



FEATURE STORY | PG.04

OMUSINGA BIRTHDAY RUN UNITES RWENZORI REGION IN PEACE AND PROGRESS

HIGHLIGHTS

Omusinga Birthday Run Unites
Rwenzori Region in Peace and
Progress...**Page 4**

Kamwenge District Hosts Partners Co-
ordination Meeting: Leaders Call for
Stronger Collaboration Amid Funding
Gaps...**Page 6**

Empowering Communities: Rwengaju
Households Benefit Heifer Donation
to Foster Poverty Alleviation Agenda
in Kabarole...**Page 9**

Kabarole District Reinforces Support
to Children with Disabilities as IDEC
Project Phase-Out...**Page 11**

HIGHLIGHTS (C.T.D)

QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK: A PILLAR OF CONSERVATION AND TOURISM DRIVING UGANDA'S GROWTH...**Page 14**

Kyenjojo District Holds Community Baraza to Strengthen Accountability and Citizen Engagement...**Page 17**

Hands-On Farming School Opens in Bunyangabu, Revolutionizes Agriculture & Productivity...**Page 20**

The Unbreakable Bond of Tibu and Jacob: A Tale of Lion Brothers at Queen Elizabeth National Park...**Page 22**

Key Kyenjojo-Kyakatwire-Kamwenge Road Gets US\$118 Million Upgrade to Boost Local Trade...**Page 24**

KYENJOJO DISTRICT RECEIVES HIGH-PRECISION TABLETS TO FAST-TRACK CUSTOMARY LAND TITLING...**Page 26**



Contributors

Kabugho Sharon,
Communication Officer-Kasese

Joy Kiiza, Senior
IT-Officer-Kamwenge

By Stephen Ainganiza,
Communication Officer-Kabarole

Johnson Atuhairu,
Communication Officer-Kyenjojo

Christopher Tusiime,
Communication Officer-Bunyangabu

Bigabwenkya Vincent
Ag Communication Officer-Kitagwenda



TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

CHIEF EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the
16th Edition
of Rwenzori

Times, where we bring you stories of resilience, transformation, and progress from across the Rwenzori sub-region. This issue captures the pulse of our communities from the farms and classrooms to infrastructure and wetlands highlighting how local initiatives and government programmes are shaping lives and futures.

As you read through, this edition gives a snippet of our stories including:

- Omusinga Birthday Run Unites Rwenzori Region in Peace and Progress
- Kamwenge District Hosts Partners Co-ordination Meeting: Leaders Call for Stronger Collaboration Amid Funding Gaps

➤ Kabarole District Reinforces Support to Children with Disabilities as IDEC Project Phases Out

➤ Hands-On Farming School Opens in Bunyangabu, Revolutionizes Agriculture & Productivity

➤ The Unbreakable Bond of Tibu and Jacob: A Tale of Lion Brothers at Queen Elizabeth National Park

➤ Key Kyenjojo-Kyakatwire-Kamwenge Road Gets US\$118 Million Upgrade to Boost Local Trade

We extend sincere gratitude to the field officers for their dedication, creativity, and professionalism they bring to every issue. Their relentless pursuit of truth and passion for storytelling enriches our magazine and inspires our readers. Thank you for your exceptional contributions!

As always, Rwenzori Times remains committed to telling the stories that matter and amplifying the voices driving positive change in our communities.

Best Regards,
Rwenzori Times.

**KABUGHO
SHARON**

Editor



**AINGANIZA
STEPHEN**

Editor

OMUSINGA BIRTHDAY RUN UNITES RWENZORI REGION IN PEACE AND PROGRESS



Participants in the Birthday run doing warm-up exercises at Nyakasanga grounds.

Kabugho Sharon, Communication Officer-Kasese

The inaugural Omusinga Birthday Run held at Nyakasanga Play Ground in Kasese Municipality on 14th November 2025 has become a symbol of unity, peace, and collaboration between the Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu (OBR) and the Government of Uganda. The event, which coincided with the 59th coronation anniversary of Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere, attracted thousands of participants from across the Rwenzori region.

In a message delivered by Kasese RDC

Lt Joe Walusimbi, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni appealed to the people of Kasese, particularly OBR subjects, to be ambassadors of peace.

The President emphasized that peace is the cornerstone of sustainable prosperity, noting that instability hinders economic activities including business, agriculture, transport, and tourism; the latter being a significant source of foreign income for Uganda.

“Security begins with you. Guard the peace jealously, especially in Kasese, which has immense tourism potential,” Museveni said. He also urged residents to collaborate with security agencies by providing timely information on

suspicious activities, underlining the role of communities in maintaining safety.

While Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere was absent due to medical treatment in Turkey, OBR Prime Minister Benson Kule Baritazale represented the king and used the platform to unveil a five-year strategic plan aimed at cultural revival.

Baritazale stressed that the kingdom's development hinges on the five pillars of the rebranded OBR: peace, unity, reconciliation, mindset change, and socio-economic transformation. He revealed plans to establish a One-Stop Cultural Village and a cultural radio station to promote Rwenzururu heritage.

“The Kingdom Run is a beacon of hope for cultural revival and collaboration with government. Achieving our strategic vision requires commitment to peace and cooperation with all stakeholders,” he said.

Several government leaders used the occasion to highlight their commitment to Kasese's development:

Kasese Municipality MP Ferigo Kambale commended the government for supporting the OBR with vehicles for the royal family and medical assistance for the Omusinga. He also highlighted multi-billion-shilling investments in urban roads, flood control,

and infrastructure under the USMID program.

LC5 Chairperson Eliphazi Muhindi Bukombi revealed that the district has allocated one acre of land to the OBR kingdom for constructing a One-Stop Cultural Village and announced plans to introduce a university on the same site.

The Kingdom Run brought together OBR subjects, government officials, and community members, symbolizing a renewed partnership between the cultural institution and the state. Beyond the physical exercise, the event served as a platform to promote peace, cultural identity, and socio-economic development.



Kings run in Motion as participants celebrate

KAMWENGE DISTRICT HOSTS PARTNERS COORDINATION MEETING: LEADERS CALL FOR STRONGER COLLABORATION AMID FUNDING GAPS



Joy Kiiza, Senior IT-Officer-Kamwenge

Kamwenge District convened its quarterly Partners Coordination Meeting, bringing together over 52 development partners, district officials, and the UNHCR Field Associate to review progress, address challenges, and strengthen collaboration in service delivery.

The gathering, held at the district

headquarters, exemplifies a unified commitment to development, aligned with the 2018 Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) guidelines. These guidelines promote harmonious efforts across sectors; including health, water, sanitation, education, child protection, livelihoods, energy, environment, and infrastructure supported



Hon Mbonigaba Fred Secretary for social services

actively by UNHCR.

Madam Harriet Katusiime, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), opened the meeting with a heartfelt welcome, expressing appreciation for the ongoing support from development agencies. She noted that the last meeting was held in July and emphasized the significance of continued partnership:

“From comprehensive HIV care to water and sanitation programs, and the wellbeing of our women and children your contributions are making a real difference in the lives of the people of Kamwenge,” she said.

Madam Katusiime extended special recognition to UNHCR, highlighting its steadfast partnership and recent donation of a vehicle to bolster district coordination and monitoring efforts. She also applauded the technical teams, security agents led by the Resident District Commissioner, and the District Chairperson for providing strong leadership vital to advancing development initiatives.

The district reported key achievements over the current financial year. Notably, a successful local government assessment by the Office of the Prime Minister confirmed the district’s performance excellence.

Kamwenge also hosted a delegation from the National Medical Stores Board, exchanging best practices in medicine management. Despite broader national challenges, the district demonstrated resilience in education by successfully conducting Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE), and Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) exams their success testimony to the unwavering commitment to learning.

However, progress does not come without hurdles. The district faces several pressing issues:

Reduced Partner Funding: A decline in funding from some partners has created gaps, especially in health, education, and livelihoods.

Strain on Natural Resources: Decreased food rations from the World Food Programme and an influx of asylum seekers have stressed land, water, and other vital resources.

Increasing Domestic Violence: Reports of rising domestic violence cases highlight urgent needs for community awareness and psycho-social support.

UNHCR Field Associate Madam Janet Asiimwe acknowledged the district's ongoing support to refugees, noting an 80% increase in

medical supplies delivered to refugee settlements and improved routine monitoring of services. However, she voiced concerns about limited funding. "Funding declines mean some commitments to refugees may not be fulfilled. Partners are encouraged to continue fundraising," she said.

She emphasized the importance of impactful intervention by new actors.

While more Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Refugee-Led Organizations have been approved, their impact remains minimal.

Madam Asiimwe urged the district and town council to finalize and execute the Nkoma-Katalyeba Town Council Physical Plan, develop zoning for key facilities, address urgent sanitation needs, and curb illegal schools operating within settlements. She also called for the replacement of health workers recently transferred out of refugee settlements.

Hon Fred Mbonigaba, the District Chairperson, expressed gratitude to all partners. "We are grateful for contributions toward improving the livelihoods of our people across various service sectors. The district remains committed to supporting partners to ensure effective service delivery," he said.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: RWENGAJU HOUSEHOLDS BENEFIT HEIFER DONATION TO FOSTER POVERTY ALLEVIATION AGENDA IN KABAROLE

*By Stephen Ainganiza,
Communication Officer-
Kabarole*

Residents of Rwengaju, a model sub-county in Kabarole District, are experiencing a major boost in the livelihoods of families and promotion of sustainable income-generating activities. This was made possible through the donation of heifers by the Government of Uganda, through the Presidential Initiative on the Poverty Alleviation Program (PAD).

A total of 21 high-breed, in-calf heifers were distributed to an equivalent of households in Rwengaju. The program is designed to ensure that these heifers will be shared among community members, allowing all residents to benefit from this valuable resource.

Kiconco Josephine, the Assistant Private Secretary to the President at State House, said that the distribution of these cows followed



The Heifers Distributed to Beneficiaries

a rigorous accreditation and verification process conducted by the Sub-County Poverty Alleviation Program Committee. She assured the community that there will be strict monitoring of the beneficiaries to ensure the success of the initiative.

During the handover ceremony held at the Kyembogo Datic grounds, Mr Asaba Frank, the Assistant Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of

Kabarole, issued a stern warning to beneficiaries against selling or slaughtering the heifers, particularly during the festive Christmas season.

“The Government of Uganda and President Museveni have provided you with these heifers to enhance household income and combat poverty. I strongly advise you against slaughtering them for Christmas and New Year celebrations; instead, rear them to improve your family’s income,” he cautioned.

Mr Asaba further highlighted the President's commitment to empowering individuals at the household level, encouraging them to engage in income-generating activities that strengthen their livelihoods. “With peace and security in our nation, it is essential that we participate in activities that generate income and invest in our children's education for a better Uganda,” he added.

He also cautioned the local council leaders (LC1s) against issuing cattle movement permits during the night

without thorough investigations.

Mr Asaba urged beneficiaries to report any challenges they face in managing the cows, protect them from theft, and ensure they receive proper care to achieve optimal results.

Hon Resty Balinda, the Secretary for Production in Kabarole District, encouraged the community to support President Yoweri Museveni to safeguard these gains. “Rwengaju Model Village has benefited significantly from government initiatives, including water for production, the Parish Development Model (PDM), piglets, and poultry. This is clear evidence that you need to protect these gains and vote for President Museveni in 2026 to ensure the continued success of the National Resistance Movement (NRM),” she stated.

The donation of heifers represents a vital step towards empowering the residents of Rwengaju, fostering economic growth, and ultimately contributing to the eradication of poverty in the region.

KABAROLE DISTRICT REINFORCES SUPPORT TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AS IDEC PROJECT PHASE-OUT



By Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer-Kabarole

Kabarole District is poised for a significant transition in its approach to supporting individuals with disabilities, particularly young children, as it prepares to take over the Interventions for Disabilities in Early Childhood (IDEC) project. This shift comes as UNICEF and Finn Church Aid, the primary funders of the initiative, prepare to withdraw their support after four years of collaboration.

Dr Kalyegira Stephen, the District Health Officer, shared insights into

Dr Openyo George, the Commissioner Ministry of Health speaking about government's commitment to supporting children with disabilities.

the district's readiness for this transition during a meeting with ministry officials and representatives from the two organizations.

Over the past four years, Kabarole District has made remarkable strides in screening and referring children with disabilities, particularly those aged 0-3 years, in the sub-counties of Ruteete, Kabende, and Karambi in Fort Portal Tourism City. Dr Kalyegira expressed gratitude for the inval-

uable support, training, and mentorship provided by UNICEF and Finn Church Aid, which have significantly enhanced the district's capacity to identify and address the needs of children with disabilities.

The IDEC project has facilitated home visits and screenings at Child Development Centers, enabling timely referrals to specialized facilities such as the Kyaninga Child Development Center for speech therapy and physiotherapy, as well as Fort Portal Regional Hospital for essential services like shoe fitting and CORSU specialized Hospital Entebbe. The collaboration has proven vital in ensuring that children with disabilities receive the necessary care and support.

Nyakojo Francis, the IDEC District Focal Person, affirmed the district's preparedness for the transition, highlighting the training of district staff and Village Health Teams (VHTs) as key components of their success. With 37 caregivers trained and established IDEC committees at both the district and sub-county levels, Kabarole is well-equipped to continue the vital work of screening and supporting

children with disabilities.

Recent statistics underscore the impact of the IDEC program. Between August and September 2025, 417 children were screened for vision, with only one failing the test. Additionally, 120 children were screened for motor and movement issues, with nine testing positive, while 122 children aged 18 months to 3 years were assessed for social and language skills, revealing seven cases of concern. These figures illustrate the importance of early intervention and the effectiveness of the IDEC program in identifying and addressing disabilities.

Dr Openytha George, Commissioner of the Ministry of Health, reiterated the government's commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities across the country.

He emphasized the need for all districts to integrate disability support into their budgets and development



IDEC Members , FCA and UNICEF meeting in the chairman's boardroom

plans, ensuring that the lessons learned from Kabarole's experience can be shared and replicated elsewhere. "People with disabilities are Ugandans and need our support," he stated.

Dr Fred Kagwire, UNICEF Health Specialist, highlighted the importance of self-sustainability for Kabarole District. As the district approaches the end of its five-year partnership with UNICEF, he encouraged local leaders to prioritize resources for individuals with disabilities and invest in data reporting, case identification, and referrals.

Malnutrition remains a pressing issue in many communities, particularly in regions where agricultural practices prioritize cash crops over the nutritional needs of children. Mr Esau Atwongyiere, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Specialist at Finn Church Aid Uganda, stressed the need for the district to integrate IDEC with nutrition initiatives, particularly in hotspot areas like Kijura, Hakibaale, Kabende, and Busoro.

He advocated for the development of tools to address malnutrition, sanitation, and hygiene, emphasizing

that the responsibility for children's health should not solely rely on external support.

Statistics on malnutrition in Uganda paint a concerning picture. According to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS), approximately 29% of children under five years are stunted, while 10% are wasted. For Tooro region, Kabarole inclusive stunting standards at 38%. These figures highlight the urgent need for comprehensive interventions that address both disabilities and nutrition in early childhood development.

As Kabarole District prepares for the IDEC transition, the commitment to supporting children with disabilities and improving nutritional outcomes remains paramount. The collaboration between local authorities, health officials, and community members will be crucial in ensuring that the progress made over the past four years is not only sustained but also expanded to benefit more children in need.

QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK: A PILLAR OF CONSERVATION AND TOURISM DRIVING UGANDA'S GROWTH



Elephants at the Queen Elizabeth National Park.

*Kabugho Sharon,
Communications officer-
Kasese*

forests, tree-climbing lions, vast wetlands of international importance, and endangered biodiversity that make it one of Africa's most diverse ecosystems.

The park is also recognized as a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve, underscoring its global ecological value.

Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP), one of Uganda's flagship protected areas, continues to play a central role in promoting tourism, supporting community livelihoods, and conserving the country's rich biodiversity. The park's remarkable natural endowment and strategic conservation initiatives make it a vital contributor to Uganda's economy and global image as a premier tourism destination.

Located in South-western Uganda, QENP stands as a proof to the country's natural wealth. It boasts unique scenic landforms, underground rain-

During an engagement with communication officers visiting the park, Mr Kiwanuka Sennyonjo Paulo Godfrey, speaking on behalf of the Chief Warden, Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area (QECA), revealed that the park generated UGX 8.76 billion in revenue in the 2024–2025 financial year, marking an 11.8% increase from the previous year's UGX 7.73 billion.

This growth highlights QENP's significant contribution to Uganda's tourism sector, which continues to be one of the country's leading



Communications officers on the Kazinga Channel

sources of foreign exchange and employment.

The park received approximately 8,000 visitors during the year, a figure that reflects both its appeal to local and international tourists and the steady post-pandemic recovery of Uganda's tourism industry. Among the park's major tourism products are game drives, boat cruises, nature and forest walks, camping, and experiential lion tracking, all of which attract visitors eager to experience Uganda's natural wonders.

Beyond tourism, QENP contributes to community development through UWA's revenue-sharing program, which allocates a portion of park earnings to neighboring communi-

ties. These funds support projects such as schools, health centers, and livelihood initiatives aimed at reducing human-wildlife conflict and fostering peaceful coexistence.

However, Mr Sennyonjo noted that the park continues to face challenges such as poaching, invasive plant species, and zoonotic diseases, which require continuous attention and community involvement. He emphasized that effective communication and collaboration are key to addressing these threats sustainably.

To strengthen partnerships in conservation awareness, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) organized a two-day familiarization tour for communications officers from 60 districts neighboring national parks across the country. The tour, held in Kasese from 11th to 13th November 2025, was designed to enhance their knowledge of wildlife conservation, build collaboration, and promote objective reporting on environmental issues.

During the tour, the officers participated in several experiential activities, including a boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel, a visit to the electric fence and invasive species clearance areas, a drive to the equator monument, and game drives that showcased the park's



iconic landscapes and wildlife diversity.

The communications officers expressed admiration for the park's beauty and the professionalism of UWA's conservation efforts. They commended UWA for recognizing the importance of the communication sector in advancing conservation messages and pledged to amplify awareness on wildlife protection and sustainable tourism

within their respective districts.

Queen Elizabeth National Park remains one of Uganda's greatest treasures — a living classroom for conservation, a driver of local economies, and a source of national pride. Its diverse habitats, ranging from savanna and forests to lakes and wetlands, support countless species and sustain both wildlife and human communities.

KYENJOJO DISTRICT HOLDS COMMUNITY BARAZA TO STRENGTHEN ACCOUNTABILITY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



LCV addressing the Baraza

Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer-Kyenjojo

Kyenjojo District has successfully held a Community Baraza at the district headquarters, an engagement forum organized by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in partnership with Twaweza-Uganda, a civil society organization working in the district. The event, brought together district leaders, sector heads, and community representatives for open dialogue on service delivery and government performance.



RDC and heads of department at the Baraza

The Baraza provided a platform for government departments to present and defend their sector performance for the Financial Year 2024/2025. Heads of departments made detailed presentations on ongoing programs, completed projects, challenges faced, and the budget outcomes for their respective sectors. The interactive session allowed citizens and stakeholders to seek clarifications and engage directly with technical officers on matters affecting their communities.

Addressing the participants, district leaders emphasized the importance of public accountability forums in improving service delivery. They noted that Barazas help bridge the information gap between citizens and government by enabling transparent discussions on development priorities and

resource utilization.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Masereka Amis Asuman, commended the departments for preparing comprehensive summaries of their work and urged them to continue prioritizing accurate reporting and responsiveness to citizens' needs. He further thanked the OPM and Twaweza-Uganda for supporting participatory governance in Kyenjojo District.

He informed the gathering that Kyenjojo District has been in existence for 25 years now, after being cut from the greater Kabarole district, has three constituencies, and 31 Lower Local Governments, currently has a population of 543,993 as per the recent Census. Kyenjojo District as one of the pilots for Parish Development Model (PDM), has so far received over 16bn,

which has changed beneficiaries lives and the district entirely for the better.

He further informed the congregation that all expected capital projects had been implemented, the 1bn received for improving road works put to use, with the road network improved. He however echoed the call for overhauling the road unit as most of the equipment was so old and was breaking down time and again.

On project implementation, he informed the baraza that Kyarusozi and Kigaraale Seed Schools under the School Facility Grant were in progress, with Kigaraale at 92% completion, and Kyarusozi at 60%, and expected to be completed by December 2025, with the funds available.

The District Chairperson, Hon Gilbert Rubaihayo, thanked the heads of departments for their efforts to implement projects in the district. He informed the baraza that because of the good working relationship between the technical and political wings of the district, the 52bn budget had been implemented 100%, corruption weeded out of the district, and all government programs implemented as planned. He

appealed for constant engagements and feedback between the public and district administration so the district can develop with all parties involved and part of the process.

He however, decried the low staffing levels at 68%, and yet expected to perform at optimum level, shortage of classrooms and teachers, with current teacher shortage at 552, shortage of extension workers, which adversely affects quality of services.

He thanked the government for the upgrade of 7 health center IIs to Health center IIIs, and requested for a wage enhancement to have enough staff in these facilities. He also appealed for the expansion of Kyenjojo Hospital, and requested government for funds to enable this upgrade and expansion to serve the extremely large population, being on the high way.

The forum concluded with a call for continued collaboration between citizens, civil society, and local government to enhance monitoring of public services and ensure that district programs reflect the needs of the people.

BUNYANGABU LAUNCHES FIRST FARMER FIELD SCHOOL TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Christopher Tusiime, Communication Officer-Bunyangabu



Secretary Production Hon Amon Rutenta

Bunyangabu District has launched its first Farmer Field School in Mwigenywa Village, Kiyombya Sub-County, as part of efforts to enhance agricultural production and promote modern farming practices.

District Agricultural Engineer Brenda Oshaba said the initiative is designed to offer farmers practical, hands-on training in improved farming techniques, while creating a platform where they can regularly meet, discuss

challenges, and find solutions together with extension workers.

“We plan to establish two more field schools in other parts of the district. For now, we are starting with Kiyombya,” she said.

The school was officially launched on Wednesday, 19th November, 2025 at the home of Sister Sylvia Akugizibwe, who offered her land for the practical sessions.

Representing the LCV Chairperson Mr James Ategeka Mugarama, Mr Amon Rutenta, Secretary for Works, Production, Natural Resources, and Security explained that Kiyombya was chosen because it has long been renowned for banana production, a reputation threatened in recent years by declining farming standards.

“Kiyombya has supplied bananas not only within Bunyangabu and Tooro but even to Kampala. We want to restore the quality of these bananas so that production increases and households earn more,” he said.

Addressing farmers, Engineer Oshaba clarified that the field school is not a classroom structure but a demonstration garden where participants will also gain skills in livestock and poultry



Agricultural Engineer Brenda Oshaba

“We shall debunk stereotypes and ensure farmers learn the right methods and can defend them. We will also follow up with each farmer to monitor progress,” he said.

Farmers welcomed the intervention, describing it as timely and transformative.



Farmers during a meeting

management. She encouraged households in the area to take full advantage of the programme.

Extension worker Mr Moses Byamukama, who led a detailed orientation for farmers, noted that the training will help demystify misconceptions about farming while strengthening the scientific understanding behind indigenous practices.

“This comes as a miracle for us. Learning by doing will help us improve quickly,” Mr Kisembo Reuben, LC1 Chairperson of Mwigenywa and one of the beneficiary farmers said.

THE UNBREAKABLE BOND OF TIBU AND JACOB: A TALE OF LION BROTHERS AT QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK



The lion brothers, Tibu and Jacob.

**Bigabwenkya Vincent Ag Communication
Officer-Kitagwenda**

In the heart of Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park, two lion brothers, Tibu and Jacob, are defying the odds and making headlines with their incredible story of survival and resilience. Jacob, a 13-year- three-legged lion, and his brother Tibu have been inseparable since birth, and their bond has been put to the test time and time again.



Jacob, a 13 year-three-legged lion

Their most daring adventure yet was a record-breaking swim across

the crocodile-infested Kazinga Channel, a treacherous waterway that separates lake George and lake Edward. The brothers made multiple attempts, with Jacob's missing leg making the journey even more daunting. But driven by the courage to escape territorial battles by strong males in Ishasha sector, they persevered and successfully crossed the channel in about 6-10 minutes.

Jacob's story is one of remarkable resilience. He lost his leg to a poacher's snare, was gored by a buffalo, yet he continues to thrive. Tibu, his loyal brother, has been by his side throughout, and together they've adapted to their new reality. Jacob has even learned to hunt like a leopard, using ambush tactics to catch prey.

Their story highlights the challenges facing lions in Queen Elizabeth National Park, including poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and declining populations. The park's lion population has dropped significantly approximately to 80 individuals, with males now outnumbering females two to one.

Sir Major Owoyesiga Bernard, the tourist guide Queen Elizabeth National Park narrates that, Tibu and Jacob's incredible journey is a testament to the strength of their bond and their will to survive.

The lion population in the Ishasha sector has declined over the last decade. The Wildlife Conservation Service estimates that the number of lions has fallen from 6 lions per 100km² to 4 lions per 100km² in the last 10 years.

Human behaviour is a major threat to lions in Ishasha. Conflict between lions and local herdsman is common. Herdsman often leave their cattle unattended at night, and lions have been known to attack their livestock.

Some herdsman retaliate by poisoning the carcasses of their livestock and in 2018, 11 lion carcasses were found in Ishasha. Insecticide poison was found in their bodies.

The Wildlife Conservation Service is working tirelessly to mitigate the human-lion conflict. The WCS has cleared land outside the park, allowing herdsman to relocate to fertile grazing lands outside the territory of the lions.

KEY KYENJOJO–KYAKATWIRE– KAMWENG ROAD GETS USHS118 MILLION UPGRADE TO BOOST LOCAL TRADE

*Johnson Atuhairu,
Communication Officer-
Kyenjojo*

Government of Uganda has launched a Shs118 million road maintenance project covering a critical 14-kilometer stretch of the Kyenjojo–Kyakatwire–Kamwenge road, a route that connects Nyantungo Subcounty, Kigaraale, and Kyakatwire Town Council to Kamwenge District.

The project was officially flagged off by Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Julian Sarah Ayesiga, together



RDC and the LCV launch the road works.

with District Chairperson Hon Gilbert Rubaihayo and Chief Administrative Officer Masereka Amis Asuman. The



RDC, LCV and CAO together with other leaders at the launch.



RDC, LCV and CAO together with other leaders at the launch.

works involve grading and first-class murram surfacing aimed at improving mobility, trade, and service delivery in the area.

Speaking during the launch, the RDC directed District Engineer, Eng. Steven Kusemererwa to ensure that the works progress swiftly and meet the expected standards. She emphasized the need for efficiency and transparency, noting that communities rely heavily on the road for accessing health services, markets, and schools.

District leaders acknowledged that while the road requires major rehabilitation, the funds allocated can only cover a portion of the works. Kyenjojo Town Council, which also depends on the route, will not receive maintenance under the current budget due to funding shortfalls.

“We ask the public to remain patient.

We are engaging the central government to take over this road so that it can be upgraded to tarmac,” Chairperson LC V, Hon Gilbert Rubaihayo said.

The CAO echoed the appeal, stressing that the district is committed to improving transport infrastructure despite limited resources. He further stressed that despite the district receiving 1bn for road works per year, this comes in bits of 250m per quarter which becomes hard to do extensive works at once.

Local leaders and residents from Nyantungo, Kigaraale, and Kyakatwire welcomed the project but cautioned against substandard work. They urged Engineer Stephen Kusemererwa to avoid what they termed “shoddy work” and ensure that sufficient murram is applied throughout the stretch. Community members also pledged to contribute additional murram to support the initiative for a better road.

The Kyenjojo–Kyakatwire–Kamwenge road serves as an important inter-district link, facilitating agricultural trade and daily transport between Kyenjojo and Kamwenge districts. The maintenance works are expected to improve accessibility and reduce transport costs once completed.

KYENJOJO DISTRICT RECEIVES HIGH- PRECISION TABLETS TO FAST-TRACK CUSTOMARY LAND TITLING

Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer-Kyenjojo

CORDAID, through the Agricultural Governance Results Improvement Project (A-GRIP), has handed over advanced high-precision GNSS tablets to the Natural Resources Department of Kyenjojo District Local Government to boost land tenure security and agricultural development. The Agricultural Governance Results Improvement Project (A-GRIP) is a 5-year initiative in Uganda focused on transforming smallholder farming by strengthening local government services in two critical areas: land tenure security and agricultural extension/food production.

The equipment, consisting of several P8 SinoGNSS high-precision surveying tablets, will be used for accurate land mapping across the district. The



DCAO speaks at the handover function

devices enable survey-grade GPS positioning essential for demarcating boundaries and processing Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCOs) under Uganda's land laws.

A Certificate of Customary Ownership (CCO) is a formal land title issued under Uganda's Land Act 1998 (as amended in 2010) that recognizes and protects land held under customary tenure – the most common form of land ownership in rural Uganda.

Speaking on the initiative, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) Kyenjojo, Mr. Yiga Martin Paul, high-

lighted that the tablets will streamline the systematic registration of customary land, a process that has historically been slow and costly for rural communities. Secure land titles are expected to reduce land disputes, encourage long-term investment in farming, and

ultimately contribute to improved food security in the region.

The District Chairperson, Hon Gilbert Rubaihayo speaking at the function, said that the issuance of these tablets marks a turning point in how the officers handle land matters in Kyenjojo.



Mr Martin Ojara hands over the tablets to Hon Gilbert Rubaihayo in the presence of Assistant RDC Mr Bwambale Geoffrey



The field assistants in a group photo with the LCV, DCAO and CORDAID officials after the handover.

“Farmers will now have an easier path to formal ownership, which means more confidence to plant perennial crops, access credit, and increase productivity,” he remarked.

The District Natural Resources Officer, Mr Paul Agaba thanked CORDAID for the efforts to make customary land ownership a reality, with the initial steps to acquiring a certificate of customary ownership, and noted while testing the new equipment, “This is not just a tablet, it’s a ticket to a better future for our farmers,” Mr Agaba stated.



The recruited officers at the function ready to receive the tablets.

The Regional Lead Verifier, Rwenzori region, Mr Ojara Martin, thanked the district for the cooperation, which has made their implementation easy. He pointed out that 12 Field assistants had been recruited, and trained, which would make their work easy.

He implored them to work closely with Area Land Committees, who had also been trained, for positive output. “This activity will initially start in sub counties of Katooke, Butiiti, Bugaaki, Nyantungo, Kihuura and Nyabirongo,” Mr Ojara said.

He requested the district authorities to have the tablets engraved, and entered in the assets register for close monitoring and control.

The handover is part of broader efforts under A-GRIP to strengthen agricultural governance and service delivery at the local level. CORDAID has been a

key implementing partner in Kyenjojo, supporting training, planning, and the deployment of technology to achieve measurable results in agriculture and natural resource management.

Local leaders have welcomed the development, stating that secure land tenure remains one of the biggest barriers to agricultural transformation in western Uganda. With the new tools now in place, the pace of issuing customary land certificates is expected to accelerate significantly in the coming months.

The A-GRIP project continues to work closely with Kyenjojo District to align these interventions with national priorities, including the Parish Development Model and the fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV).



✉ rwenzorieditorial@gmail.com

☎ 0701 498 242

Rwenzori
Tilnes 

