

FEATURE STORY | PG.22

KITAGWENDA INVESTS IN NEW BOREHOLE PROJECTS, SERVES RELIABLE WATER TO OVER 12,000 RESIDENTS

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TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

CHIEF EDITOR

Dear Reader.

Welcome to the 17th 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 programs are shaping lives and futures.

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

- ✓ Living with the Scars: How Esther Mbambu Is Fighting to Reclaim Her Life After Violence
- ✓ Stakeholders Conduct Review Meeting to Evaluate Disease (Malaria, TB & HIV) Control Performance
- ✓ Uganda Pentecostal University Prepares Academic Staff for Competency-Focused Education in Collective Training
- ✓ Bunyangabu Launches Multi-Million Water and Sanitation Projects to Improve Service Delivery
- ✓ MoLG Digitizes Ntoroko's Urban Councils with New ICT Equipment to Boost Revenue Management
- ✓ District Officials Trained to Strengthen Planning Through State

of Parish Economy and Asset Register (SPEAR) System

- ✓ Kitagwenda Invests in New Borehole Projects, Serves Reliable Water to Over 12,000 Residents

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



NATIONAL PRIORITIES TAKE PRIORITY IN KAMWENGE AS 2026/27 BUDGET PROCESS KICKS OFF

Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer-Kamwenge

Kamwenge District has officially launched the 2026/27 planning and budgeting cycle with a successful District Budget Conference held on 26th November 2025 at Cape Hotel Kamwenge. The highly attended event marked an important milestone in shaping the district's development agenda for the coming financial year.

The conference followed a joint

technical meeting held a day earlier on 25th November, 2025 at the District Headquarters, where departmental heads, implementing partners, and representatives from lower local governments harmonized their presentations. This preparatory session ensured that the inputs feeding into the main conference were well-consolidated, inclusive, and aligned with community priorities.

The Budget Conference served as a platform to gather stakeholder input





for the Budget Framework Paper for FY 2026/27. Participants were guided on national policy directions, sector priorities, and key planning guidelines for the upcoming year.

Heads of departments presented consolidated reports, incorporating contributions from implementing partners and reviewing the district's performance for FY 2024/25. Their presentations highlighted successes, persistent challenges, and evidence-based recommendations for improvement.

This year's planning is underpinned by the national budget theme: "Full Monetisation of Uganda's Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialisation, Expanding and Broadening Services, Digital Transformation, and Market Access."

Central to this agenda is the Parish Development Model (PDM), which continues to be the government's flagship approach for transitioning households from subsistence to commercial livelihoods.

In her remarks, the Chief Administrative Officer, Ms Harriet Katusiime, described the gathering as a foundational moment in the district's governance and planning journey. "This meeting is a cornerstone of our planning cycle. It allows us to collectively shape our priorities, review our performance, and align our resources with the aspirations of our people," she stated.

She emphasized that FY 2026/27 is a strategic year in the implementation of the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), whose core focus is development and wealth creation for sustainable livelihoods. "Together, we shall move Kamwenge District forward—from planning to production, from subsistence to prosperity, and



from promise to transformation," Ms Katusiime remarked.

District Planner Mr Bakesiima noted that this was the 24th Budget Conference since the establishment of the district. He explained that the budgeting process follows a constitutional amendment that champions bottom-up planning, where communities influence decisions from the grassroots to the district level.

He also reminded partners of their obligation under the NGO Policy to share work plans and budgets with the district to avoid duplication of resources and ensure coordinated development.

Mr Bakesiima outlined the district's

budget strategy for FY 2026/27, which he noted aims to accelerate economic growth by 10% in the medium term with the ultimate goal of building an independent, integrated, and self-sustaining economy.

The resident District commissioner, Ms Namara Loy Batuze applauded the CAO and district staff for organizing the important conference and thanked the political wing for its continuous guidance. She urged all stakeholders to remain focused on the central mission of the budgeting process-reducing poverty among the people of Kamwenge.

She concluded by expressing gratitude to the Government of Uganda, led by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, for ensuring peace, stability, and good governance pillars she described as essential for meaningful development.

UGANDA PENTECOSTAL UNIVERSITY PREPARES ACADEMIC STAFF FOR COMPETENCY-FOCUSED EDUCATION IN COLLECTIVE TRAINING



Makerere Dons and UPU Staff Pose in a Photo After the Training at Kalya Courts Hotel.

Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer-Kabarole

Uganda Pentecostal University (UPU), in Fort Portal Tourism City, Western Uganda is taking significant strides in enhancing the capabilities of its academic staff through transformative training programs aimed at implementing Uganda's Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC).

Introduced in 2020, the CBC represents a paradigm shift in education, moving

away from routine memorization towards fostering practical skills, critical thinking, and the application of knowledge in real-world contexts.

The CBC emphasizes learners' competencies, what they can do, rather than merely what they know. This innovative approach aims to equip students with essential skills for thriving in society, including effective communication, problem-solving, creativity, and environmental awareness.

The University's initiative of training its staff in CBC aligns with national educational reforms and prepares the University for the influx of high school graduates trained under this new curriculum.

UPU hosted a two-day training session at Kalya Courts in Fort Portal City, attracting lecturers from various faculties for an intensive and interactive learning experience.

The training was led by distinguished experts from Makerere University, including Prof Ronald Bisaso, Deputy Principal of the College of Education and External Studies, and Stephen Mpirirwe Byanagwa, Principal ICT Security Officer. These facilitators guided UPU staff through the philosophical principles and practical applications of the CBC.

Prof Bisaso explained that this curriculum aims to produce graduates who are prepared to create jobs and contribute meaningfully to society. "It emphasizes students' ability to demonstrate practical skills and apply knowledge to real-life situations, rather than simply accumulating classroom hours," he remarked. He urged educators to shift their focus from traditional lecturing to supporting students in real-life problem-solving scenarios.

Prof Mpirirwe highlighted the critical role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in modern education.

"I urge you, lecturers, to embrace digital tools to enhance student engagement, expand access to learning resources, support personalized and collaborative learning, and equip students with essential digital competencies," he advised.

Mr Niwakora Stanislas, a lecturer and Associate Dean of the Education Faculty at UPU, expressed gratitude to the visiting experts for their invaluable insights. "On behalf of the university, I extend our gratitude to the trainers for the knowledge shared with us. I feel fully equipped and well-prepared to deliver my lectures using the competence-based approach," he remarked.

The Vice Chancellor of Uganda Pentecostal University, Prof Pelucy Ntambirweki, described the training as a significant milestone in the university's commitment to educational transformation. "The adoption of the CBC approach will prepare UPU students to become innovators and job creators in an evolving global landscape," she stated.

Through these initiatives, UPU is not only enhancing the skills of its staff but also ensuring that its students are well-prepared to meet the challenges of a dynamic world.

LIVING WITH THE SCARS

HOW ESTHER MBAMBU IS FIGHTING TO RECLAIM HER LIFE AFTER VIOLENCE

*Kabugho Sharon,
communications officer-
Kasese*

The emotional and social wounds caused by domestic violence were brought into sharp focus during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Kasese Municipality. At the center of the discussion was the testimony of Esther Mbambu, a 36-year-old mother of four, whose life changed dramatically after experiencing severe domestic abuse earlier this year.

A Life Changed by Brutal Violence

Esther's experience revealed how violence in the home extends far beyond the moment of abuse. After surviving a brutal attack from her husband in May, she now lives with permanent physical disabilities. However, she emphasized that the true impact goes further than her injuries.



Esther Mbambu a GBV victim in Kasese sharing her story

A Troubling Life

Recovering physically required months of medical treatment, but coping with psychological trauma, fear, and the sudden loss of independence was even harder. Esther also found herself struggling with how to raise and provide for her four children after losing the ability to work as she once did.

Her situation reflects how domestic violence often pushes women into financial hardship, long-term health complications, emotional distress,

social isolation, and interrupted careers.

Even after leaving the hospital, Esther faced recurring stress and emotional exhaustion. Support from her family and humanitarian organizations helped her begin healing, but her journey remains challenging.

Her story shows how domestic violence disrupts entire households. Children of survivors often face loss of stability, anxiety, emotional insecurity, and reduced access to education.

What Our Leaders Say GBV

A visit from Rt Rev Nason Baluku, the Bishop of South Rwenzori Diocese, provided encouragement. His donation of a refrigerator and shop items allowed Esther to start a small business, restoring hope and independence.

Minister of State for Gender and Culture, Peace Regis Mutuuzo, noted that Kasese District is among the top in reported GBV cases, with about five incidents recorded daily. She urged leaders to intensify community sensitization and challenge harmful practices.

Representing the United Nations, Paulina Chiwangu emphasized the growing threat of digital violence, reminding participants that online

harassment and exploitation can have serious emotional impacts on women and girls.

A Word of Encouragement

Esther's story demonstrates why survivors need more than emergency assistance. They require access to counseling, economic empowerment opportunities, community protection, legal support, and safe spaces.

Domestic violence leaves lasting scars both visible and invisible. Esther's courage in sharing her story highlights the need for stronger prevention efforts and better support for survivors. Her resilience shows that healing is possible, but society must work collectively to ensure women can live free from fear and rebuild their lives with dignity.



*Hon. Peace Regis Mutuuzo,
Minister of State for Gender and Culture*

KAMWENGE

STAKEHOLDERS CONDUCT REVIEW MEETING TO EVALUATE DISEASE (MALARIA, TB & HIV) CONTROL PERFORMANCE

Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer-Kamwenge

Kamwenge District held a comprehensive Malaria Integrated Review Meeting on 21st November, 2025 at the District Headquarters, with

support from Mayanja Memorial Hospital Foundation. The meeting convened district leadership, heads of departments, health facility in-charges, VHT supervisors, implementing partners, and representatives from Baylor, World Vision, and the District Health Team.

The objective of the meeting was to assess the district's performance in the previous quarter regarding the management of malaria, tuberculosis (TB), and HIV, while formulating targeted strategies to enhance health outcomes. Discussions centred on disease burden trends, strengthening case management, and promoting data-driven decision making across the district.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Madam Harriet Katusiime, applauded Mayanja Memorial Foundation for its continued collaboration with Kamwenge District in combating communicable diseases. She



acknowledged the Foundation's essential role in malaria prevention efforts, including the distribution of mosquito nets and support for community sensitisation activities.

She further extended appreciation to Mr Nicholus Nimusiima, the Malaria Focal Person from Mayanja Memorial Foundation, for his unwavering dedication and exemplary service to the people of Kamwenge.

Dr Benerd Mayanja, Director of Mayanja Memorial Hospital Foundation, expressed gratitude to the district leadership for fostering an environment that supports effective implementation of health interventions. He recognised the combined efforts of all stakeholders working tirelessly to enhance healthcare delivery and improve community well-being.

Presenting the district's health data, District Biostatistician Mr Ampaire Rogers highlighted performance disparities among health facilities. While some centres demonstrated strong outcomes, others showed gaps requiring immediate attention. He emphasised the need for:

Consistent availability of Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) for malaria screening, immediate reporting of RDT stockouts, especially at Health Centre IIs, improved accuracy and



timeliness of weekly reporting, better alignment of outpatient department (OPD) registers with laboratory data, strengthening capacity for viral load sample collection for improved HIV management

District Health Officer Dr Mucunguzi William thanked Mayanja Memorial Foundation for its robust malaria interventions but raised concerns over declining fertility rates among women in the district. He also announced new developments in medical waste management.

Under the new system, individual health facility incinerators may soon be phased out. Instead, a regional incineration facility at Buhinga in Fort Portal will handle district medical waste. Waste collection vehicles will routinely pick up waste from health facilities to ensure safe and standardised disposal.

FREE LIVESTOCK MASSIVE VACCINATION EXERCISE KICKS OFF IN KAMWENGE DISTRICT



Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer-Kamwenge

Kamwenge District has launched a massive livestock vaccination campaign aimed at safeguarding all animals against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The week-long exercise began on Monday, 24th November 2025, and will run until Friday, covering every sub-county across the district.

The campaign follows the FMD outbreak that hit the district in February 2024. The disease, which originated from neighboring Ibanda District, rapidly spread to several

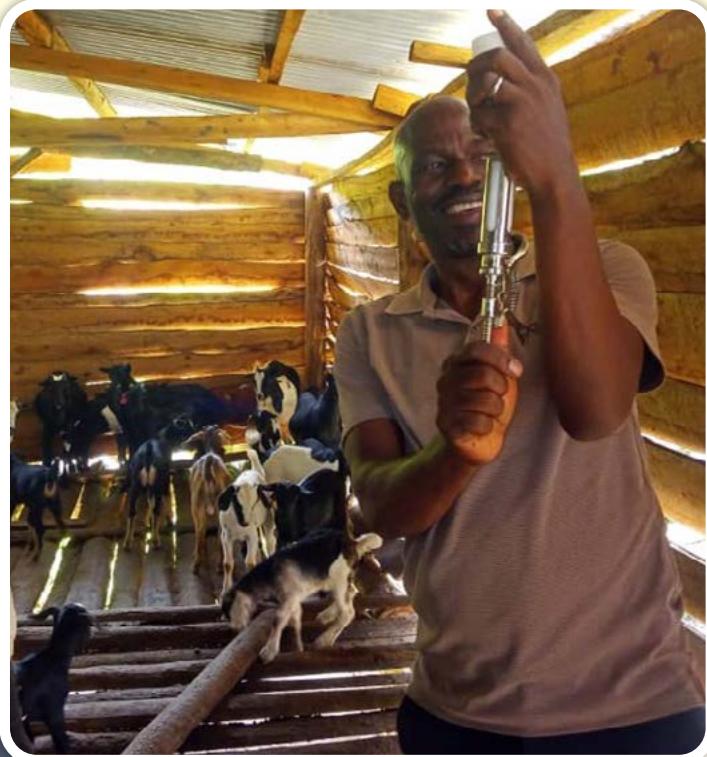
surrounding areas, affecting livestock productivity and household incomes. In response, and with strong support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Kamwenge District is now undertaking an extensive vaccination effort to protect all livestock and prevent future outbreaks.

According to Mr Rodgers Azalirwe, the Animal Production Officer for Kahunge Town Council, a coordinated team of animal production officers has been deployed across all sub-counties. He emphasized that the district is

committed to ensuring that no household is left out in this critical exercise.

Dr Mbago Paul, the Principal Veterinary Officer, Kamwenge, expressed gratitude to the Government of Uganda and MAAIF for strengthening the district's technical capacity. He highlighted the installation of a cold chain facility, which now enables the district to store large volumes of vaccines and other veterinary medicines efficiently making such large-scale interventions possible.

The district leadership encourages all livestock owners to cooperate with the vaccination teams to ensure maximum coverage and enhanced



disease control. This campaign marks a significant step toward restoring livestock health, strengthening the agricultural sector, and improving community livelihoods in Kamwenge District.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI TO PRESIDE OVER UGANDA PENTECOSTAL UNIVERSITY (UPU) 21ST GRADUATION CEREMONY

Stephen Ainganiza –Communication Officer-Kabarole

His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda, will preside over the Uganda Pentecostal

University (UPU) 21st graduation ceremony at the university's main campus in Mucwa, Fort Portal, Tourism City. Scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, 2025, held under the inspiring theme: "Empowering

Leaders for Community Transformation,” marks a historic milestone as it will be the first time the university hosts the president as the chief guest.

According to the University Secretary, Mr Andrew Byoona, the theme reflects the University's unwavering commitment to nurturing graduates who are prepared to lead with integrity, vision, and purpose. “UPU is profoundly honoured to host His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, who will preside over the ceremony as the Guest of Honour. His presence underscores the government's steadfast support for higher education and its dedication to fostering innovation and national development,” Mr Byoona stated.

The ceremony will also provide an opportunity to celebrate the university's notable achievements in research, community engagement, and academic excellence throughout the past year. Set within the serene and scenic environment of Fort Portal Tourism City, this year's graduation promises to be a memorable and dignified celebration, honouring not



The UPU New Campus in Kihembo

only the academic accomplishments of the Class of 2025 but also the collective efforts of staff, parents, and partners who have contributed to their success.

Over 500 students will receive their bachelor's degrees, diplomas, and certificates in various academic disciplines, with Law leading the numbers at 190 graduates, followed by Education with 70, and disciplines such as Business, Social Sciences, and Journalism among others.

According to Prof Pelucy Ntambirweki, the Vice Chancellor of UPU, Law is the university's niche, making it the fourth law school in Uganda. “The large number of students is due to our niche



Front View of Uganda Pentecostal University

since we started. Law is attractive, wide, and offers better chances of employment. We've welcomed doctors, teachers, business people, religious leaders, and government officials who come to study law," she explained.

Prof Ntambirweki highlighted the uniqueness of UPU, noting the flexibility and affordability of their programs for the neediest students from districts such as Kabarole, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Kamwenge, Kyenjojo, Kyeggegwaa, Ntoroko, Ibanda,

Kitagwenda, Bunyangabu, and Fort Portal, the host city. "We also received law students from Kenya," she added. The university offers 50% bursaries and scholarships to needy students, a program initiated after understanding the economic challenges faced by communities in the Rwenzori region. "Most of our lecturers practice law and maintain a good working relationship with the judiciary in Fort Portal, allowing our students to gain practical experience. By the time they go to the Law Development Center, they already possess the knowledge and skills to handle proceedings and clients. We also have moot courts on campus where students conduct court sessions," she noted.

As an achievement, Prof Ntambirweki said that this academic year, UPU added a School of Postgraduate Studies in Finance, Banking, and Management, as well as a Higher Education Access Certificate course. This initiative enables students who do not perform well at A-level to attain a one-year



Prof. Pelucy Ntambirweki UPU Vice Chancellor

certificate, allowing them to enrol in bachelor's degree courses. "We are proud to train the army and police force from this region. We are proud of our distinguished alumni in leadership who hold key national positions across various sectors," she remarked.

Notable alumni include Ambassador Adonia Ayebale, Uganda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Hon. Barnabas Tinkasiimire, MP for Buyaga West Constituency, Kagadi District; Mr Silver Kyagulanyi, Director of the Copyright Institute; Mr Oloya Steven, University Secretary at Soroti University; senior counsel Amany Cohen, former president of the Law Society of Kenya; and His Worship Hope Bagyenda, Chief Magistrate of Nakasongola, among others who are serving to promote socio-economic transformation in the country," the

Vice Chancellor concluded.

The Uganda Pentecostal University (UPU) began as the Grotius School of Law and Professional Studies in 2001 and applied for a separate license from the Uganda National Council for Higher Education (UNCHE) in 2004.

The university, which has been operating in the Tooro Kingdom Administration building at Mucwa, is set to vacate after commencing the construction of a ten billion shilling (Shs 10Bn) building in Kihembo North Division, Fort Portal City.

This storied building, now at the second floor, will accommodate a modern ICT lab, moot court, two libraries, a legal aid clinic, lecture rooms, an administration block, and facilities for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for settling cases out of court, and an applied science section for agriculture.

UNLOCKING BUNYORO'S POTENTIAL

UDB EXTENDS SUPPORT FOR UGANDA'S HIGH-GROWTH SECTORS WITH NEW BRANCH IN HOIMA

Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer- Kabarole

The Uganda Development Bank (UDB), the country's Development Finance Institute (DFI), is empowering and financing over 700 enterprises

nationwide, including 216 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), 85 women-owned businesses, and 13 youth-led initiatives, thereby elevating their financial empowerment.



The Bank has allocated 1.8 trillion shillings for Ugandans interested in investing in various enterprises to enhance their investment potential and income.

Mr Mahamoud Adama, the Investment Director at UDB, disclosed that the bank has earmarked 9 billion shillings for investment in the Bunyoro region, with 198 billion shillings approved to support 42 projects aimed at economically empowering Ugandans and helping them rise out of poverty.

Mr Adama made these remarks during the official launch of the UDB Mid-Western regional branch in Hoima City on Wednesday, 26th November, 2025 marking a significant milestone in the bank's efforts to boost investment, financing, and tourism in the Bunyoro Kitara and Greater Tooro regions.

"We need to support more youth, women, and SMEs in financial investment for the country to achieve middle-income status by 2040. To accomplish this, we have embarked

State Minister for Bunyoro Affairs Hon Jennifer Namuyangu

on opening new branches. We started with Gulu and Mbale, and now we are here in Hoima, with plans to open in Mbarara City next year," he remarked.

The Managing Director of UDB, Dr Patricia Ojangole, emphasized that by providing accessible financing options and investment support, UDB aims to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and improve livelihoods in the region.

According to Dr Ojangole, this marks a new chapter in our story of transformation. Development however it is not solely about infrastructure but about transforming people and communities to achieve social and economic progress. "This Mid-Western regional branch will enhance our capacity to address both the financial and non-financial needs of the local business community, promoting financial inclusion and equitable economic development in

this region," he noted.

She reaffirmed that the bank's expansion into this region demonstrates UDB's commitment to bridging financial access gaps and ensuring essential financial services are available to those who need them. "This is crucial for advancing economic empowerment, fostering inclusive growth, and accelerating transformation. Establishing the regional bank reinforces our mandate as Uganda's National Development Finance Institution and enhances our ability to unlock investment opportunities across the country," she added.

"The opening of this regional bank is a significant step toward strengthening inclusive economic development in the country. This region is rich in potential in agriculture, tourism, energy, and emerging industries, hence the need for direct access to financing and advisory services," she stated.

The minister urged the community to embrace the bank and seek loans to invest in various ventures, particularly hotels, as Bunyoro is set to host the AFCON in 2027, attracting both international and national visitors who will require services.

Mr Byenkywa Peter Kajura, a prominent



The Managing Director UDB takes the guests through the office

The UDB launch ceremony was graced by Hon. Jennifer Namuyango, the State Minister for Bunyoro Affairs. The minister remarked that this strategic expansion is set to unlock the region's vast economic potential, leveraging opportunities in key sectors such as agriculture, oil and gas, and tourism.

business figure in Hoima involved in the hotel industry, expressed that without UDB, his business would not be competitive. As the director of Kabalega Resorts, he shared that he began his hotel business in 2017 with only 29 rooms. However, with UDB's financial support in 2019, he was able



Launching the UDB Branch in Hoima City, Bunyoro Kingdom

to expand and establish Kabalega Resort. "UDB found us with only 29 rooms at Kabalega Resort Masindi, but now we have over 60 rooms, and we are still growing with the bank. The bank's financing has enabled our resort to achieve a three-star rating and rank among the top 47 hotels in Uganda," he stated.

Hon Patrick Isiingoma, the Member of Parliament for East Division, Hoima City, highlighted that one of Uganda's significant challenges has been the disbursement of financial resources from central to local communities, compounded by the high-interest rates charged by commercial banks.

"The relocation and establishment of the UDB branch is a tremendous opportunity for the disbursement of financial resources from top to bottom, enabling individuals and the business community to access investment capital. UDB, as a government institution, offers credit at low-interest

rates to empower communities and spur development," Hon Isiingoma noted.

Bunyoro Kingdom Prime Minister Hon Byakutaga Andrew stated that over 30 projects in his kingdom have received support from UDB, and the bank's expansion will boost investment in the region and amplify its impact. He encouraged the local population to take advantage of UDB's services, access financial support, and invest in maize production, processing, tourism, and hospitality.

The new branch in Hoima City located at Kyaruhanga road, is expected to attract new investments, support local businesses, and enhance the overall economic landscape of the region.

With its rich cultural heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and abundant natural resources, the Bunyoro Kitara and Greater Tooro regions are ripe for development.

BUNYANGABU LAUNCHES MULTI-MILLION WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY

*Christopher Tusiime,
Communications
Officer-Bunyangabu*

Bunyangabu District has launched three multi-million-shilling projects aimed at improving sanitation and extending safe water to water-stressed areas.

The projects, launched on Wednesday, November 26th, 2025 include the extension of piped water from Kaunganyanja to Busingya and Mugoma-Nsanga in Kibiito Sub-county; construction of a modern toilet block at Kasunganyanja Market; and rehabilitation of six shallow wells and two boreholes in Nyakigumba Town Council, Kasunganyanja in Kibiito Sub-county, Buheesi and Kiyombya sub-counties.

During the launch, the District Water Officer, Mr Robert Aheebwa, said the extension of the Yerya Gravity Flow Scheme from Mugoma B to Nsonga-Zakayo in Kibiito Sub-county will cost Shs 73.3 million. The works will include



Bunyangabu District leadership led by the Deputy CAO Mr Baker Akampurira (in necktie) hand over the contract for the water extension project to the contractor who is third from the left.

site preparation, pipeline installation, valve fittings, and construction of four public standpoints, among other activities.

For Kasunganyanja Market, Mr Aheebwa noted that the four-stance water-borne toilet will cost Shs 44.8 million. It will include a bathroom, urinal, handwashing facilities, and will be connected to the piped water system with a 1,000-litre storage tank.

The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Baker Akampurira, said the government is committed to ensuring that communities have access to clean water and improved sanitation as a

basis for better health and improved standards of living.

"Government also plans to have a public water stand in every village. We ask community members to cooperate and allow the water pipes to pass through their land so that the work progresses smoothly," he said.

He also cautioned contractors to adhere to project timelines, noting that no deadline extensions will be granted.

The Assistant Resident District Commissioner, Ms Peninnah Atwijkire, urged residents to embrace

the projects and guard them against vandalism. "Ensure the taps and other facilities are well protected. If they get stolen, do not expect the district to replace them. The responsibility will lie with the community," she warned.

The District Speaker and NRM Chairperson, Hon Hussein Kato, who also serves as the Kibiito Sub-county councillor, appealed to residents to support the works, reminding them that the government has no funds to purchase land for burying water pipes. "Please welcome and support this project. It is something you have demanded for a long time," he said.

KITAGWENDA INVESTS IN NEW BOREHOLE PROJECTS, SERVES RELIABLE WATER TO OVER 12,000 RESIDENTS

*David Tumwiine, Ag
District Communications
Officer-Kitagwenda*

Kitagwenda District has officially kicked off the drilling of two high-yield production boreholes in Kakasi and Buhanda Sub-counties. The projects, funded



under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UgIF) programme and the Water Sector Grant were officially commissioned on Wednesday, 19th November 2025 at Buhanda A Village, Nyakashenyi Parish.

The new boreholes, each designed to produce a minimum of 5,000 litres of water per hour, mark one of the district's biggest water-supply investments in recent years.

At the launch, Kitagwenda District Water Officer, Eng Peter Sseremba, explained that the two sites have shown great potential during preliminary assessments. "This financial year, we are drilling and temporarily installing hand pumps in them for people to be using them as we wait to design them for motorization (piped tap water) in the coming financial year," he said.

According to Eng Sseremba, early estimates indicate that the Buhanda A production well could yield as much as

15,000 litres per hour enough to supply several villages sustainably.

"The boreholes will provide safe and clean water to a minimum of 23 villages of Bujumiro parish, Kengeya parish and Nyakashenyi parish with an estimated current population of 12,133 people," he remarked.

In Kakasi Subcounty, the borehole being drilled in Kitaka II Village is expected to serve four villages in Kitaka Parish, improving water access for an estimated 70 households.

The combined cost for surveying, drilling, and temporarily installing hand pumps is UGX 119,991,186, (estimated at 120 million) with works contracted to Galaxy Agrotech U Ltd. Completion is expected by 21st January 2025.

Presiding over the launch, Deputy Resident District Commissioner Tumusiime Benjamin urged residents to safeguard the investment. "As



beneficiary communities, you must protect this costly project that aim of changing your health, production & standards of living by conserving the environment to ensure that the project serves the community forever with adequate and safe water," Tumusiime said.

The Kitagwenda District Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Akankwasa Moses, commended the communities of Buhanda and Kakasi for their patience, adding that improved water access must go hand-in-hand with proper household sanitation and hygiene.

Kitagwenda District Vice Chairperson, Ashaba Peter, described the project as a fulfilment of the district leadership's commitment to improving water coverage. "The drilling of the two production wells is timely. We are delivering services as we promised at the onset of our term of office. The extension of clean and safe water to communities was one of our priorities and this is a great achievement," Ashaba noted.

The event was witnessed by the District Internal Security Officer (DISO), District Water Office team, subcounty chairpersons, district councillors, and enthusiastic community members.

MOLG DIGITIZES NTOROKO'S URBAN COUNCILS WITH NEW ICT EQUIPMENT TO BOOST REVENUE MANAGEMENT

Sahula Ibrahim, Communication Officer- Ntoroko District

Communities in Ntoroko District are set to benefit from better-managed services after the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) supplied modern ICT equipment to the district's four urban councils, responding to longstanding challenges in revenue tracking and data management.



Speaking at the handover of the equipment on Monday, 24th November, 2025, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Mr Agum Moses stressed the need to effectively mobilize, manage and spend on tangible planned activities within the entities in a transparent and sustainable manner.

Mr Agum cautioned town clerks against spending all the local revenues on facilitation allowances. However, he expressed satisfaction with some sub-counties like Butungama which had started spending locally raised revenues on tangible projects that an ordinary citizen can appreciate. "We must be accountable to the citizens and prioritize services over anything else if we are to remain relevant to the nation. Only when we spend on what the local person deserves, we shall not be patriotic and sensible to the nation," he noted.

Karugutu, Kanara, Rwebisengo and Kibuku Town councils decried the lack of computers and computer software in managing local revenues. "The

Ministry of Local Government has come in time to answer this desire," he added.

Ntoroko district predominantly raises local revenue through sale of animal markets, fishing permits, sand quarrying in Kibuku and other merchandise within the district.

Butungama sub-county administration has this year renovated 14 roomed staff quarters at Kasungu Primary School using their 12 million locally raised funds demonstrating the value for markets within the area. Butungama is predominantly cattle rearing sub county whose revenues accrue for animal sales.

"We managed to renovate our school using funds from the 2023/2024 Financial year revenues and we are now working on maintenance of Butungama- Masojo community access road this first quarter 2024/2025. The Sub-County management prioritized service delivery over council sitting allowances," Mr Byaruhanga Sight, the





Senior Administrative Secretary (SAS) said.

Relatedly, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) together with the Ministry of Information Communication Technology and National Guidance (MoICT) held a refreshing training on Parish Revolving Funds under the Parish Development Model (PDM) yesterday.

PDM beneficiaries have been argued to start making refund payments to enable a revolving culture and ensuring all target population get served as well as fostering sustainability of the program.

The training held at the district headquarters yesterday aimed at sharing system challenges and how to

improve in the disbursement of funds.

Ms Katono Gorrety, a trainer in the MoICT reiterated the need for profiling all residents to enable easy selection of beneficiaries. She called upon the PDM managers to “guard against exposure of personal credentials and ensuring data integrity and fraud prevention as cornerstone to the success of the program”, she said.

Officiating at the training, Mr Twahirwa Richard, the Assistant Resident District Commissioner (ARDC) castigated the notion that PDM funds were a token of appreciation from the President. “This money is not a Kasimo (token of appreciation), it is behind vision 2040 aiming at transforming citizens from poverty to a five-dollar income per person per day,” Twahirwa clarified.



KASESE DISTRICT LEADS NATIONAL LAUNCH AGAINST RISING DIGITAL GBV THREATS

for Gender and Culture, together with Paulina Chiwangu, representing the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

The procession signaled a united stand against the district's persistently high cases of GBV.

Speaking at the launch gathering in at Multipurpose hall in Kasese Municipality, Mutuuzo emphasized the responsibility of political, cultural,



Kabugho Sharon, Communication Officer-Kasese

Kasese District was on the forefront in the Uganda's fight against the growing threat of digital violence as it hosted the national launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

The campaign, held under the theme; "Avoid Digital Violence," on November 25, 2025 opened with a solidarity walk through Kasese Municipality led by Hon. Peace Mutuuzo, Minister of State

Minister Peace Mutunzo launching the 16 days of activism campaign in Kasese.

and religious leaders to champion safe communities. She urged them to use their influence to condemn all forms of violence and ensure that people especially young women and girls are informed about prevention and response measures.

UN representative Chiwangu warned that the manipulation of images, online harassment, and coercion are increasingly harming women and girls both psychologically and socially. She called for stronger awareness and

digital safety skills at community level.

Local leaders expressed readiness to take the campaign forward. Hon. Florence Kabugho, District Woman MP, shared the importance of responsible online behavior, while District Vice Chairperson Girivarious Monday pledged continued collaboration with NGOs to protect vulnerable groups. Rt. Hon. Juliet Best Bakoko, representing the Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu, reaffirmed the cultural institution's commitment to community engagements aimed at reducing GBV.

By hosting the national



Procession at the 16 days of activism campaign launch



Actors at the 16days of activism campaign launch



Hon. peace Mutunzo delivering her speech

launch, Kasese not only acknowledged the weight of the GBV challenge within the district but also demonstrated its commitment to leading the national conversation on emerging forms of abuse. The event set the tone for the 16-day campaign running until December 10, calling on all Ugandans to stand together against violence in both physical and digital spaces.

COMMUNITY BARAZAS SET TO BOOST PUBLIC HEALTH REFORMS IN KITAGWENDA DISTRICT



Tumwiine David, Ag District Communications Officer- Kitagwenda

The Health Department of Kitagwenda District has moved a step further in Health Service Delivery thanks to the launch of Health Barazas across the District. This community-centered initiative spearheaded by the District Health Department seeks to deepen public participation in healthcare, promote preventive health practices, and ultimately enhance health outcomes for residents.

While launching the Baraza in Mahyoro Sub County, the Kitagwenda District Assistant District Health Officer Maternal Child Health Hope Rukundo Bafaki explained that the

Community members participating in the health baraza.

new development is meant to bridge the gap between the community and health care systems.

“The main objectives of the health barazas is to increase awareness on utilization of health services among communities, promote preventive health practices and behaviours among communities, strengthen the relationship between healthcare providers and communities, gather feedback from communities on healthcare services and identify areas for improvement,” she said.

According to Kitagwenda District Health Educator Twongirwe Herbert, the Health Barazas will involve various stakeholders in the community. "The stakeholders of the Barazas will include the District Health Office which is Primary organizer and facilitator, the Local Community Leaders who will do Mobilization for community participation, Healthcare Providers from the Health Centers in Kitagwenda District, Community Health Workers especially the Village Health Teams (VHTs) and Local Government Officials from Town Councils and Sub Counties for Support and oversight," he said.

The barazas which were launched on

November 13th 2025 in Kanara Sub County will be rolled out in all the 4 Town Councils and the remaining 8 Sub Counties of Kitagwenda District. The immediate outcomes will be; increased health awareness and knowledge among communities, improved community engagement and participation in health initiatives, enhanced relationships between healthcare providers and communities, better health outcomes through preventive practices. In the long run follow-up meetings will be held to assess progress and impact of the barazas

HEALTH CARE SERVICES REVOLUTIONIZED AT KANARA HEALTH CENTER III THROUGH WORLD BANK FUNDED PROJECT

Tumwiine David, Ag District Communications Officer-Kitagwenda

Kanara Health Center III is in line for a remarkable facelift in a bid to improve service delivery to the people of Kitagwenda district. Known to cater for a population of approximately 20,000 people, the facility is poised for a higher upgrade in terms of modern equipment and infrastructure.

Kitagwenda District Chief Administrative Officer Kitagwenda, Dalili R. K Moses revealed this new development at the launch of the construction of an Incinerator and Upgrade of Maternity Ward from cement floor to Tarazo at Kanara HCIII on Thursday, November 13th 2025.

Dalili said that the funding for these Projects is from UgIFT funded by World Bank and other partners and it



Ground breaking for construction of incinerator by RDC

is designed to improve equitable and effective service delivery in Education, health, Water and Environment and Micro Scale irrigation. "Under Health, already a lot of funds have been injected at this health facility and this is additional whose objective is to modernize it to a standard health facility capable of providing best health services to the people. The Total project Cost is 230 million and 120M of this will be used to procure Solar Back Up system for sterilization, lighting and refrigeration," Dalili said.

While talking about the outcome of the project, the Kitagwenda District Acting District Health Officer, Dr Irene Kahimakazi explained that the project is best suited as it will make Kanara become a First-Class Health Center III.

"Once at that standard it will facilitate quality service delivery to the people of Kanara and neighbouring communities from Kamwenge, Bunyangabu Districts," she said.

During the launch, the Kitagwenda District Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Mr Isaiah Byarugaba Kanyamahane who was the Chief Launcher applauded the NRM Government for ensuring peace in the Country and for providing funding to standardize Kanara Health Center III. "We applaud the NRM Government for the peace and all Government programs but most importantly for providing the funding to put this facility to standard. Kanara Health Center III is very unique and stands out from all the Health Center IIIs in the District, Government has now



Site Handover for upgrade of maternity ward from Cement floor to Tarazo

provided it with more funding to put it to the real standard," he said.

He advised residents to desist from misinformation by leaders of various cults and make good use of the health Facility to get health related information and treat disease for better Health

Kanyamahane explained that when patients come to the Health Center, they need more than just medication, they also require essential health information. "You therefore need to organize health education packages for your patients and this will in the long run help in reducing on the disease burden and reduced hospital visits," Kanyamahane said.

Kanyamahane cautioned the contractor to avoid shoddy works by following the specifications spelt out in the Bills of Quantities. "We expect the contractor to do a good job here and must conform to the Bills of Quantities. We are going to intensify the Monitoring of the project implementation and we expect value for money in the implementation of the projects. I expect Quality work and the District Engineer must ensure that all technical specifications are compiled with," he warned.

*The project will be supervised by
Kitagwenda District Engineer
Mr Timanywa Francis.*

EXCITEMENT IN KITAGWENDA AS 3,363 HOUSEHOLDS BENEFIT FROM RISING THE VILLAGE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTERVENTIONS

Tumwiine David, Ag District Communications Officer



A section of Community members at the Launch in Kanara Parish

Residents from the five Parishes from Kitagwenda District were filled with excitement last week after the inauguration of Rising the Village activities in their respective parishes. The International Non for Profit Organisation which originates from Canada engaged the communities in life changing trainings and product launches.

Between 13th November and 20th November 2025, the NGO extended its operations in each of the five parishes of Kekubo, and Kanara from Kanara Sub-County, Rwenkubebe and

Rwesigire from Nyabbani Sub County and Rwenjaza parish from Rwenjaza Sub-County.

Anold Mwesigwa, the Project Manager for Kitagwenda Branch, said that each household in the five parishes will be supported during the implementation period. He revealed that the launch of these activities in the five Parishes will benefit 3,363 households. "This means in the next 24 months from today we shall engage the households by providing access to clean water

through construction of boreholes and shallow wells, improving hygiene and Sanitation through Training- and coaching, Creating food security with in the households by providing agricultural inputs, farming tools and training on good agronomic practices to increase yields, conducting livestock management and care trainings and establish Village Savings and Loans Associations." Mwesigwa said.

Mwesigwa explained that during the implementation of the program, each family will have a member to participate in all the trainings and replicate the practices to their family members to implement in their gardens. "We have well trained staff who will be within these communities full time and we shall have a central demonstration garden in each village which will act as Farmer Field School."

Members will be expected to participate

in all the trainings and replicate what they learn from the demonstration gardens to their home-based gardens. Other trainings on sanitation and hygiene and Village Savings and Loans Associations will also be done.

"During the program implementation, Our Extension staff will combine with the District technical staff to do household visits for supervision and more farm-based training at household level," he added.

The agro inputs according to Mwesigwa will be distributed at the onset of the first season of 2026 in early March. "All engagements at community level have started, we have to start on software trainings and later to establishment of demonstration gardens. The seeds for planting and other agro inputs will



RDC Launching with Local Leaders in Rwenkubebé



be on your doorway at the onset of the first season in early March 2026,” Mwesigwa said.

The launching events are characterized by signing Memorandum of Understanding with Village Leadership, Sub County Leadership and rising the village. This is aimed at creating an environment where development efforts can be sustained by communities themselves after the formal partnership ends

The Kitagwenda District Production Officer, Kamubona Naboth, congratulated the five parishes for being selected from the many parishes. He mentioned that in the last two and a half years, only 16 parishes/ clusters have benefitted out of the 55 parishes and wards in the district.

Kamubona encouraged the residents position themselves strategically for selection at this particular time and be available to take part in the initiatives of Rising the Village. “As a District and under the Production Department,

RDC Launching in Rwenkubebe Parish

we shall support Rising the Village to ensure that all the technical support from the district is provided for the achievement of the project,” he stated.

The Kitagwenda District Acting District Health Officer Dr Irene Kahimakazi congratulated the five parishes saying that Rising the Village is coming to supplement the Government efforts.

“As government, we cannot do it all, we need more support in terms of finances and logistics, Rising the Village is here to support us to extend the services to every person, please welcome them and put into practice what they teach you,” she remarked.

While speaking as the chief guest, Kitagwenda District Deputy Resident District Commissioner Benjamin Tumusiime appreciated Rising the Village for the practical support and

provision of physical agro inputs.

"The Coming of Rising the Village to your Parishes is a big milestone, as Government we appreciate the work of Rising the Village and for providing the soft ware training and physical materials to uplift the household social and economic statuses," Tumusiime said.

He advised the residents of the five Parishes to engage and welcome the initiatives by Rising the Village in their communities. We appeal to you to embrace the work of Rising the Village, give them enough platform and attend

their trainings and go and practice what you learn" Said Tumusiime.

About Rising the Village

Rising the Village is an International Non-Profit Organisation which originates from Canada and is dedicated to ending ultra-poverty in last mile communities across sub Saharan Africa. In Uganda, Rising the Village operates in over 30 districts including Kitagwenda District. Rising the Village started its operations in Kitagwenda District in 2023 and to date 16 Parishes have benefited from the Organization activities.

KITAGWENDA DISTRICT LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO CURB SANITATION AND HYGIENE-RELATED ILLNESSES IN NYABBANI SUB-COUNTY BY 2026

Tumwiine David, Ag District Communications Officer- Kitagwenda

A new sanitation and hygiene campaign has been launched in Rwenkubebe Parish, Nyabbani Sub-County, Kitagwenda District, with funding from the Ministry of Water and Environment. The campaign, coordinated by the Health Department of Kitagwenda District, aims to improve hygiene and sanitation practices in this underserved area.

This initiative is part of an annual rotational exercise that targets rural sub-counties, particularly those with low latrine coverage. According to a recent hygiene and sanitation assessment, Nyabbani Sub-County is facing significant risks related to sanitation and hygiene. The report shows nearly all households in Nyabbani Sub- county do not wash their hands with soap after using latrines, contributing to the spread of preventable diseases.



Deputy RDC giving his speech

In response, district leaders and health officials have launched a one-year campaign focused on four villages in Rwenkubebe Parish to address these challenges. Kitagwenda District has a latrine coverage rate of 87%, while Nyabbani Sub County's coverage is at 68%. However, Rwenkubebe Parish lags significantly behind with a latrine coverage of just 45%.

In terms of Hand washing after latrine use, the District stands at 25% and so is Nyabbani Sub County but the situation is worse in Rwenkubebe Parish where hand washing after latrine use stands at 5%.

These findings were revealed to the District Leadership on Tuesday November 18th 2025 by Johnson Musinguzi, the Assistant District Health Officer in charge of Environmental Health during the function to launch a major sanitation campaign held at Rwenkubebe Parish Head Quarters.

He said the low practice of handwashing puts residents at high risk of contracting diseases associated with poor sanitation and Hygiene at household level yet they are preventable.

“In Rwenkubebe Parish out of every 100 families, only five wash their hands after using the latrine, which exposes the community to preventable diseases,” Musinguzi said.

The new campaign, which will run up to end of June 2026, will target the four villages of Rwenkubebe A, Rwenkubebe B, Rwemirama A and Rwemirama B.

According to Musinguzi, the objective of the campaign is to attain full handwashing and water coverage by end of June 2026.

Kitagwenda Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Moses Akankwasa urged residents to take



ADHO Musinguzi Johnson giving his remarks.

hygiene and sanitation as key priority if they are to reduce poverty in their homes. "If you want to improve your household income, start with good health. This will help you to spend money on diseases which are preventable," Akankwatsa said.

Acting District Health Officer Dr Irene Kahimakazi while speaking at the launch said that the campaign will significantly reduce hygiene-related diseases. "We are sure that this campaign will reduce the diseases burden mostly caused by poor hygiene, especially typhoid and diarrhea which continue to affect our communities," she said.

Kitagwenda District Vice Chairperson Peter Ashaba advised the residents to implement what the Health workers tell them to do. "We appeal to the residents to take this campaign seriously and put into practice what the Health workers tell you to do," Ashaba said.

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Benjamin Tumusiime, who was the chief launcher of the campaign, warned that those who disobey the sanitation standards will face the wrath of the Law. "Anyone who refuses to comply with the sanitation guidelines and what this campaign is about, will face arrest," Tumusiime said.

DISTRICT OFFICIALS TRAINED TO STRENGTHEN PLANNING THROUGH STATE OF PARISH ECONOMY AND ASSET REGISTER (SPEAR) SYSTEM

Johnson Atuhaire, Communications Officer-Kyenjojo

Kyenjojo District has concluded a three-day capacity-building training aimed at strengthening the collection and management of local government statistics, particularly under the State of Parish Economy and Asset Register (SPEAR) system. The three-day training, brought together Community Development Officers (CDOs), statisticians, parish chiefs, and ward agents from across the district.

Under the program, all parishes across the district will document their economic activities, community assets, household livelihoods, and development priorities—providing a clearer picture of opportunities and gaps that need urgent attention.

The exercise is in line with national efforts led by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) to harmonize data collection tools for the National Statistical System. The initiative seeks to enhance the accuracy, consistency, and usefulness of community-level data used for planning, budgeting, and



The DPMO, Mr. Shem Ssekyanzi takes the participants through the key PDM activities to undertake during the SPEAR exercise.

monitoring government programs. The District Planner, Immaculate Atuhurra, reminded the participants that under the First Budget Call Circular issued by the Ministry of Finance, each parish is required to prepare the State of Parish Economy and Asset Register as part of the Budget Framework Paper (BFP) submissions. Reliable data from the parishes is essential for shaping development priorities and informing expenditure decisions,

"This training is timely because it improves our capacity to produce accurate parish-level statistics that guide service delivery and local development planning," She noted.

The phased training also involved UBOS experts taking participants through the SPEAR tools, digital reporting procedures, and the standardized statistical requirements expected of all local governments.

The district leadership has welcomed

the initiative, emphasizing its importance in strengthening data-driven decision-making, particularly under the Parish Development Model (PDM). As the PDM continues to roll out across the district, SPEAR is expected to support monitoring of the enterprises financed through the PDM revolving fund. Parish chiefs and CDOs will use the data to track the performance of funded enterprises, identify households transitioning from subsistence to commercial production, assess the viability of different enterprises across parishes, and support targeted interventions to increase household incomes.

Kyenjojo District, which comprises 19 sub-counties and 12 town councils, has long grappled with challenges such as incomplete data, inconsistent reporting, and scattered information on household livelihoods. Through SPEAR, the district expects to compile a unified database capturing dominant



PARISH CHIEFS & CDOs in the training

economic activities including crop farming, livestock rearing, and small-scale agribusiness, household asset ownership such as land, livestock, farm tools, and business equipment, community assets including boreholes, schools, health centers, and parish roads, and priority development needs across the district.

Kyenjojo District remains committed to transitioning more households into the money economy. With SPEAR, leaders hope to unlock new opportunities in commercial agriculture, value addition, rural infrastructure, youth enterprise development, and improved access to markets.

The District Vice Chairperson, Mrs Grace Atuhaire emphasized that the initiative aligns with national efforts to uplift rural communities by ensuring planning is guided by real-time data collected from the grassroots.

Kyenjojo District Assistant Resident District Commissioner, Mr Thaddeo Kasaija, noted that SPEAR will close gaps in asset monitoring, reduce

duplication, and improve planning for maintenance and rehabilitation. The tool will also help streamline reporting to the Ministry of Local Government. “The SPEAR initiative is a great endeavour, the modelling of the parish as a standard service delivery and accountability point is very exciting,” he said.

As field teams continue capturing information across all parishes, Kyenjojo District believes SPEAR will become one of its most important tools for achieving inclusive and sustainable development, with a strong belief this comprehensive documentation will make planning more accurate and responsive to real community needs.

With this training and capacity of the participants built, Kyenjojo District reaffirms its commitment to improving statistics management and ensuring that parish data effectively informs government planning processes for better service delivery. With SPEAR's digital records feeding into district reports, leaders believe it will also significantly enhance transparency and accountability for PDM funds.



The District Planner, takes through the participants in the training



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