



FEATURE STORY | PG.04

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI PLEDGES NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR BUNYANGABU DISTRICT

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TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

CHIEF EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 18 th 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:

- ✓ President Museveni unveils NRM seven-point Manifesto, pledges lasting solutions to Kasese's long standing challenges.
- ✓ President Museveni Pledges New Development Projects for Bunyangabu District
- ✓ Breaking Gender Barriers: Kyenjojo men educated on domestic roles under KAWODA sensitization.
- ✓ Kamwenge starts NRM parish mobilisation strategy ahead of

President Museveni's campaign visit.

- ✓ 5. Above the Savannah: The unique tree-climbing lions of Ishasha sector in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

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



PRESIDENT MUSEVENI PLEDGES NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR BUNYANGABU DISTRICT

*Christopher Tusiime, Communication
Officer-Bunyangabu*

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has pledged to deliver more development projects to Bunyangabu District, reaffirming government commitment to improving service delivery and local infrastructure.

The President made the remarks on Thursday afternoon during his campaign rally at Kibiito Secondary School playground in Kibiito Town Council on 4th December, 2025.

The pledge followed a presentation by the District NRM Chairperson and District Speaker, Hon Kato Hussein, who outlined the district's key development priorities and requests.

Hon Kato reported that the district headquarters remain incomplete



President Museveni speaks to his supporters in Bunyangabu at Kibiito Secondary School playground in Kibiito Town Council on 4th December, 2025.

and require about Shs 1 billion for completion. He also appealed for the elevation of Kibiito Health Centre IV to hospital status, fulfillment of a pledge for a special grant for district bridges, a hatchery project to boost household incomes, extension of clean water to more villages, and connection of electricity to underserved areas.

“In the health sector, we are glad that 13 of the 15 town councils and sub-counties have health centres. The remaining two should also be



considered going forward. Our road unit has helped us maintain the district road network, but we need an excavator to operate in tough terrains,” he added.

In his response, President Museveni noted that since taking power in 1986, Uganda has faced major socio-economic challenges, many of which his government has worked to address. He emphasized his long-standing focus on wealth creation, socio-economic development, job creation, and peace.

“These are the four pillars we have concentrated on and we have made achievements. The other three I will share during a press conference,” he said.

The President also addressed concerns over the declining tea prices in the Tooro sub-region. He announced that government has secured about Shs 360 billion to provide soft loans to tea growers, helping revive the sector that has been hit hard by price drops, forcing some farmers to cut down their tea

gardens.

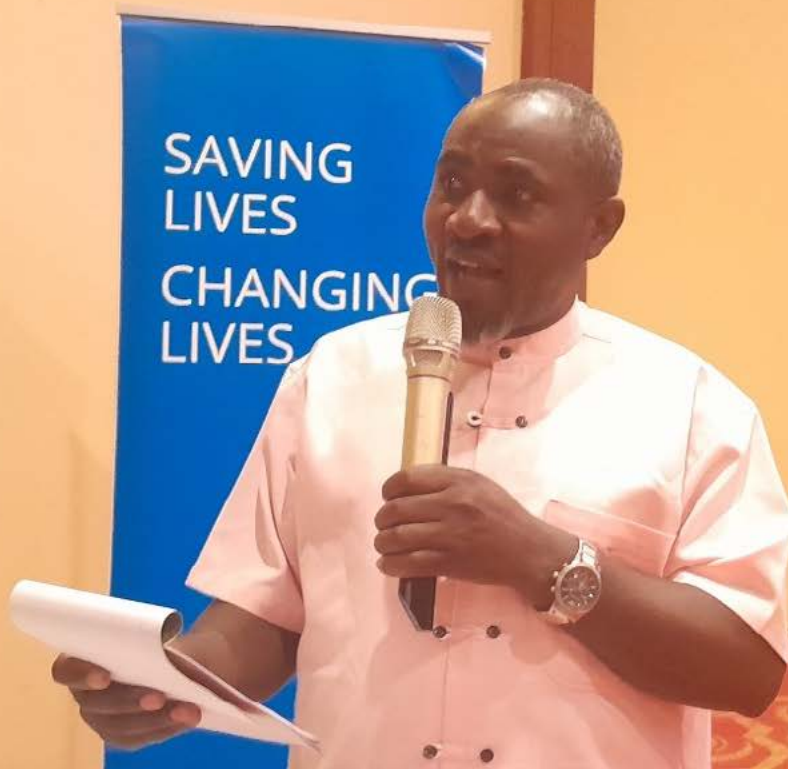
Regarding the damaged sections of the Mityana–Kyenjojo road, President Museveni confirmed that the contractor had been cleared and works had resumed.

“For the other pledges, liaise with the Prime Minister so that they can be fulfilled,” he guided.

Speaker of Parliament Rt. Hon. Anita Among, who accompanied the President together with her deputy Thomas Tayebwa, noted that under the National Development Plan IV, Kibiito Health Centre IV has already been earmarked for elevation to district hospital status.

“I request the people of Uganda to protect the peace the President brought. I hear people say that after elections they want to riot. Why riot? We will not allow wicked people to disorganize Uganda,” she said.

President Museveni concluded by urging the people of Bunyangabu to maintain peace and continue supporting the NRM government to protect the gains achieved so far.



*Kikusa Mustafah
representing CAO Kasese
addressing the participants.*

KASESE, KISORO AND NTOROKO LEAD UGANDA'S SHIFT TO ANTICIPATORY FLOOD MANAGEMENT

*Kabugho Sharon, Communications
Officer-Kasese*

As climate-related disasters escalate across Uganda, government agencies, humanitarian partners, and district leaders have endorsed new Flood Anticipatory Action Plans (AAPs) for Kasese, Kisoro, and Ntoroko districts. The plans were validated during a four-day workshop held from December 2–5 at Igongo Hotel in Mbarara, marking a major stride toward strengthening the country's disaster preparedness systems.

The initiative, funded by the World Food Programme (WFP) with support from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) aims to shift Uganda from reactive disaster response to proactive anticipatory action.

Speaking at the workshop, Mr Solomon Elangot Esiat from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) said the validation signals a milestone for the country. "Uganda has officially shifted from a reactive way of responding to disasters to



WFP, district and partners pose for a photo after Validation.

anticipatory action planning,” he said.

For decades, Uganda largely relied on a “wait, assess, respond” model, an approach critics say is slow, costly, and often too late to protect lives and livelihoods. Anticipatory Action Plans allow districts to identify risks early, trigger preventive measures based on scientific forecasts, and pre-position resources ahead of disaster events.

WFP and ECHO have invested in the technical and financial capacity required for this transition. A significant outcome of the workshop was the successful validation of Kasese District’s Anticipatory Action Plan, developed with full WFP and ECHO support. The district benefited from advanced risk analysis tools, expert technical guidance, and targeted capacity-building for its District Disaster

Management Committee.

Emmanuel Rusinda Rutsimba, Head of WFP’s Southwest Area Office acknowledged that responding after disasters is extremely expensive.

“With funding from ECHO, we have strengthened anticipatory actions that significantly reduce these costs while protecting vulnerable communities,” he remarked.

District leaders from Kasese, Ntoroko, and Kisoro worked closely with WFP experts throughout the process to identify priority actions; making the plans practical and sustainable.

A representative from the Kisoro Chief Administrative Officer’s office emphasized the value of proactive planning. “With an action plan, you are pre-armed. This is going to be our bible,” he noted.

Experts say the benefits of anticipatory planning extend far beyond immediate crisis reduction. According to Principal Meteorologist Omony William George, anticipatory action bridges the gap between warning and response. “Anticipatory Action is how we reduce the impact of disasters. I commit to working consistently to save lives,” Omony remarked.

Nature-based interventions are also being integrated into the plans. In Kasese, bamboo planting along the River Nyamugasani supported through WFP and ECHO funding is among the solutions designed to protect communities from recurrent flooding.

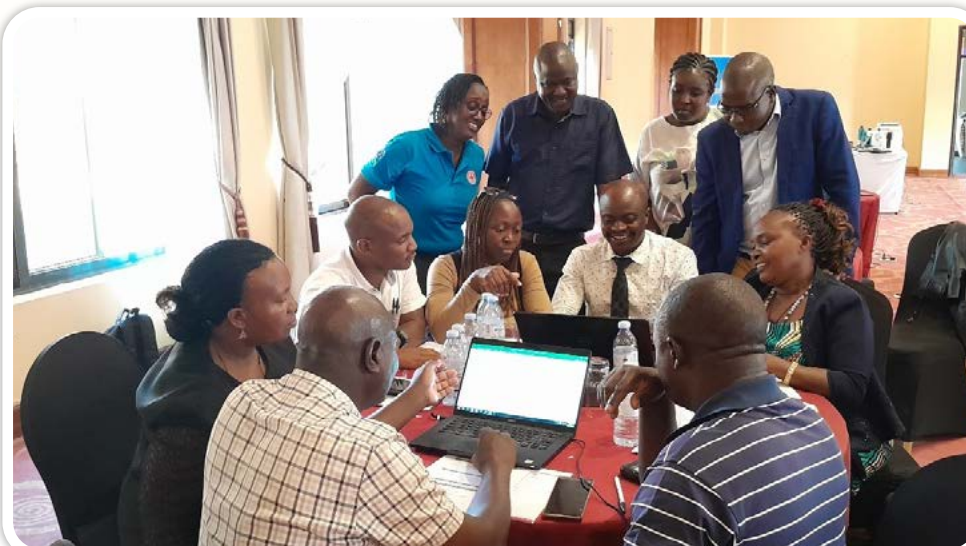
Validated AAPs are expected to enhance district coordination, reduce long-term response costs, strengthen community resilience, and position districts to attract additional resources from

government and development partners.

Next steps include formal approval, resource mobilization, and continued capacity-building through the Ministry of Water and Environment and other partners.

WFP’s Anticipatory Action Coordinator, Tapuwa Muzerengi, commended the three districts for their leadership. “These are among the best prepared districts in Uganda, with robust anticipatory action plans,” she said.

Stakeholders at the workshop agreed that anticipatory planning represents the future of Uganda’s disaster management. With growing support from the government, district leaders, WFP, and ECHO, more communities now stand a stronger chance of facing climate-induced hazards before they strike.



Kasese District Disaster Management Committee receiving technical support from WFP, OPM, URCS and other partners during the Validation Workshop.

STATE OFFICIALS BEGIN NATIONWIDE CONSULTATIONS TO ERADICATE CORRUPTION IN NEW 2025–2030 STRATEGY

Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer-Kabarole

The Government of Uganda has begun drafting a new National Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2025–2030, launching a nationwide push to curb rampant graft and ensure that officials implicated in corruption are swiftly arrested and prosecuted.

This initiative acts as a response to the recent IGG report indicating a staggering annual loss of approximately 10 trillion shillings due to corruption funds that could otherwise be utilised to enhance service delivery across the nation.

Officials from the Office of the President, specifically the Directorate of Ethics, Policy, and Standards, have initiated a series of national stakeholder consultation districts countrywide. These



The Team from President's Office appreciates Kabarole district initiative of Annual Leaders Accountability Magazines.

meetings are designed to gather insights and recommendations from various sectors on how to effectively combat and ultimately eradicate corruption in Uganda.

In a stakeholders' consultative meeting held at the district headquarters in Kitumba, Moses Makumbi, the Commissioner in charge of Ethics, Policy, and Standards, in the office of the president emphasized the urgency of this initiative.

Makumbi noted that the previous National Anti-Corruption Strategy, which expired in 2024, has prompted the government to seek input from



The stakeholders in a consultative meeting on Anti Corruption National Strategy in Chairman's Boardroom in Kitumba.

stakeholders across the country. "We are trying to respond to the president's call for a new strategy that will effectively fight and eradicate corruption at all levels of government," he stated.

However, he noted that despite the existence of numerous anti-corruption agencies, the president remains deeply concerned about the persistence of corruption and its detrimental effects on service delivery and national development. The consultations aim to identify successful strategies, challenges, and innovative approaches to enhance the fight against corruption.

In reflecting on the previous strategy, Makumbi highlighted several achievements, including the amendment of the Leadership Code Act, which now requires all

civil servants to declare their assets, not just senior officials. Additionally, funding for anti-corruption agencies has increased from 60.6 billion to 88.2 billion shillings, and there has been improved coordination among agencies, alongside the adoption of digital tools for quicker recovery of funds from corrupt officials.

Makumbi called upon civil society organisations to assist the government in raising public awareness about corruption and to act as whistle-blowers by reporting corruption in public service to relevant authorities.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Hakiza Arthur raised concerns about the moral implications of fighting corruption, emphasising that addressing salary disparities is crucial. He pointed out the significant



Stakeholders and Officials from President's office pose in a photo in chairman's boardroom after the consultations.

wage gap between local government employees and their counterparts in universities and agencies. “This discrepancy demoralises workers and undermines efforts to combat corruption,” Hakiza remarked.

Mr Ssekabiito Joseph, the Resident District Commissioner of Kabarole, argued that corruption hampers service delivery and development. He suggested that the government consider amalgamating various anti-corruption agencies into a single unit to streamline efforts and enhance communication.

Balinda Resty Mbaijana, Secretary for Works and Technical Services in Kabarole, highlighted the challenges posed by hybrid procurement processes, which she believes compromise service delivery. “When projects procured by the central government stall for extended

periods, funds are often returned to the treasury, leading to public suspicion regarding the integrity of local leaders,” she stated.

The meeting attracted a diverse group of participants, including members of the business community, media representatives, clergy, civil society organisations, judiciary members, security agencies, and local government leaders.

As the government moves forward with the development of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2025-2030, the insights gathered from these consultations will be instrumental in shaping a robust framework aimed at eradicating corruption and promoting transparency and accountability in Uganda.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI UNVEILS NRM SEVEN-POINT MANIFESTO, PLEDGES LASTING SOLUTIONS TO KASESE'S LONG-STANDING CHALLENGES.

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer-Kasese

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) presidential flag bearer, has launched the party's seven-point manifesto for the 2026–2031 term, promising targeted interventions to address the persistent socioeconomic challenges facing Kasese District and the greater Rwenzori region.

Speaking to thousands gathered at Nyakasanga Playground in Kasese Municipality on November 4th, 2025, President Museveni said the manifesto is designed to deliver “long-term transformation,” ensuring peace, household income growth, and infrastructure development as the backbone of the next five years.

Museveni reaffirmed the NRM's commitment to maintaining national security, noting that the stability



Uganda now enjoys remains central to economic growth, tourism, and cross-border trade.

“You, the people of Kasese, know the value of peace. You border the Democratic Republic of Congo, where insecurity has displaced more than 700,000 people into Uganda. Such instability cannot be allowed here. Peace is the first pillar of development,” he said.

A key highlight of the manifesto



President Museveni Celebrates with NRM supporters in Kasese District

is the renewed push for household income generation. Museveni pledged increased financing for wealth-creation programs, including the Parish Development Model (PDM), and stronger support for rural electrification, water access, and road expansion.

He further revealed that Kasese Airfield will be elevated to an international airport, an upgrade expected to boost tourism and link the district more competitively to regional markets. "In my discussions



Thousands in yellow shirts chant as the President made way to Nyakasanga Playground.

with President Ruto, we agreed on constructing a modern railway. Kasese will be among the first beneficiaries," the President noted.

The President also highlighted ongoing upgrades on the Kikorongo–Mpondwe road, a key trade corridor connecting Uganda and the DRC. The road, he said, will ease safe movement of goods and people while reinforcing Uganda’s position as a regional trade hub.

Museveni pledged to elevate several Health Centre IIs to Health Centre III status. According to NRM district chairperson Hon. James Mbahimba, facilities lined up for upgrade include Nyakatonzi, Kibiri, Kayanja, Mbunga, Kitoma–Kanyatsi, Kahokya, Kilembe, Kisojo, and Ibanda, among others.

Speaker of Parliament Anita Among, who accompanied the President, called for an increase in Kasese District’s budget, stressing that its size and population demand more government support.

Local leaders used the event to remind the President of unresolved issues such as the resettlement of the Muhokya Internally Displaced Persons, construction of the Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu palace, and acquisition of Springs International Hotel to boost the kingdom’s income. Concerns the Museveni acknowledged.



Turning to youth unemployment, Museveni encouraged residents to adopt the four-acre model growing coffee, fruits, and keeping livestock as a proven pathway to household prosperity. He also urged young people to embrace vocational skills, noting success stories emerging from industrial skilling hubs across the country.

*“If you acquire skills and use them well, poverty will be history,”
President Museveni said.*

Nyakasanga Playground erupted into cheers as supporters dressed in NRM yellow waved flags and chanted throughout the rally. The town streets were similarly painted yellow as thousands welcomed the Head of State to his first rally in Kasese for the 2026 campaign season.

BREAKING GENDER BARRIERS: KYENJOJO MEN EDUCATED ON DOMESTIC ROLES UNDER KAWODA SENSITIZATION

*Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer-
Kyenjojo*

In many communities across Kyenjojo District, domestic work, especially cooking, has long been viewed as a woman's responsibility. Yet, as families evolve and the demand for shared responsibilities grows, the need for more inclusive household roles has become increasingly clear. In a bold effort to redefine traditional gender roles and promote healthier, more balanced households, the Kyenjojo Association of Women Development Actors (KAWODA) is championing a community initiative popularly known as "Men in the Kitchen."



*Mr. Raymond Nyabongo the District
Nutritionist at the function*

Though not formally branded under this name, the concept mirrors KAWODA's household-centered approach, which encourages shared domestic responsibilities, improved nutrition, and gender-inclusive decision-making in families across the district.

The essence of the "Men in the Kitchen" concept is to encourage men to actively participate in home-based tasks such as cooking, food preparation, child feeding, and nutrition decision-making. This was put into practice at an event held at Kahyoro Primary School, in Kigaraale sub county, where men



After cooking, men served their wives, the same way they are served at home.

practiced food preparation, cooking and served their wives and children, replicating what women do in their homes.

For many families, these roles have traditionally been considered exclusively feminine. KAWODA's approach challenges this stereotype, inviting men into a supportive, nurturing, and culturally shifting space where both parents contribute to the wellbeing of the home.

In promoting shared responsibilities, the initiative helps to reduce the burden of unpaid care work for women, improve family nutrition through joint decision-making, strengthen cooperation between spouses, enhance the dignity and status of women in households, and



Mr. Ategeka Peterson, the area councilor

create an environment where boys grow up seeing domestic work as normal and respectable.



The men preparing a meal in the kitchen during the campaign.

The initiative encourages men to take part in cooking, food preparation, hygiene, and childcare; roles that have traditionally been viewed as the domain of women in many rural households.

According to Ms Medius Nyabuthono, KAWODA's Executive Director, the goal is to promote homes where men and women work together, support each other, and build stronger families." "Our message is simple. Shared responsibilities make households healthier, happier, and more productive. When men participate in the kitchen and in childcare, the entire family benefits," she said.

KAWODA's community engagements show that many women in rural households are

balancing farming, caregiving, and cooking—often with little support. This heavy workload reduces their time for income-generating activities and limits opportunities for personal growth.

Many families in Kyenjojo are already embracing the shift. At one of the organized events to emphasize the campaign, at Kahyoro Primary School, in Kisengya Parish, Kigaraale sub county, a one Jackson Muhumuza, a farmer, says joining the programme changed his perception of domestic work.

"I used to think cooking was a woman's job. But after the trainings, I realized helping at home does not reduce my respect as a man. In fact, my wife and I now work as a team, and our children are healthier,"



Muhumuza admitted.

His wife, Joyce Katusabe, agrees that the change has been transformative. “When my husband began helping with cooking and feeding the children, it reduced my workload. I had more time for our garden and even started a small business.”

KAWODA’s approach combines gender awareness with practical nutrition training. Both men and women learn about meal planning, food hygiene, and making healthier dietary choices for their families.

Local leaders have praised the program for contributing to better nutrition outcomes. According to Mr Ategeka Peterson, the area councillor agrees that when men become part of nutrition decisions, families eat better. “We have seen

reduced conflict in homes, improved child feeding practices, and stronger relationships between couples.”

According to Mr Raymond Nyabongo, the Kyenjojo District Nutritionist, malnutrition remains a significant challenge across several sub-counties, particularly among children under five. “Kyenjojo still faces worrying levels of malnutrition, especially stunting and micronutrient deficiencies among young children,” he noted.

Nyabongo says that the burden is highest in households where nutrition decisions are left to one person, usually the woman. That is why initiatives like KAWODA’s ‘Men in the Kitchen’ are critical. “When men participate in cooking, feeding,

and food budgeting, we see better nutrition outcomes, improved child growth, and stronger health-seeking behaviour,” he remarked.

He added that the district is implementing several interventions in partnership with community organizations. “We are strengthening community nutrition education, promoting diverse household food production, and training families on meal planning and food hygiene,”



*Alfred Basiima, the LC 3 Chairperson
Kigaraale Sub County*

Ms Annet Masika, the Health Inspector for Butiiti Sub County, Kyenjojo District, emphasized the link between household hygiene, nutrition, and public health. “Many of the nutrition challenges we see in Kyenjojo especially recurrent diarrheal diseases and poor child growth are closely tied to hygiene practices at home,” she explained.

“When both men and women are involved in food preparation and kitchen hygiene, the standards improve. Families become more conscious of safe water, clean utensils, proper handwashing, and safe food handling,” Ms Masika mentioned.

She added that collaboration with community organizations

is strengthening public health outcomes across the district. “KAWODA’s approach is helping us address the root causes of malnutrition by promoting clean cooking environments, shared responsibilities, and informed decision-making,” This partnership is in the long run critical in reducing preventable illnesses and improving the wellbeing of households in Kyenjojo.

The effort hasn’t been without challenges though. Traditional cultural norms still discourage some men from stepping into the kitchen. However, community champions and role models have helped shift

attitudes.

Alfred Basiima, the LC 3 Chairperson Kigaraale Sub County, and a respected local leader, says the initiative aligns with modern expectations for family wellbeing. “Our society is changing. A man helping at home is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of responsibility. This program is teaching households that love and cooperation are more important than outdated stereotypes.”

He also encouraged men to practice what they have learnt at this event, in their homes, if nutrition transformation is to take root in the community.

By reducing the burden of unpaid domestic work on women, KAWODA’s “Men in the Kitchen” concept gives women more time for income generation and personal development, contributing to long-

term empowerment. KAWODA’s field facilitators note that couples where men participate in domestic roles tend to have better communication, better economic planning, and improved household stability.

The “Men in the Kitchen” idea stands as a symbol of progress. It aligns with Uganda’s broader push for gender-responsive development and reflects the growing appreciation for shared domestic responsibility as a pathway to stronger, healthier families.

Through advocacy, capacity building, and community support, KAWODA continues to spark conversations that challenge outdated norms inviting men to become active partners in both the field and the kitchen. The program continues to gain support across Kyenjojo District as communities witness the practical benefits of shared responsibility.

KAMWENGWE STARTS NRM PARISH MOBILISATION STRATEGY AHEAD OF PRESIDENT MUSEVENI'S CAMPAIGN VISIT

*Joy Kiiza, Senior IT Officer-
Kamwenge*

Kamwenge District officially kicked off parish-level mobilisation activities for the National Resistance Movement (NRM) ahead of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni's campaign visit scheduled for 8th December 2025. The mobilisation engagement which took place on Tuesday, 2nd December 2025, at Kamwenge Town Council Youth Hall, brought together key political stakeholders across the district aiming to strengthen grassroots coordination and ensure an effective campaign ahead of the national elections.

Speaking on behalf of the NRM Secretary General, Mr Sausi Capson emphasized the importance of parish and village-based mobilisation for the party's success in the forthcoming elections. He advised party leaders to organise campaigns



NRM leaders posing for a group photo after the launch.

directly through existing NRM structures at the grassroots level. "Strong community engagement is a strategic tool for securing victory," he said.

Mr Sausi highlighted the composition of the village structures, stating that each village consists of 30 NRM committee members, 9 youth flag bearers, 5 women flag bearers, 5 elders, and 5 representatives of persons with disabilities. With these structures firmly in place, he noted confidence in the party's ability to perform strongly in the presidential vote.



Mr Sausi Capson addressing the NRM leaders in Kamwenge.

Similarly, in order to reinforce mobilisation efforts, the NRM Secretariat announced the distribution of campaign support materials across all villages. “Each village will receive 100 posters, while urban areas and cities will receive the same allocation. Each cell will be provided with 500 posters and an additional 200 handbills to boost visibility and voter education,” Mr Sausi noted.

The Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Kamwenge, Mr Aharikundira Africana, encouraged flag bearers to maintain close collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure smooth mobilization activities. He urged leaders to sensitize communities on ongoing government programs, emphasizing the need to preserve peace, unity, and development.

“This harmony and active grassroots engagement will help the district deliver overwhelming support for President Museveni, targeting a 99% vote turnout,” the RDC said.

The meeting attracted a wide range of participants including representatives from the NRM Secretariat, district leadership, flag bearers, RDC and DISO office bearers, LCIII chairpersons, Members of Parliament, and members of the media fraternity.

As the countdown to the presidential visit continues, Kamwenge stands energized and organized, reflecting strong enthusiasm and commitment to NRM mobilization at the parish and village levels.



Mukundane with the PDM Focal Person Muzoora Kenneth advising her on the practices.

PDM SEEDS OF CHANGE:

HOW 41-YEAR-OLD MUKUNDANE'S DETERMINATION TO GROW TRANSFORMED HER LIFE

Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer-Kabarole

The Parish Development Model (PDM) is making a significant difference in the lives of Ugandans who have embraced it, particularly in



Mukundane's piggery project

Kabarole District. This initiative has empowered individuals previously engaged in subsistence farming to transition into a middle-income economy, with many now earning more than one million shillings per month.

The PDM serves as the Government of Uganda's last-mile strategy for service delivery, aimed at enhancing the incomes and welfare of all Ugandans at the household level.

The Inspiring Story of Mukundane Rosette

Mukundane Rosette, a 41-year-old resident of Kasojo Cell in Kyanyawara Ward, Kiko Town Council, is a remarkable beneficiary of the PDM who has significantly improved her household income.

In November 2023, Mukundane received one million shillings in PDM funds, which she used to purchase four goats, two of which were pregnant. Within a short period, her goats gave birth, resulting in a total of 15 goats.

Mukundane shared her success, stating that she sold five goats for 900,000 shillings and subsequently bought a cow. On November 1st

of this year, she sold an additional 15 goats for 6,000,000 shillings and six goats for her family, generating 3,985,000 shillings, which she invested in purchasing one acre of land in Kyegegwa to plant coffee.

Reflecting on her journey, Mukundane expressed gratitude for the great milestone the PDM initiative had brought her so far. "When the president visited me, he gave me 10 million shillings. I used this money to buy land to expand my project, purchase a water tank, and acquire a cow."

The Impact of PDM on Mukundane's Life

Mukundane credits the PDM for her transformation, noting that prior to receiving the funds, her banana crops struggled due to poor soil quality. However, the manure from her goats has revitalized her banana production, allowing her to earn over 500,000 shillings from banana sales per month. "I was able to buy six pigs from the sale of bananas, and in November alone, I earned 1,112,500 shillings from bananas. I aspire to expand this project and become a model farmer in my community," she proudly stated.

Moreover, Mukundane's



Mukundane's cow project



Mukundane in her goat project

newfound financial stability has enabled her to provide quality education for her three children, who attend Rwimi Parents School, each costing 700,000 shillings per term while others at studying from within. She plans to enrol them in even better schools.

Mukundane expresses her heartfelt appreciation to President Museveni for initiating the PDM strategy, which she believes is instrumental in alleviating poverty at the household level. Her life has been transformed, and she is committed to implementing the president's vision of using the four-acre model to further improve household income and also train and mentor farmers in the community.

About the Parish Development Model (PDM)

PDM embodies a comprehensive governmental approach to development, as outlined in the

National Development Plan III (NDPIII), positioning the parish as the fundamental administrative and operational hub for delivering services closer to the people and fostering local economic development.

Since its launch in the financial year 2021/2022, Kabarole District has received a substantial allocation of 16,079,226,540 shillings, distributed over the financial years 2021/2022 to 2024/2025.

According to Muzoora Kenneth, the District PDM Focal Person, this initiative has directly benefited 16,079 households across 52 parishes. The district has seen the establishment of 968 enterprise groups and 260 enterprises, with an average of five enterprises per parish. The most successful ventures include vegetable farming, goat rearing, dairy production, and pig farming.

Through the PDM, Mukundane Rosette's story exemplifies the profound impact of targeted government initiatives on individual lives, showcasing the potential for economic empowerment and community development in Kabarole District.

ABOVE THE SAVANNAH:

THE UNIQUE TREE-CLIMBING LIONS OF ISHASHA SECTOR IN QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK

Bigabwenkya Vincent, Senior Communication Officer - Kamwenge

In the heart of Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park lies one of Africa's most captivating wildlife wonders; the tree-climbing lions of the Ishasha sector.

These majestic cats have captivated scientists and visitors with a rare behaviour of effortlessly climbing sycamore fig and acacia trees, spending hours hanging across their branches. While lions occasionally climb trees elsewhere, Ishasha is one of only two places in the world besides Tanzania's Lake Manyara where this behaviour is commonly observed among entire prides.

Located in the remote southern portion of the park, the Ishasha sector is home to approximately 50 lions spread across three prides. Their preferred trees not only provide broad, sturdy branches but also offer shade, elevation, and relief from harsh elements. By climbing



A lion rests in a tree at the Queen Elizabeth National Park.

high above the ground, the lions escape the intense equatorial heat, avoid biting tsetse flies, and gain a commanding view of the sweeping savannah.

What About the Tree-Climbing Lions?

Scientists believe this tree-climbing habit is a learned behaviour, passed through generations rather than a genetic adaptation. From their



A picture of the entrance of the Ishasha Sector in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

elevated perches, the lions can easily scan for prey such as Uganda kob, topi, buffalo, warthog, and waterbuck. However, though the lions do not hunt from the trees, this point gives them a strategic edge in spotting movement and planning their next meal.

The landscape itself plays a vital role in shaping this behaviour. Ishasha is a stunning mosaic of savannah woodlands, grasslands, and scattered fig trees, bordered by the Ishasha River, which marks the boundary between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The riverbanks bustle with hippos and birdlife, contributing to the

park's reputation as a bird-watcher's paradise with over 600 species recorded.

The three resident prides often referred to by guides as the Ishasha, Kasenyi, and Mweya prides maintain dynamic territories that shift depending on prey abundance and competition. Their movements are monitored through conservation efforts such as radio collaring, which helps researchers map their ranges and understand how best to protect them.

According to Sir Major Owoyesiga Bernard, the Tourist Guide Queen Elizabeth National Park, Conservation efforts are underway



to protect these unique lions, including the use of radio collars to track their movements and educate local communities about coexisting with wildlife. However, the lions face threats from poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and habitat loss.

The Best Time to Explore the Ishasha Wonders

For travellers seeking a safari experience unlike any other, the Ishasha sector offers unmatched serenity and spectacle. Far less crowded than the northern reaches of the park, Ishasha's game drives feel intimate and exploratory. Visitors often spend hours circling clusters of fig trees, scanning the

branches for golden forms lounging lazily in the shade. The best time to see these lions is during the dry seasons of June to September and December to February when the roads are accessible and wildlife gathers around remaining water sources.

Many tourists combine a visit to Ishasha with a trip to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, just a short drive away, where they can track mountain gorillas making for one of Uganda's most iconic safari circuits.



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