishment of the court has deterred illegal moneylenders who previously exploited the community. She pledged continued government support and reaffirmed the RDC's commitment to providing airtime for community legal sensitization.

She also encouraged the public to seek justice through official courts and avoid "bushy lawyers" who exploit citizens



Chief Guest Signing on the board.



Chief guest Justice Zeija planting a tree at court premises.

outside the legal system.

Under the national theme, “Enhancing Judicial Accountability and Access to Justice,” the event attracted a wide range of distinguished guests and community leaders. Among those in attendance were implementing partners UNHCR, ALIGHT & IJM, the Parish Priest of Kamwenge Catholic Parish, a representative of the Church of Uganda, the Bishop of the Born-Again Churches, Deputy RDC and Assistants, the District Internal Security Officer

(DISO), the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Madam Katusiime Harriet, Hon. Fred Mbonigaba, Secretary for Social Services representing the District Chairperson, as well as representatives from Police, Prisons, and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (Chief Warden, Kibale National Park). The Judiciary was well represented by officials from the Regional Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Senior and Resident Judges, representatives of the Inspectorate of Courts, State Attorneys, and other judicial officers.

KITAGWENDA FARMERS RECEIVE OVER 800 BAGS OF FERTILIZER TO BOOST COFFEE PRODUCTION

Tumwiine David, Ag Communications Officer- Kitagwenda



The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has delivered a powerful boost to coffee production in Kitagwenda District, distributing 853 bags of fertilizer to 150 local farmers.

The bags (each weighing 25-kilogram) was handed out on October 31, 2025, covering all 13 Lower Local Governments across 9 Sub Counties and 4 Town Councils as the rainy season



sets in, a critical time for maximizing crop yields.

At the heart of the distribution event, Assistant Resident District Commissioner Mr. Nabasa Phillip praised the NRM

Government for its timely support to coffee farmers.

Mr Nabasa Phillip encouraged the Agriculture Extension Workers to use a proactive approach and engage with farmers to ensure the fertilizers are put to good to lead to high yields.

“Don’t spend time in the offices, you should go to the field, have hands on engagement with the farmers, teach them good practices, encourage them to keep good records so that in future, they will be able to know what impact the fertilizer will make in terms of increased yields”

During the same function, the Kitagwenda District Operation wealth Creation Coordinator Major Patrick Gamukama encouraged farmers to use the guidelines for applying the fertilizers. “Make good use of this fertilizer, follow what the extension workers tell you to

do. These are Government Workers and they are well paid to help you to improve on the agronomic practices,” Major Gamukama said.

Major Patrick Gamukama also encouraged the famers not to sell the fertilizer but rather to go and apply it to their gardens. “Do not be lured to sell the fertilizer to anyone. The fertilizer has been given to you free of charge. This is a huge investment to the District from the NRM Government. Please take advantage of this and boost Production and earn higher Incomes,” he said.

Mr Akankwasa Moses, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Kitagwenda told farmers to use the existing rains, stamp their coffee and apply the fertilizer to get higher yields and get out of poverty.

The function was attended by the Secretary for Production Kitagwenda District Hon Doreen Nankunda Kaita, the Senior Agricultural Officer and the Agriculture Extension Workers from the District, among others.



RWENZORI ATTACKS: UPDF ASSURES RESIDENTS OF TOP-NOTCH SECURITY

*By Stephen Ainganiza, Communication
Officer –Kabarole*

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) has publicly addressed the alarming armed attacks that occurred on the morning of November 1, 2025, targeting security installations in the Rwenzori region of Western Uganda.

In a statement dated 1st November, 2025, Maj General Felix Kulayigye, the Director of Defence Public Information, emphasized the seriousness of the situation. "The public should be informed that there were a series of coordinated attacks carried out by armed groups targeting police and military deployments in the Rwenzori districts of Bundibugyo, Kasese, and Fort Portal City."

Maj Gen. Kulayigye described the incidents as attempts by "holistic elements" to destabilize security installations and provoke unrest in the region. Armed with submachine guns and machetes, these assailants targeted police and military posts, including those in Kasese, Rugendabara, and UPDF positions at Malindi and Kakukain in



Maj General Felix Kulayigye, the Director of Defence Public Information

Bundibugyo, as well as Canon Apollo Core Teachers College in Fort Portal City.

In response to the attacks, the UPDF, in collaboration with the Uganda Police, acted swiftly and decisively to neutralize the threats. "Several attackers were subdued and the operations are ongoing to apprehend those that escaped. Unfortunately, during the confrontations, the attackers killed one civilian woman and one soldier was killed in action," Maj Gen. Kulayigye reported.

He commended the bravery and professionalism of UPDF personnel, who acted with restraint and precision to protect lives and property during the violent encounters.

Furthermore, he announced that the UPDF has launched investigations to ascertain the origins, motives, and

affiliations of the assailants. “UPDF strongly condemns any attempts to destabilize peace and stability in the country,” he added.

Maj. Gen. Kulayigye assured Ugandans, particularly those in the Rwenzori districts of Kasese, Bundibugyo, and Fort Portal, that the situation is under control, thanks to a heavy security deployment across the country aimed at deterring further threats. He urged the public to remain calm and vigilant,

encouraging community members to collaborate with security forces by reporting any suspicious activities or unfamiliar faces. “The UPDF is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of Uganda and ensuring peace and security for all Ugandans,” he reiterated.

The violence in the Rwenzori region resulted in the deaths of at least twenty suspected attackers and the arrest of thirty-five others, showing the urgent need for community cooperation in maintaining security and stability.



Military combs through the bushes retrieving the bodies of the victims of the attack.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION SETS CLEAR RULES TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL 2026 CAMPAIGNS IN KABAROLE

By Nyakahuma Ali, Journalist- Fort Portal

The Candidates Pose in A Photo with the Electoral Commission Officials



As Uganda gears up for the 2026 general elections, the Electoral Commission (EC) in Kabarole District has taken proactive steps to ensure campaigns remain fair, transparent, and peaceful.

In a meeting held at the Busoro subcounty headquarters, all candidates contesting the L.C V and Member of Parliament seats were urged to strictly adhere to established election guidelines.

Rodger Kasoro, the district's Returning Officer, underscored the vital importance of lawful campaigning. He advised candidates to refrain from engaging in bribery, purchasing alcohol for voters, or misusing government resources, such as vehicles. "Those who violate these guidelines risk disqualification from the electoral race," Kasoro said.

The meeting provided a valuable platform for candidates like Kirungi Annet Pamela, the NRM's Woman MP

flag bearer, who expressed gratitude for the guidance offered. She affirmed her dedication to serving the people of Kabarole with integrity.

Similarly, NRM Chairperson flag bearer Kimome Reuben, alongside fellow contenders Mugabe Wilfred and others, found the session instrumental in clarifying campaign procedures and setting a responsible tone to their electoral journey.

The EC regards such engagements as essential in promoting issue-based debates over personal or financial inducements, fostering peaceful coexistence during the campaign season.

As the race begins, candidates are encouraged to center their efforts on communicating their manifestos and vision for Kabarole, steering clear of any behaviour that could undermine the democratic process.

UN WOMEN LAUNCHES ICT HUB IN FORT PORTAL TO EMPOWER GIRLS WITH DIGITAL SKILLS

By Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer- Kabarole



UN Women, in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Government of Uganda, has inaugurated the African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI) ICT Hub at Kyebambe Girls' Secondary School in Fort Portal.

This development marks a pivotal step towards empowering young women in the Rwenzori sub-region with essential digital skills. Equipped with 60 computers, the newly established hub is designed to serve as a comprehensive training, innovation, and mentorship center. It aims to provide girls and young women with the opportunity to acquire vital digital literacy, coding, and ICT skills, thus preparing them for promising careers in science, technology, and innovation.

During the inauguration ceremony, Ms Adekemi Ndieli, the Deputy Country

Representative of UN Women Uganda, emphasized the importance of equipping girls with digital skills. "Empowering girls with digital skills is critical to achieving gender equality and sustainable development," she said.

Her remarks highlighted the transformative impact that such initiatives can have on the lives of young women, enabling them to break barriers and seize opportunities in the digital age.

Ms Ndieli noted the remarkable progress observed since the establishment of similar hubs across the country. "Girls who had never used a computer are now coding and designing websites. Communities are embracing girls in ICT, and vocational institutions report rising female enrolment," she shared. This progress has led to increased



employment opportunities and the emergence of tech-based enterprises, allowing young women to contribute meaningfully to their families and communities.

Ruth Kwesiga Namanya, the Head Teacher of Kyebambe Girls, echoed these sentiments, stating that bridging the ICT literacy gap among girls presents a significant opportunity for secondary schools to collaborate in nurturing globally relevant women for future generations.

She urged the girls to cherish and guard the global skills they would acquire through this initiative, commending UN Women for establishing a hub that adds

immense value to their education.

According to Ms Juliet Muzora, the Commissioner in charge of Government Secondary Schools at the Ministry of Education, the establishment of the ICT hub in Fort Portal complements the government's efforts to promote quality education for all. "I encourage the girls in the region to fully utilize this hub to unlock their potential because the skills gained here could pave the way for their future success," Ms Muzora remarked.

The launch of the AGCCI ICT Hub represents a significant stride towards empowering girls in Uganda, ensuring they are equipped with the skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

TOORO KING FULFILLS COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISH COFFEE AND COCOA NURSERIES IN KITAGWENDA

Tumwiine David, Ag Communication Officer-Kitagwenda



The King of Tooro, His Majesty Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV has fulfilled his pledge to the Youth of Kitagwenda District by distributing 47,000 Robusta Clones (Coffee Wilt Resistant Variety) in Kitagwenda County, one of the 9 Counties of Tooro Kingdom.

During his recent Royal Visit to Kitagwenda County on October 17th 2025, His Majesty Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV promised to give the Youth of Kitagwenda coffee plantlets, establish coffee and Cocoa nursery beds, and establish a hatchery all aimed at alleviating poverty amongst his subjects particularly the youth.

The Coffee plantlets were received by the Assistant Resident District Commissioner-Kitagwenda Mr Nabasa Phillip, the District Vice Chairperson Kitagwenda Mr Ashaba Peter, the

County Chief (Omugalihya) Kitagwenda Mr Sam Mugisa, and the Secretary for Production and Natural Resources Hon Doreen Nankunda among others while the District technical Staff were represented by Mr Namanya Justus the District Agricultural Officer.

The coffee Plantlets from Tooro Kingdom were delivered by the Kingdom Deputy Minister of Local Government Dr Brian Kaita Mugisa.

While delivering the Coffee Plantlets, Dr Brian Kaita Mugisa informed the youth and the general public that His Majesty King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV is committed to fulfilling his pledges that he made when he was on the Royal Tour in Kitagwenda on 17th October 2025. "As you recall, His Majesty made a commitment to provide coffee plantlets, establish a coffee and Cocoa nursery beds, and establish a hatchery. He has

now started to fulfil his pledges,” Dr Mugisa said.

He shared that the King has entrusted me with 47,000 coffee seedlings, and in the coming days, 10,000 cocoa seedlings will be distributed. Additionally, several other initiatives are set to launch early next year. All of these projects are designed to help alleviate poverty among the people of His Majesty’s realm.

The Assistant Resident District Commissioner-Kitagwenda, Mr Nabasa Phillip appreciated the King for the good relationship with the ruling NRM government. He rallied the youth to make good use of this opportunity and plant all the coffee given. “I pledge that the government workers will supervise your gardens and give the necessary technical advice so that you get out of poverty in the long run,” he remarked.

Mr Ashaba Peter, the District Vice

Chairperson, implored the youth to work hard and jealously protect the coffee in order to reap big in future.

The District Agricultural Officer, Mr Nuwamanya Jastus, informed the youth that they will be supported with extension services in their respective communities, urging them to take heed of the technical advice as they plant the given coffee

The County Chief, Omugaliha Sam Mugisa assured the youth that King would not evict anyone occupying the Kingdom Land. He, instead encouraged them to use the Kingdom structures and obtain the Land titles. “His Majesty has given you coffee to plant. Coffee is perennial and is permanent crop. It is an assurance that the King wants you to occupy the Kingdom and permanently. Make good use of the Kingdom structures such as the Kingdom Land Board and obtain land titles,” Mugisa said.

GROWING GREEN: CLIMATE-SMART FORESTRY PROJECT TAKES ROOT IN KITAGWENDA

Tumwiine David, Ag Communication Officer- Kitagwenda



Kitagwenda District is celebrating the arrival of a transformative new initiative set to reshape its environmental and economic landscape. On October 31, 2025, the district proudly unveiled the “Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development (IFPA-CD)”

project, which officially kicks off this November.

The IFPA-CD project aims to promote sustainable development through the establishment of woodlots on private land. By enhancing the production of poles, timber, and other plantation products, the project targets both ecological restoration and the creation of new income streams for local communities. Importantly, it will focus on refugee-hosting areas, where Kitagwenda plays a significant role as a host community.

Project Coordinator Fred Lari shared insights about the initiative's hands-on approach. He mentioned that the project will focus on distributing trees for planting to individuals and closely supervised to ensure that the trees are planted and sustained to grow bigger.

“The major outcome of the project in the long run is to improve community livelihoods, improve household incomes and maintain the ecological integrity of Kitagwenda District through small-scale commercial forestry,” Lari said.

Local leadership expressed strong support for the project. Assistant Resident District Commissioner Nabasa Phillip praised the initiative's timing and impact: “Environmental degradation has been a significant challenge here, and

this project represents a crucial shift. It will bolster environmental conservation and improve weather patterns, which is vital for our agriculture-based economy, especially coffee farming.”

Echoing this optimism, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Akankwasa Moses affirmed the district's commitment to the project's success. ““This is a very good project, and it comes at a time when there is a lot of environmental degradation. This project is coming to change the narrative and will go along to benefit the people of Kitagwenda and surrounding areas through environmental conservation and improved weather conditions,” he said.

Since Kitagwenda area is an agriculture area and grows a lot of coffee, this project will be of great benefit when the weather conditions become more favorable for agricultural activities especially coffee growing.

Mr Akankwasa Moses, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Kitagwenda district welcomed the new project on board reaffirming the district commitment to provide the necessary support in achieving the project objectives.

As Kitagwenda embarks on this promising journey, the IFPA-CD project offers hope not only for greener landscapes but also for a future where sustainable development and community prosperity go hand in hand.

EXCITEMENT AS KITAGWENDA DISTRICT'S 12-KILOMETER ROAD REHABILITATION UNDERWAY

Tumwiine David, Ag Communication Officer- Kitagwenda

Kitagwenda District Local Government has embarked on a rehabilitation of 12 Kilometre Road in a bid to improve service delivery, accessibility to market centers and other social amenities.

The Kyotamusana -Katooma Road connects to the 2 district National Roads of (Kabujogera Mahyoro to Kyambura and Ibanda Kabujogera Rwenjaza Roads. The Road will benefit communities especially in the Parishes of Iryangabi, Kengeya, Kitoma, Nyakasura and the Wards of Iharagatwa, Kabale, Kyotamusana among others.

During the Launching ceremony, the LCIII Chairperson of Kitagwenda Town Council, Mr Turyamureba Patrick Payi welcomed the project in the area though the project was long over due. "This road had become impassable. It was hindering development, there is even a bridge which collapsed. Our people here could no longer sell matooke, and our coffee was being sold very cheaply to middlemen because there have been no means of transport due to poor roads. This road has come in timely and our incomes are going to increase again," Mr Turyamureba said.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Kitagwenda District, Mr Daliri RK Moses thanked the people for their patience. "The district is going to rehabilitate this road, do spot murruming up to 5 kilometers, open drainage channels, put culverts, desilt some culverts which were blocked," he noted.

He revealed that this is the first road to be worked on the current Financial Year; scheduled for completion by 20th of



November.

Mr Daliri RK Moses, however, cautioned the community members should desist from engage in love affairs with the Road Rehabilitation Staff as this will lead to Gender Based and Domestic Violence.

He also noted that the District project management team will be readily available to address any issues. Additionally, a Grievance Redress Committee will be established to handle all concerns related to the road rehabilitation. He further mentioned that after completing the road rehabilitation, the District plans to plant trees along the road to enhance the local climate over time.

The RDC of Kitagwenda, Mr. Isaiah Byarugaba Kanyamahane, who served as the Chief Launcher, expressed his gratitude to the community members for their strong support of the NRM Government. He commended them for their efforts in combating the ADF insurgents and urged them to capitalize on the newly rehabilitated road to enhance their household incomes.

He specifically advised boda boda riders to avoid speeding, emphasizing the importance of using the smooth road safely to prevent accidents. "I encourage you, especially boda boda riders, to utilize this road wisely. While it provides a smooth surface, over-speeding can be dangerous. Use it to transport agricultural products to market centers

and help eradicate poverty from your homes."

The RDC called on the community to maintain the peace established by the NRM Government and to actively engage in government initiatives such as PDM, Emyoga SACCOs, YLP, UWEF, and SEGOP to improve their livelihoods and overcome poverty.

He also cautioned the Project Management Team and the Contractor to deliver quality workmanship and ensure value for money by avoiding substandard work.

The Kyabatimbo LC1, Januariyo Kazora, expressed gratitude to the NRM Government for rehabilitating the road. He explained that the road was previously full of potholes and many stony sections, making it nearly impassable.

The District Vice Chairperson of Kitagwenda, Mr. Ashaba Peter, urged the community to actively maintain their road by regularly clearing drainage channels, opening trenches, and desilting culverts whenever they become blocked. This will help ensure the road stays in good condition for everyone's benefit.

MEDIA WARNED AGAINST SPREADING UNVERIFIED CLAIMS ON RWENZORI ATTACKS

By Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer-Bunyangabu District



Journalists and security personnel pose for a group photo after the meeting at Muhooti barracks on Tuesday.

Residents and journalists in the Rwenzori and Tooro sub-regions have been urged to avoid spreading tribal sentiments or linking the recent attacks on security installations in Kasese and Bundibugyo to ethnic tensions.

During a meeting with journalists at Muhooti Barracks in Fort Portal Tourism City on Tuesday, 4th November, 2025, Maj Stephen Mugerwa, the Commander of the UPDF Mountain Division, explained that the incidents were isolated and not motivated by tribal differences.

Maj Mugerwa revealed that among those arrested so far are individuals from several tribes across Uganda including; Banyoro,

Bakonjo, Langi, Acholi, and Baganda dismissing social media claims that the clashes involved Batooro and Bakonjo communities.

“Our investigations show that these attacks were not tribal in nature. Among the arrested are people from various parts of the country. It is not true that one tribe was fighting another,” Maj Mugerwa said.

He further clarified that the motive of the armed assailants, many of whom were armed with pangas, is still under investigation. “No civilians were targeted or killed,” he added.

Providing an update on the incidents, Maj Mugerwa noted that in Bundibugyo, one soldier and a wife to another were killed, while two attackers were neutralized and 22 arrested. In Kasese, six police officers were injured, 18 attackers were killed, and 42 others captured. In Fort Portal, 21 attackers were killed mainly through mob action and 26 were arrested.

He appealed to the media to exercise restraint and verify information before reporting, warning that unverified claims could inflame tensions. “The media must practice responsible reporting. Journalists should always seek verified information from the Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), who chair security committees in their districts, rather than relying

on rumours or political statements,” he advised.

Since the November 1 attacks in Kasese, Bundibugyo, and Fort Portal’s Bukuuku area, cultural institutions have spoken out strongly against the violence and called for peace and unity.

In a statement dated November 2, 2025, the Royal Prime Minister of the Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu, Rt Hon Kule Benson Baritazale, condemned the attacks, describing them as “cowardly acts of violence perpetrated by unknown gunmen and panga-wielding assailants.”

“The Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu remains steadfast in its commitment to peace, unity in diversity, reconciliation, and social transformation principles

that continue to guide our kingdom’s engagements across the Rwenzori region,” the statement read in part.

Similarly, the Prime Minister of Tooro Kingdom, Rt Hon Calvin Armstrong Rwomiire, also issued a statement condemning the attacks and urging the youth to reject violence. “We call upon the youth of Tooro to reject the path of violence and remain vigilant. Any suspicious activities should be reported to authorities as we work together to preserve the peace and stability that our region cherishes,” Rwomiire stated.

Both leaders and security officials reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring calm and restoring confidence among residents of the Rwenzori and Tooro regions.

KASESE STANDS STRONG: COMMUNITY & SECURITY FORCES UNITE TO KEEP THE DISTRICT SAFE

By Kabughu Sharon, Communication Officer-Kasese



Kasese District, long known for its breathtaking landscapes, resilient people, and vibrant business community has once again demonstrated its unwavering spirit

in the face of adversity. Following coordinated attacks on police installations on Saturday, November 1, 2025, the district has swiftly returned to normalcy, thanks to the combined

efforts of security forces and vigilant residents.

According to Lt Joe Walunsimbi, Kasese Resident District Commissioner (RDC), the attacks occurred in the early hours of the morning when an unidentified group targeted Kasese Central Police Barracks and Rugendabara Police Post. Similar incidents were reported in neighboring Bundibugyo and Fort Portal, but Kasese's security response was immediate and effective.

"Our forces coordinated well and flushed out those criminals. Five of them were put out of action, 15 were arrested on the spot in Kasese, and a similar number in Rugendabara. In total, we now have 40 arrested and 20 dead as investigations continue," Lt Walunsimbi said.

Despite the morning chaos, business life in Kasese remarkably bounced back by the same evening. The RDC emphasized that peace and calm now prevail, encouraging residents to resume their daily routines without fear.

"The current situation is normal and calm. I am appealing to people to go back to their businesses. Even on the fateful day, people were in their shops by evening. We are giving people hope and courage to continue with their work," he said.

He commended the leadership efforts of LC V Chairperson Hon Muhindi Bukombi Elphaz, NRM District Chairperson, and Minister of State for ICT and National Guidance Hon Kabbyanga Godfrey Kime, for their joint efforts in sensitizing and

reassuring the community.

Lt Walunsimbi acknowledged that Kasese's safety is not solely the work of the armed forces but also the result of community vigilance and cooperation. "I want to thank the community for being very positive; they even assisted in arresting some of these suspects. Security cannot succeed without the involvement of the people. Whenever they see anyone suspicious, they share information quickly, and we respond immediately," she said.

This collaboration has become a powerful example of citizen-led peacekeeping, showing how local intelligence and trust between civilians and security personnel can prevent threats before they escalate.

Alongside public vigilance, security agencies have strengthened deployments and patrols throughout the district. "We have increased our deployment in the area and I am very convinced that such an incident will not happen again," he assured.

Addressing Ugandans and visitors who may have heard alarming reports, the RDC firmly stated that Kasese is safe and open for business and tourism.

"If you are not in Kasese and you hear what happened, you might think the district is on fire. But I want to tell

Ugandans and visitors that Kasese is very safe. Businesses are running normally, and no civilian was hurt during the attacks,” he emphasized. He further encouraged tourists and schools planning trips to Kasese not



LT Joe Walunsimbi, RDC Kasese

to cancel their visits. “A certain school contacted me about coming for a tour, and I encouraged them to come. We have visitors here enjoying the serenity and beauty of Kasese with no fear at all,” he said.

From the ashes of an attempted disruption, Kasese has risen once again united, vigilant, and determined to protect its peace. The incident has not only showcased the efficiency of Uganda’s security forces, but also the unwavering spirit of a community that refuses to be shaken.

“Those who think Kasese is unsafe should come and see for themselves. The people are working, the visitors are coming, and life is beautifully normal,” Kasese RDC Lt Walunsimbi noted.

SCHOOL HEADS DEMAND MILITARY DEPLOYMENT IN RWENZORI SCHOOLS AFTER RECENT ATTACKS

By Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer –Kabarole

Minister Victoria Rusoke, the State Minister for Local Government responding to the issues raised.



School head teachers in Kabarole District and Fort Portal Tourism City, in the wake of alarming attacks in the Rwenzori region are

demanding the government to deploy the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) in educational institutions.

This appeal follows the 1st November,

2025, violent attacks where armed assailants targeted police and military installations in the districts of Kasese, Bundibugyo, and Fort Portal, resulting in the deaths of at least 20 attackers, including a civilian woman and a UPDF soldier, while over 35 individuals were apprehended.

Acting in response to these security concerns, Hon Victoria Businge Rusoke, the State Minister for Local Government, convened an urgent security meeting at the Kabarole district headquarters in Kitumba, Fort Portal City. The meeting brought together security agencies, head teachers from both private and government-aided schools, and local government stakeholders to discuss strategies for enhancing security in schools.

Rev Balinda Richardson, head teacher of Nyakasura School, emphasized the need for immediate action. “The recent attacks on educational institutions necessitate the deployment of UPDF and police forces within schools,” Rev Balinda said. He proposed the establishment of military detachments in the area to bolster security measures.

Tumwesigye Edison, head teacher of Moons Vocational Kicwamba, expressed concern about the pervasive fear among students and the community. He called for the deployment of at least two UPDF officers in each school and advocated for enhanced training

for private security personnel. He highlighted the importance of securing bus terminals and taxi parks, as the assailants are reportedly traveling from various districts for training at a purported shrine in Bundibugyo.

“If the government can commit troops to peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia, why not ensure the safety of schools in the Rwenzori region, where threats to government institutions are escalating?” Elizabeth Bagaya, head teacher of Kitumba Secondary School asked.

Atuhaire Trophy, head teacher of St Leo’s College Kyegobe, underscored the urgency of deploying armed police and military personnel in schools, especially as institutions prepare their budgets for security in the upcoming academic year.

Deputy Head teachers Edward Itote of Kaboyo Secondary and Byenkya Rashid of Kamengo Secondary voiced their concerns about the safety of students frequenting nightclubs, dances, and film shows. They asked authorities to ban such establishments, fearing that students could become victims of violence.

In response to these concerns, Mr Businge Emmanuel, the Deputy Resident City Commissioner for Fort Portal Central Division, assured the people that the economy would continue to function normally, rejecting the proposal to close bars and nightclubs. He encouraged vigilance among residents and promised that security forces were deployed throughout the region. Additionally, he announced the recruitment of Local Defence Units (LDU) in Rwenzori

this November to enhance security measures.

Kihembo Pius, Superintendent of Police for Fort Portal North Division, reassured the public that security forces were actively working to prevent further incidents. He stated that while film shows and nightclubs would not be closed, their operations would be regulated to ensure safety.

Joseph Mashuhuko, the mayor of North Division, condemned political leaders who have dismissed the attacks as government fabrications. He urged leaders to avoid politicizing the situation and instead focus on educating the public about the importance of safeguarding peace and security.

Minister Rusoke advised school head teachers to establish robust security systems, implement thorough checks, and limit school visitations. She also

promised to invite the Minister of Defence to engage with Rwenzori region leaders to discuss long-term strategies for maintaining peace.

As schools call for government assistance in securing their environments, Rusoke emphasized the importance of prioritizing security in school budgets, especially given the significant fees charged to students. Rusoke has been on forefront buying radio airtime to sensitize the people and change mindset about the Rwenzori attacks, the effects it has on the people and the economy.

The recent attacks have highlighted the urgent need for enhanced security measures in Rwenzori schools, prompting a collective call for action to protect students and educational institutions from potential threats.



School Head Teacher Raises Her Concerns

SWEDISH DELEGATION VISITS KAMWENGU DISTRICT TO STRENGTHEN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

By Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer, Kamwenge District



Group photo of the Swedish parliamentarian with kamwenge District Technical and political team headed by District chairperson Hon Karungi Joseph.

Kamwenge District, in a recent engagement was honored to host a high-profile delegation from Sweden led by Members of Parliament representing eight political parties, the Swedish Ambassador to Uganda, the UNICEF Country Representative, and Dr Limlim from UNICEF Fort Portal Field Office.

The delegation was welcomed at the District Council Chambers on Thursday, October 30, 2025, by the District Chairperson, Hon Karungi Joseph, together with members of the District Executive Committee, heads of departments, & the Rwamwanja Field Office leadership.

The purpose of the visit was to share the impact of UNICEF's continued support to Kamwenge District over the years and to discuss sustainability strategies for ongoing and future programs.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr. Emmanuel Nkurunungyi, the Principal Assistant Secretary representing the Chief Administrative Officer,

expressed gratitude to UNICEF for its unwavering support in implementing development projects within the District. He appreciated the dedication of the technical team and the strong co-operation from the political leadership led by the District Chairperson, which has enabled the district to register notable achievements in service delivery.

In his welcoming remarks, Hon Karungi Joseph highlighted that Kamwenge, as a refugee-hosting district, continues to benefit from UNICEF's interventions, especially in areas of Education, health, and sanitation. He noted that the district hosts refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan.

The Chairperson further appreciated UNICEF's assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed concern over



District chairperson welcoming the visitors in the council hall



Guest being entertained by Congolese students at Rwamwanja S.S

challenges arising from reduced food rations by the World Food Programme despite the growing refugee population. He emphasized that such reductions have placed pressure on district resources across all sectors. Hon. Karungi commended the Swedish delegation for their visit, describing it as a great honor and the beginning of a lasting partnership between Kamwenge District and the Kingdom of Sweden.

After the official engagements, the delegation made a field visit to Byabasambu Village in Rukunyu Town Council to observe Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and WASH activities. The team interacted with households to assess sanitation practices and observe community-led nutrition initiatives aimed at combating malnutrition and stunting among children and the elderly.

The delegation then proceeded to Rwamwanja Secondary School to

observe ongoing education and health interventions supported by UNICEF. The visit included demonstrations of Life Skills Education, Digital Learning Programs, and a Health Outreach Initiative led by the students.

The Head Teacher, Mr Ntwatwa Oscar, gave a historical background of the school, which was founded in 1997 by the local community with support from the settlement commandant. It was later grant-aided by the Government of Uganda in 2004, starting with 270 students. Today, the school has grown to an impressive enrolment of 2,053 learners, serving both nationals and refugees.

Mr Ntwatwa thanked UNICEF, UNHCR, and other partners for their consistent support, noting that the school's academic performance has greatly improved, with several students advancing to higher institutions of learning both locally and internationally. He highlighted the integration of life skills, agricultural practices, environmental conservation, and digital learning—all supported by UNICEF—under the new national lower secondary curriculum.

Speaking at the event, Ms Juliet Nakiwala, representing UNHCR, commended the Government of Uganda for its open-door refugee policy, which allows equitable access to services for both nationals and refugees. She praised Rwamwanja Secondary School as a model of peaceful coexistence, where learners from different countries study and grow together as one community.

On behalf of the visiting delegation, Hon Joar Forsseh, Member of the Swedish Parliament and team leader, expressed deep appreciation to the leadership of Kamwenge District for the warm hospitality and the impressive progress made in improving community welfare.

Finally, Dr Robin Nandy, UNICEF Country Representative in Uganda,

thanked the District Chairperson and the entire Kamwenge leadership for their collaboration in implementing UNICEF programs and for their dedication to addressing the needs of both refugees and host communities. He reaffirmed UNICEF's commitment to continue supporting Kamwenge District in promoting education, health, and child protection.

The visit underscored Kamwenge District's role as a key partner in humanitarian and development work, showcasing the positive impact of collaboration between local government, international agencies, and development partners such as UNICEF and the Swedish government.



Dr Joar MP delegation (team Leader) addressing the team in the District Council Hall.



Dr Robin Nandy UNICEF, Country Director Uganda, speaking during the meeting.

KYENJOJO: RWENZORI YOUTHS URGED TO HARNESS MEDIA FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND POSITIVE CHANGE

Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer-Kyenjojo

Media Practitioners have called on the youth from across western Uganda to tap into the potential of media as a tool for national development and societal transformation. The event, “The Role of Media to the Youth in Uganda,” was organized by the Tooro Industrial Hub management in collaboration with the Kyenjojo District Local Government, bringing together young people from Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, Kabarole, Bunyangabu, and Kyegegwa districts.

The training session held at the Tooro Zonal Industrial Hub in Kijwiiga, Kyenjojo District was intended to teach the youth how media can be used as a tool for empowerment, civic participation, and information sharing.

Speaking during the session, facilitators emphasized that media both traditional and digital remains a vital instrument

in shaping attitudes, building skills, and amplifying youth voices in Uganda’s development agenda.

According to Johnson Atuhaire, the District Communication Officer, at Kyenjojo District, media is not just about entertainment but a platform for education, innovation, and national transformation. “Young people must learn to use local media to tell success stories, promote government programs, and inspire their peers to participate in community development,” Atuhaire said.

The training highlighted how radio, television, social media, and community



platforms can be used to spread awareness about initiatives such as the Parish Development Model (PDM), Emyooga, and Youth Livelihood Program (YLP). Participants were also encouraged to create positive content that promotes patriotism, discipline, and entrepreneurship among youth.

Participants also discussed challenges associated with irresponsible media use, including misinformation, cyberbullying, and exposure to harmful content. They also emphasized calls for media literacy education, ethical reporting, and digital safety awareness to help young people navigate the modern communication landscape responsibly.

Captain Denis Kakuru, the Head mindset change at Tooro Industrial Hub, commended the initiative, noting that empowering youth with communication skills supports the government's efforts toward socio-economic transformation. "When our young people understand how to use media constructively, they become ambassadors of development and peace. We encourage them to

use their voices to promote unity and productivity within their communities," he said.

The Tooro Zonal Industrial Hub, one of Uganda's regional skilling centers, continues to provide youth with training in various trades including tailoring, carpentry, welding, bakery, and now communication skills aimed at enhancing employability and self-reliance.

Participants expressed appreciation for the hands-on training, pledging to use local radio and social media platforms to share development information and inspire other youth across the Tooro region.

The training concluded with a call to action for all young people to embrace responsible media use as a pathway to national growth, innovation, and transformation.





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