



FEATURE STORY | PG.4

GOV'T PLEDGES 3.5BILLION TO ELEVATE RWENZORI MARATHON, GAINS WORLD ATHLETICS RECOGNITION

HIGHLIGHTS

Gov't Pledges 3.5Billion to Elevate Rwenzori Marathon, Gains World Athletics Recognition...
Page 4
Kyenjojo Hospital

Launches Review, Dismisses Claims of Neglect and Bribery in Tragic Maternal Death Case...**Page 7**
ICT Minister Hands 160

Computers to Kasese Institutions for Digital Boost ...**Page 10**
School Heads Embrace Digital Tools to Boost Education Quality with

TELA Training ...**Page 13**

Kyegegwa District Achieves Significant Academic Growth in 2025 UCE Results...
Page 15

Headteachers Urged to Strengthen Stewardship in Kyenjojo Schools...
Page 19

Kamwenge Hosts Regional Talks on

Sustainable Sanitation Delivery...**Page 21**

Stakeholders Renew Practical Efforts to Reduce Maternal Death Rate in Kasese...**Page 24**

Watering Success: Micro-Irrigation Transforms Bunyangabu Farmer's Hillside Plantation...**Page 27**

Bridging Rural Health Gaps: Kabarole District

Set to Host National Sanitation Week 2026...
Page 30

Civil Servants Urged to Embrace Newly-Introduced Monthly Prayer Initiative...**Page 32**

PDM Initiative Spurs Rural Economic Transformation in Kabarole...**Page 34**

FACTS ABOUT THE RWENZORI MARATHON...**Page 37**

**Rwenzori
Times** 

Contributors

Patrick Ninsiima, Guest Writer

Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer,
Kyenjojo

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer,
Kasese District

Kiiza Joy, Senior IT Officer -Kamwenge
District

Baingana Samuel, Communication Officer,
Kyegegwa

Christopher Tusiime, Communication
Officer, Bunyangabu District

Stephen Ainganiza, Communications Officer,
Kabarole District

Sylvia Mbabazi, Communication Officer,
Bundibugyo District



TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

CHIEF EDITOR

Dear Reader.

Welcome to this 27th Edition of our weekly Rwenzori Times newsletter. In this edition, we have captured quite a number of stories that we hope you will find interesting, educating and entertaining.

On the big stage, government’s Shs 3.5 billion pledge to elevate the Rwenzori Marathon, now carrying World Athletics Label recognition, is more than a sports headline. It is a tourism and identity bet: that Kasese can host the world and profit from it, not just clap for it.

In Health, Kyenjojo General Hospital’s move to launch an internal review while dismissing claims of neglect and bribery reminds us that trust in public health is fragile, and must be protected by facts, transparency, and swift accountability, not WhatsApp verdicts.

Meanwhile, the ICT Minister’s 160

computers for Kasese institutions and the TELA training for school heads signal a clear message: digital tools are no longer “extras”: they are becoming basic infrastructure for service delivery and education quality.

And in Kyegegwa, the stronger 2025 UCE performance points to what steady systems can deliver when communities and schools stay the course.

Finally, Bunyangabu’s hillside farm story is the quiet proof: when micro-irrigation works, it turns dry seasons into harvest seasons and hope into income.

We wish you a nice read.

KABUGHO SHARON

Editor



AINGANIZA STEPHEN

Editor

GOV'T PLEDGES 3.5BILLION TO ELEVATE RWENZORI MARATHON, GAINS WORLD ATHLETICS RECOGNITION



Some of the dignitaries during the official launch of the 2026 Tusker Lite Mt Rwenzori Marathon at Sheraton Kampala Hotel

Patrick Ninsiima, Guest Writer

Minister of State for Sports, Hon. Peter Ogwang, has pledged a landmark USD 1 million government commitment to the Rwenzori Marathon following its elevation to World Athletics Label Road Race status, a historic

first for Uganda.

He announced on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, during the launch of the 2026 edition earmarked for August 22 in Kasese.

“For years, our people have travelled abroad to run major marathons. But



Executive Director of Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), Nyombi Thembi, speaks during the event.

elite runners from abroad were not coming to us. We are changing that,” Ogwang declared.

The Rwenzori Marathon is now the first marathon in Uganda and only the third in East Africa to receive the prestigious World Athletics Label designation. The status places the Kasese-based race among the world’s leading road competitions, recognised for meeting strict international standards, including AIMS-certified course measurement, full electronic timing, closed roads, and the hosting of an international elite field.

“Last year, the Ministry of Tourism stepped forward to support this marathon. This year, the Ministry of Sports is stepping in. We are

committing USD 1 million to support the Rwenzori Marathon,” he announced.

Out of more than 200 World Athletics Label Road Races worldwide, only ten are held on the African continent. With this recognition, Uganda joins that exclusive list, firmly placing Kasese on the global athletics calendar.

For marathon Team Leader Amos Wekesa, the milestone validates years of deliberate planning. “This recognition affirms what we have been building since 2022: a race that meets global standards while remaining truly Ugandan,” Wekesa said.

“East Africa produces some of the greatest distance runners in the



Mr Amos Wekesa, the big brain/ team leader behind the Rwenzori Marathon.

world. Today, Uganda hosts a race recognised by the world. We have proven that we can organise at the highest international standard, right here in Uganda,” he added.

The marathon, which begins at the equator inside Queen Elizabeth National Park and finishes in the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains, has attracted runners from more than 35 countries since its inception in 2022. It has steadily grown into a destination event blending elite competition, community participation, and tourism.

Deputy Speaker of Parliament Rt. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa described

the marathon as a national asset deserving full state backing. “The Rwenzori Marathon has built something special. We have taken notice and we are ready to support. It will be reflected in the national budget. Parliament will send a team to participate and I will lead it myself. I am pleased to congratulate the organisers on achieving World Athletics Label status. See you in Kasese,” he remarked.

The tourism impact has also been significant, according to State Minister for Tourism Hon. Martin Mugarra.

“Kasese has changed. It has become more vibrant, more prosperous, and safer. More importantly, events



like the Rwenzori Marathon have increased both international and domestic tourism. We are happy to see more Ugandans traveling and exploring the country, inspired by initiatives like the marathon. That is why we are increasing our sponsorship of this marathon,” Mugarra noted.

Beyond prestige, the Label status strengthens the marathon’s standing as an official qualifier for major international races such as the Two Oceans and Comrades marathons, further enhancing Uganda’s appeal to elite global runners.

The 2026 Rwenzori Marathon is scheduled for August 22 in Kasese.

KYENJOJO HOSPITAL LAUNCHES REVIEW, DISMISSES CLAIMS OF NEGLIGENCE AND BRIBERY IN TRAGIC MATERNAL DEATH CASE

By Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer, Kyenjojo

The management of Kyenjojo General Hospital has firmly denied social media claims that staff mismanaged a patient and extorted money from the family of a mother who died at the facility.

Allegations, which began spreading earlier this week through community WhatsApp groups and TikTok posts, claimed that the deceased mother was neglected while under care and that her attendants were asked to pay unauthorized fees before she

could receive treatment.

The incident ignited widespread online outrage, with social media users accusing hospital staff of patient mismanagement and demanding payment from the family before offering care.

In a press statement released on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, the hospital administration distanced itself from the issue, calling it “false, misleading, and unfounded. The hospital board insisted that the patient received appropriate medical attention in line with established



Kyenjojo General Hospital

clinical guidelines.

“We extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family during this painful time. However, we categorically refute claims that the patient was neglected or that any member of staff engaged in extortion,” the statement read.

According to hospital management, the patient was admitted to Kyenjojo Hospital with a referral from Kasamba Health Centre and was promptly assessed by qualified health personnel. The medical team reportedly instituted the necessary emergency interventions within the facility’s capacity. Despite these efforts, her condition deteriorated due to complications, and she

unfortunately passed on shortly after the operation.

Sources at the hospital indicated that the patient had presented with severe underlying medical challenges, which required urgent and intensive management. Officials emphasized that all standard procedures were followed and that the care provided met professional standards expected of a public health facility.

On allegations of extortion, the

FAKE NEWS

hospital clarified that it operates under government guidelines and does not authorize staff to demand any payments. Management stated that all services are completely free of charge, and urged anyone with evidence of extortion to come forward to help in apprehending the so-called perpetrators.

“All services at Kyenjojo Hospital are free, provided at no cost,” the statement noted.

It added that preliminary findings have found no evidence to support claims that staff demanded any payments, or solicited any money from the said mother or her attendants.

The hospital has since instituted an internal review to re-examine the circumstances surrounding the incident. Administrators say they are prepared to cooperate with any independent investigations by relevant authorities to ensure transparency and accountability.

Health sector stakeholders in Kyenjojo District have called for

calm as the matter is reviewed, urging the public to avoid spreading unverified information that could damage reputations and erode trust in public health services.

Kyenjojo Hospital serves thousands of patients annually from Kyenjojo and neighboring districts of Kagadi, Kibaale, Kabarole, and Kamwenge, and remains one of the key public referral facilities in the area.

Hospital management reaffirmed its commitment to providing professional, ethical, and compassionate quality healthcare services to the community of Kyenjojo and beyond, noting that patient safety and dignity remain its top priorities, and an internal review has been conducted and that they remain open to any independent investigations to ensure transparency and accountability.

As investigations and audits continue in accordance with national health policies, district leaders maintain that professional standards were followed and that no evidence has emerged to substantiate claims of negligence or extortion in this case.

Kyenjojo Hospital operates as a public health facility and does not condone or permit extortion in any form. All services at Kyenjojo Hospital are provided at a free cost. We have found no evidence to substantiate claims that any staff member demanded any payments, there was no form of soliciting for money from the said mother or her attendants.

ICT MINISTER HANDS 160 COMPUTERS TO KASESE INSTITUTIONS FOR DIGITAL BOOST

By Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese District

Kasese District Local Government has received a major boost to its digital transformation efforts following the delivery of 160 computers from the National Information Technology Authority-Uganda (NITA-U) under the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance.

The computers comprising 130 desktops and 30 laptops were officially handed over on Friday, February 20th, 2026, at the district headquarters by Godfrey Kabyanga Kime, Minister of State for ICT and National Guidance.

The donation follows lobbying efforts by Sowed Kitanywa, Member of Parliament for Busongora North, who worked closely with the Ministry to ensure that institutions in Kasese benefit from the government's ongoing digital expansion program.

The computers have been distributed to 40 government institutions across the district, including Nyakatonzi Secondary School, Mpondwe Muslim Vocational Secondary

School, Rugendabara SS, Bwera SS, Mt. Rwenzori Girls Secondary School, Hima Town Council, Magherita SS, Isule Health Centre III, Ndughutu ACC SS, Karangura SS, Mitandi SS, Kabatunda SDA SS, Bugoye Subcounty, Mubuku Town Council, Ibanda-Kyanya Town Council, and Maliba Town Council, among others.

The allocation is expected to significantly enhance digital learning, improve administrative efficiency, and strengthen service delivery in schools, health facilities, and local governments.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kasese, Mr Kasagara Paul, expressed gratitude to Minister Kabyanga and Hon Kitanywa for their commitment to the district's development.

He assured the Ministry that the computers would be engraved and marked as government property to prevent misuse or loss.

"We shall ensure these items are properly safeguarded, maintained,



Minister of State for ICT and National Guidance handing over 160 computers to the District.

and used strictly for their intended purpose,” Mr. Kasagara said.

Representing NITA-U’s Executive Director, Arnold Mangeni, Director for Information Security at NITA-U, emphasized that the Authority has traditionally focused on building digital infrastructure such as national backbone networks and data centres.

He noted that with support from the World Bank under the Uganda Digital Acceleration Program, the government is now accelerating digital adoption to ensure citizens fully utilize the existing infrastructure.

“We encourage beneficiaries to embrace this technology positively, safeguard the equipment, and utilize it to improve service delivery,” Mangeni said.

Hon Sowedi Kitanywa applauded Minister Kabyanga for ensuring Kasese benefits from national ICT programs and urged institutions to treat the computers as valuable public assets.

“All lower local governments in Busongora North now have these gadgets. Technical officers have no excuse for poor service delivery. Do not be tempted to sell them; use them to transform your institutions,” he said.





In his address, Minister Kabyanga credited Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for securing funding support from the World Bank to drive Uganda's digital agenda.

He revealed that the Ministry is implementing a five-year digital transformation roadmap focused on expanding digital skills and literacy while increasing access to essential ICT equipment.

“We realized that you cannot empower digital skills without providing gadgets. That is why we are supporting institutions not only government entities but also community-based organizations,” he said.

The Minister further disclosed that Kasese District is now 95 percent covered by network connectivity. Plans are underway to extend

internet access to every parish in the district by the end of the year, with broader expansion planned nationwide.

Under Phase Five of the National Backbone Infrastructure project, internet connectivity will be extended to all 145 districts within two years, with future expansion to subcounty and parish levels.

Minister Kabyanga also highlighted the government's progress in reducing the cost of internet services. He noted that data rates have already dropped from 70 dollars per megabyte per second to 35 dollars, with a target of reducing costs to five dollars within the next two years.

“We want internet to be as affordable as possible for every Ugandan,” he said.

The handover of the 160 computers marks a significant milestone in Kasese's journey toward digital transformation. With improved infrastructure, expanded connectivity, and enhanced access to ICT equipment, institutions across the district are now better positioned to deliver efficient services, strengthen learning environments, and embrace Uganda's digital future.

SCHOOL HEADS EMBRACE DIGITAL TOOLS TO BOOST EDUCATION QUALITY WITH TELA TRAINING

By Kiiza Joy, Senior IT Officer -Kamwenge District

Primary Head Teachers from across Kamwenge District, both private and Government-aided schools, gathered at the District Headquarters Council Hall for a comprehensive training on the Teacher Effectiveness and Learner Achievement (TELA) System. The engagement attracted over 100 Head teachers, demonstrating the district's strong commitment to improving education standards and learner outcomes.

a technical team from the Ministry of Education and Sports under the Directorate of Education Standards. The facilitators guided participants through the practical use of the TELA system, focusing on how it can be applied to strengthen supervision, accountability, and performance



The training on February 26th, 2026, was facilitated by

Mr Nuwagaba Edson, the District Inspectorate of Schools (DIS) Kamwenge addressing the participants.



Participants pose for a group Photo.

management in schools.

TELA is a digital monitoring and supervision tool designed to enhance teacher accountability and improve learning outcomes. Through the system, school leaders will be able to effectively monitor staff attendance, track lesson delivery, supervise timetable implementation, and assess overall teacher performance. The system also supports continuous monitoring of classroom activities, ensuring that instructional time is utilized efficiently.

Speaking during the training, the District Inspector of Schools, Mr

Nuwagaba Edson, emphasized that the engagement was aimed at equipping school leaders with essential skills to strengthen instructional leadership. He noted that empowering headteachers with digital supervision tools will significantly improve classroom performance, enhance teacher effectiveness, and ultimately boost learner achievement across the district.

According to Madam Turihohabwe Daphine, the Information Technology Officer from the Ministry of Education and Sports, the TELA system goes beyond attendance tracking. She explained that the training covered key components

such as timetable management, lesson supervision, and time-on-task monitoring, critical areas in ensuring quality education delivery.

The successful rollout of the TELA training marks an important milestone for Kamwenge District's education sector. By embracing technology-driven supervision and performance management, the district is taking deliberate steps toward improving accountability,

strengthening school leadership, and fostering better academic outcomes for learners.

As Headteachers return to their respective schools, the expectation is that the skills acquired will translate into more structured supervision, improved teacher commitment, and measurable progress in learner achievement throughout the district.

KYELEGWA DISTRICT ACHIEVES SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC GROWTH IN 2025 UCE RESULTS

By Baingana Samuel, Communication Officer, Kyegegwa

Kyegegwa District achieved an impressive performance in the 2025 Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) examinations, following the official release of results by the Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, on February 13 th, 2026.

The district registered significant growth in candidature and maintained an outstanding overall performance under Uganda's

Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC), demonstrating steady progress in the delivery of quality secondary education.

A total of 1,814 candidates registered for UCE in 2025, up from 1,367 in 2024 and 1,237 in 2023, a clear indication of growing community confidence in secondary education across the district.

Of the registered candidates: 937 were male, 904 were female, 1,053 were under the USE scholarship and 788 were from private secondary



Mr. Kiiza Goden, the District Inspector of Schools – Kyegegwa District

schools

Out of all registered candidates, 1,806 sat for the examinations, with only eight absentees.

This steady upward trend highlights improved access, retention, and participation in secondary education within Kyegegwa District.

Kyegegwa District recorded an exceptional certificate qualification rate across both government and private schools.

- Government-aided schools: 99.6% of candidates qualified for UCE certificates (1,049 out of

1,053).

- Private schools: 99.0% qualification rate (780 out of 788).

The performance gap between government and private schools has significantly narrowed, reflecting improved teaching standards and effective curriculum implementation across the district.

The 2025 UCE marked the second national assessment under the Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC), which emphasizes practical and project-based learning, continuous assessment (20% contribution), development of 21st-century skills, critical and creative thinking and application of knowledge to real-life challenges.

At the subject-level competency performance, King Solomon’s College, Kyatega emerged as the leading school in the district, demonstrating strong adaptation to the new curriculum framework.

District education officials noted that the CBC approach is increasingly

yielding positive outcomes, shifting focus from rote memorization to competence, innovation, and practical skills.

In a remarkable development, refugee learners performed on par with national learners, reflecting inclusive education efforts and equitable access to learning opportunities within the district.

According to Mr. Kiiza Goden, the District Inspector of Schools, several key factors contributed to the improved performance: continuous teacher training by NCDC and UNEB on CBC implementation, adequate supply of CBC textbooks to schools, continuous assessment contributing 20% to final scores, strengthened school monitoring and inspection and practical and collaborative teaching methods that improve learner retention.

However, he noted that low morale among Arts teachers due to low pay remains an area that requires attention.

District education leaders have emphasized the importance of subject-level competency in guiding learners' future career paths.

Learners who score A or B are considered highly competent to

pursue those subjects at A-Level, while those who score C or D may continue with additional academic support and guidance.

The District Inspector recommended: strengthening project-based learning, enhancing collaborative teaching strategies, expanding career guidance services, and sustaining school monitoring to ensure practical skills acquisition.

Education stakeholders have welcomed the competency-based grading system, noting that it provides learners with more hope and a clearer understanding of their strengths compared to the former division-based system.

Kyegegwa District has reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing every learner's potential. As district leaders emphasized, schools should not be judged solely by the number of A or B grades produced, but by their ability to support, guide, and develop learners holistically.

With sustained collaboration among teachers, administrators, parents, and stakeholders, Kyegegwa District continues to position itself as a model of steady progress and inclusive excellence under Uganda's evolving education system.

PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

NO	SCHOOL	Result 1		Result 2		Result 3		Result 4		TOTAL		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	Kakabara SS	55	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	34	108
2	Hapuyo SS	86	62	0	0	0	0	1	0	86	62	148
3	Rwentuha SS	85	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	60	145
4	Bujubuli SS	95	69	0	0	0	0	2	1	97	70	167
5	Wekomire SS	31	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	23	54
6	Mpara SS	40	53	0	0	0	0	0	1	41	46	94
7	Kibuye SS	32	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	52	84
8	Humura SS	48	53	1	0	0	0	0	0	49	53	102
9	Kasule SS	51	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	36	87
10	Ruyonza SS	42	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	23	65
	Total	565	484	1	0	0	0	3	2	567	486	1053

PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS' PERFORMANCE IN UCE 2025

NO	SCHOOL	Result 1		Result 2		Result 3		Result 4		TOTALS		Totals
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	King Solomon's College Kyatega	96	120	0	0	0	0	0	1	96	121	217
2	Citizen HS	18	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	22	40
3	Rock Side SS	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	12	24
4	Divine SS	13	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	17	30
5	Kyaka SS	7	17	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	17	25
6	Loyal High School	20	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	13	33
7	St. Christopher SS	8	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	11	19
8	Kigambo SS	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	9
9	Bukere SS	142	151	1	3	0	0	0	0	143	154	297
10	Exodus SS	16	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	3
11	Emmanuel SS-Kazinga	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	18
12	St. Paul SS Migamba	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4
13	St. Peter's SS Migongwe.	17	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17	34
14	Legacy	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	17
	Total	379	401	1	3	0	0	1	2	370	418	788

HEADTEACHERS URGED TO STRENGTHEN STEWARDSHIP IN KYENJOJO SCHOOLS



The ARDC, Mr Thaddeo Kasaija addresses the headteachers' meeting flanked by the LC V Chairperson, DCAO, and other Education department officials.

By Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer, Kyenjojo District

Leaders in Kyenjojo District have called on headteachers to uphold integrity, professionalism, and strong stewardship in the management of public schools.

The call was made during a meeting

convened by the Kyenjojo District Public Schools Headteachers Association, which brought together headteachers of public primary and secondary schools across the district.

The meeting was attended by the



District leadership, including the Assistant RDC, Mr. Kasaija Thaddeo, the LC V Chairperson, Hon Gilbert Rubaihayo, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Mr Amis Asuman Masereka, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO), Mr. Yiga Martin Paul, and the Acting District Education Officer (DEO), Mr. Karamagi Amos, alongside the entire Education Department.

The gathering aimed at strengthening school administration and management, improving the teaching and learning experience, and formally ushering in the incoming leadership of the Association.

Speaking during the meeting, district leaders emphasized the critical role headteachers play

in shaping the future of learners and the overall development of the district. They urged them to embrace their responsibility not only as administrators but also as mentors and custodians of public trust.

Headteachers were implored to be “true stewards and good shepherds,” recognizing their integral position within the civil service and their contribution to national development. Leaders underscored the need for accountability, proper financial management, adherence to government policies, and fostering discipline among both staff and learners.

The Education Department highlighted ongoing efforts to improve performance, enhance supervision, and promote

collaboration among schools to raise academic standards in the district.

The meeting also marked the assumption of duty by the new leadership of Kyenjojo District Public Schools Headteachers Association, with members pledging to work closely with district authorities to strengthen service delivery in the education sector, and improve on the academic standards that are currently on all time low, following the poor results of the recently

released PLE and UCE exams.

Participants expressed commitment to teamwork, improved communication, and innovative approaches to improve learning outcomes across public schools in Kyenjojo District.

District officials reaffirmed their support to the education sector, noting that quality education remains a cornerstone for sustainable development and socio-economic transformation.

KAMWENGE HOSTS REGIONAL TALKS ON SUSTAINABLE SANITATION DELIVERY

By Kiiza Joy, Senior IT Officer, Kamwenge District

Kamwenge District Local Government has hosted a two-day Regional Bi-Annual Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Meeting, bringing together District WASH Officers and technical staff from 18 districts to review performance and strengthen strategies for sustainable sanitation service delivery.

The meeting, held from February 18 to 19 th, February, 2026, at Club

Afreka Complex in Kamwenge, focused on improving sanitation and hygiene outcomes through knowledge sharing, performance assessment, and strategic planning.

Participants conducted a field visit to Byabasambu Village, where they assessed household sanitation practices and observed model facilities, community-led hygiene improvements, and climate-resilient sanitation approaches. The visit provided a practical learning



District water officers pose for a group photo with the District Chairperson at Club Afreka complex.

platform for district teams to identify best practices that can be adapted in their respective areas.

The meeting reviewed first and second quarter performance for the 2025/2026 financial year and discussed emerging sector issues, policies, and guidelines. It also emphasized the need to promote climate-resilient sanitation and strengthen coordination among districts to improve service delivery.

Districts represented at the meeting included Kabarole, Mubende, Kagadi, Kikuube, Masindi, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Hoima, Kitagwenda,

Kamwenge, Bunyangabu, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kibaale, Kakumiro, Kasese, Buliisa, and Kasanda.

The meeting was organized with support from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), which continues to support districts in improving safe water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services in rural areas. The Ministry provides conditional grants, regulatory oversight, and technical assistance to enhance service delivery. Through the Rural Water and Sanitation Regional Centre 5 (RWSRC-5).



District Chairperson delivering his speech.

The District Water Officer, Mr Agaba Assimwe, expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Water and Environment for its continued technical and financial support, noting that the partnership has strengthened sanitation programming across the district.

The District Chairperson, Karungi Joseph, thanked the organizing team for selecting Kamwenge as the host district. He commended the District Water Department for the transformation of traditional pit latrines into improved sanitary facilities, highlighting the visible reduction in open defecation and significant improvements in community hygiene standards.

“As a political leader, I will continue mobilizing leaders at all levels to support sanitation and hygiene initiatives,” he remarked.

The Regional Bi-Annual Sanitation Coordination Meeting reaffirmed the importance of collaboration, experience sharing, and strategic planning in achieving sustainable sanitation and hygiene outcomes. By integrating climate resilience considerations and strengthening district-level coordination, the region is steadily progressing toward improved public health and environmental sustainability.

STAKEHOLDERS RENEW PRACTICAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE MATERNAL DEATH RATE IN KASESE



Stakeholders reviewing health performance of Kasese District.

By Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese District

Kasese District Local Government Health Sector has intensified efforts to address maternal deaths following a health performance review meeting held on February 25th, 2026, at Rwenzori International Hotel.

The meeting brought together health facility in-charges, development partners, district leaders, and other stakeholders to assess progress in health service delivery against district targets for the current financial year and to strengthen

coordination and collaboration.

Presenting on maternal and child health performance indicators, Sr. Loy Sekalombi, Assistant District Health Officer in charge of Maternal and Child Health, together with Dr Herbert Nzeke, Chairperson of the Maternal, Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) Committee, reported that the district has registered 26 maternal deaths from July 2025 to date.

The deaths were attributed to several avoidable factors, including delays in reaching health facilities, refusal



of transfer to higher facilities, lack of partner support, lack of transport from home to health facilities, shortages of blood products, supplies, and consumables, and gaps in staff skills and expertise.

In response, the District Health Officer, Dr. Amon Bwambale, said the district has already organised engagements to address the contributing factors. He noted that a deep-dive meeting will be convened on 4th and 5th March involving the Ministry of Health Uganda, health facility in-charges, partners, and other stakeholders to discuss maternal deaths in detail. A separate meeting bringing together all doctors in the district has also been organised.

Dr Herbert Nzeke further noted that the MPDSR committee has been following up on maternal and

perinatal deaths. However, he raised concerns that some cases have not been reported, which affects timely interventions, and appealed to health workers to ensure that all cases are reported for appropriate response.

While giving his remarks during the review meeting, Dr. Bwambale emphasised the need for open discussion on areas of poor performance and urged health workers to understand the population they serve, including key demographics such as women, children under five, and men, to improve planning and service delivery.

The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Eliab Ntarwete Begumya, commended health workers for the services rendered despite the



district's challenging mountainous terrain. He appreciated the health department for organising the performance review meeting and called on stakeholders to critically review performance in terms of inputs, outputs, impact and service delivery processes. He also encouraged investment in teamwork and capacity building of health workers.

The Assistant Resident District Commissioner, Kabiriri Henry, urged the health sector to focus more on preventive rather than curative services, particularly through community sensitisation on feeding and disease prevention. He also called for greater attention to mental health, noting increasing stress levels among the population, and raised concern about absenteeism among staff, especially in hard-to-

reach areas.

Hon. Bukombi Muhindi Eliphazi, the district chairperson, appealed for intensified monitoring of health facilities and urged health workers to remain at their duty stations. He emphasised proper record keeping, discouraged the forging of reports and called for professional handling of mothers to encourage more facility-based deliveries. He also urged health facility in-charges to safeguard government equipment and property.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment by district leaders, health workers and partners to strengthen coordination, improve reporting, enhance supervision and address gaps contributing to maternal deaths in the district.

WATERING SUCCESS: MICRO-IRRIGATION TRANSFORMS BUNYANGABU FARMER'S HILLSIDE PLANTATION



Senior Agricultural Engineer, Ms Brenda Oshaba, with workers of Robert Kaswarra, inspecting the irrigation system.

By Christopher Tusiime, Communication Officer, Bunyangabu District

Robert Kaswarra, a farmer from Kisomoro in Bunyangabu District, is one of the beneficiaries of Uganda's microscale irrigation

programme; his more than three-acre hilly plantation is a testament to a flourishing farm initiative.

At Kaswarra's farm, drip irrigation



Robert Kaswarra attributes the better look of his coffee to the microscale irrigation programme.

now feeds a mix of crops: passion fruits, coffee, bananas, and vegetables such as cabbage and green peppers. But it wasn't always like this.

Before he joined the programme, Kaswarra struggled to farm consistently because the land is on a slope and, during the dry season, crops would often wither. Yields dropped, and the garden could not sustain reliable production.

But the story has since changed. According to the farm's manager, Mr Andrew Mwesige, who oversees day-to-day operations, the introduction

of irrigation water became a real game-changer. He explains that bananas that used to "struggle" now produce better bunches, and the farm is now able to harvest at least two sacks of passion fruits every two weeks, alongside other yields.

"Now a bunch of banana from this plantation can never go below Shs 20,000," Mwesige says. "These bananas look good and their market is readily available."

Hisco-manager, Mr John Mutembuzi, agrees, and adds that his own experience at the farm shows how

the irrigation supports dependable production.

“When I joined the plantation, I started growing green peppers. Every two weeks, we harvest at least two basins for green peppers alone. A basin is sold at Shs 20,000. For cabbages, each goes for Shs 2,000,” Mutembuzi says.

For Mutembuzi and other casual labourers, the benefits are not only felt by their boss. They say that when production improves, their earnings also improve and that helps to improve their standard of living.

Mutembuzi shares that because yields are better, he can use his pay to build household assets like livestock.

“In case of an emergency need, I’m able to sell a goat and solve the challenge. But all this is because there is this irrigation water that helps the crops grow well throughout the year,” he explains.

The Senior Agricultural Engineer, Ms Brenda Oshaba, notes that in Bunyangabu District, the programme supported 13 farmers in FY 2023/2024, and 16 farmers in FY 2024/2025.

She adds that most beneficiaries are engaged in growing coffee,

bananas and vegetables, and that many are already registering visible improvement. Oshaba appreciates the government's initiative and encourages more farmers to apply under the next phase so they can increase production and stabilize incomes.

“Before microscale, farmers used to wait for rain to plant. If it were delayed, they wouldn’t plant. But now with this irrigation water, the beneficiaries are able to plant and harvest throughout the year. Our findings show that their yields are much better than those relying on rainfall,” she explains.

The microscale irrigation programme supports farmers to install small irrigation systems such as drip irrigation to reduce dependence on rainfall and enable year-round production.

Under the arrangement, farmers contribute 25% of the total cost, while government provides the remaining 75% as a subsidy/top-up. This cost-sharing model is meant to improve affordability, expand access to irrigation, and help farmers increase yields, stabilize production during dry spells, and grow more commercially reliable enterprises.

BRIDGING RURAL HEALTH GAPS: KABAROLE DISTRICT SET TO HOST NATIONAL SANITATION WEEK 2026



Mr. Brian Kitembo ADHO Environmental Health addressing the stakeholders about the National Sanitation Week.

By Stephen Ainganiza, Communications Officer, Kabarole District

Kabarole District is gearing up to host the National Sanitation Week 2026, scheduled for March 19th, 2026, at Kiburara Primary School in Hakibaale Sub-County. This initiative aims to accelerate progress towards universal access to safely managed sanitation and hygiene services, in alignment

with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.2.

According to Kitembo Brian, the Assistant District Health Officer for Environmental Health, the National Sanitation Week builds on the significant achievements made in recent years. The latest Ministry of Health WASH Report (2025)

indicates that household sanitation coverage in Uganda has risen from 81% to 88%, while the rate of open defecation has decreased from 8% to 4%.

The event, spearheaded by the Ministry of Health, Water and Environment in collaboration with various ministries, local governments, and WASH partners, will focus on addressing persistent disparities in rural and low-income communities. It will feature advocacy campaigns, awareness initiatives, exhibitions, dialogues, and awards aimed at promoting better sanitation practices.

Kisembo emphasizes that the overarching goal of National Sanitation Week is to enhance access to safely managed sanitation and hygiene services across Uganda, with a particular focus on Kabarole District.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Accelerating Safely Managed Sanitation for a Healthy Uganda," accompanied by the slogan "Clean Homes, Healthy Communities."

Madam Birungi Cecilia, the District Health Inspector, highlights that the week will include various activities, such as the launch of WASH

infrastructure projects like latrines and incinerators, assessments of WASH facilities, and menstrual hygiene management in schools and health centers. Additionally, a friendly football match will take place between officials from the Ministry of Water and Environment, Kabarole district staff, Hakibaale sub-county leaders, and development partners to foster community engagement.

Significant strides have been made in Uganda through coordinated efforts by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Water and Environment. The 2025 WASH Report reveals that while household sanitation coverage has improved, regional disparities continue to pose challenges.

In Kabarole District, for instance, overall sanitation coverage stands at 94%, yet disparities remain, particularly in rural and low-income areas. Here, only 2.8% of households have safely managed sanitation, while 56% have basic sanitation, and 35.2% are classified as limited or unimproved. Open defecation rates are at 6%, and handwashing coverage is a mere 23%.

Kisembo notes that recent assessments, including the 2024 WASH baseline surveys in sub-counties like Kicwamba, reveal latrine coverage varying significantly,

with some areas reporting as low as 42.4%. This highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions to address these gaps.

The National Sanitation Week 2026 presents a timely opportunity to bridge these disparities by fostering multisectoral coordination, innovation, and accountability. By engaging stakeholders at all levels, the initiative aims to promote sustainable improvements in

sanitation and hygiene, ultimately contributing to a cleaner, healthier Uganda.

As the event approaches, the commitment to enhancing sanitation and hygiene in Kabarole District remains strong, with the hope that this week will catalyze lasting change and inspire communities to prioritize their health and well-being.

CIVIL SERVANTS URGED TO EMBRACE NEWLY-INTRODUCED MONTHLY PRAYER INITIATIVE

By Sylvia Mbabazi, Communication Officer, Bundibugyo District

Bundibugyo District Local Government has initiated monthly prayer sessions for all civil servants at the district headquarters, a move aimed at fostering spiritual growth and ethical conduct among public servants.

The initiative was spearheaded by the Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Walakira Paul, together with the Heads of Departments. Religious leaders from various faiths will be invited to lead the sessions each

month.

The first session, held in February, was led by the Catholic Church. Attendees included the Chief Administrative Officer, Heads of Departments, civil servants, representatives from Centenary Bank, and members of the neighboring business community.

The main celebrant, Rev. Father Patrick Tukwasibwe Amooti, encouraged civil servants and



The Chief Administrative Officer giving a gift to the main Celebrant, Rev Fr Patrick Tukwasibwe Amooti.

Christians present to embrace prayer, fasting, and charitable giving during the Lenten season. He also urged them to treat others with fairness, endure hardships with patience, avoid abusive language, and refrain from blackmail, emphasizing that such values attract the blessings of the Lord.

Speaking during the session, Mr. Walakira Paul called on all Heads

of Departments, civil servants, and development partners to support the initiative by attending the prayer sessions every last Thursday of the month. He further encouraged the Bundibugyo community and civil servants to contribute to the Kasese Catholic Diocese to support this year's Uganda Martyrs celebrations, which will be led by the Diocese at Namugongo Catholic Shrine.

The monthly prayer sessions aim to strengthen moral values, unity, and community engagement among civil servants, while fostering a culture of service and integrity in Bundibugyo District.

PDM INITIATIVE SPURS RURAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN KABAROLE



The PDM Focal Person, Muzoora Kenneth advising the PDM farmer on the practices.

By Stephen Ainganiza, Communications Officer, Kabarole District

Funds disbursed under the Parish Development Model (PDM) are transforming the economic landscape of Kabarole District in Western Uganda, where individuals previously confined to subsistence farming are now stepping into a brighter financial future.

This innovative initiative, launched in the financial year 2021/2022, has empowered many households to

transition into a middle-income economy, with some residents reporting earnings exceeding one million shillings per month. The PDM is not just a financial program; it represents the Government of Uganda's commitment to enhancing the welfare of its citizens by delivering services at the parish level, thereby fostering local economic development.

The PDM is a cornerstone of the National Development Plan



Ahebwa Michael of Kirere with their PDM cow that has delivered twice.

III (NDPIII), which emphasizes the parish as the fundamental administrative and operational hub for service delivery. This approach ensures that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively, reaching those who need them most.

Since its inception, Kabarole District has received a substantial allocation of 18,775,426,540 shillings, which has been disbursed over the financial years 2021/2022 to 2025/2026.

According to Muzoora Kenneth, the District PDM Focal Person, this funding has directly benefited 18,654 households across 52 parishes, marking a significant stride toward poverty alleviation.

The initiative has led to the establishment of 968 enterprise groups and 260 enterprises, averaging five enterprises per parish. These ventures encompass a variety

of agricultural activities, including vegetable farming, goat rearing, dairy production, and pig farming. The success stories emerging from these enterprises are a testament to the program's effectiveness.

“100% of the SACCOs have operational offices that enable them to conduct periodic meetings to facilitate the development of strategies to sustain and institutionalize PDM at the parish level,” Muzoora emphasizes.

Moreover, the PDM has introduced a digital platform, WENDI, which allows SACCO clients to manage their loans and savings efficiently. This system has minimized the risks of fund mismanagement, as all transactions are conducted online. Muzoora reported that the district



now enjoys a daily milk yield of 14 liters, which they sell to support their basic needs, medical care, and school fees for their children. They also save weekly in a village SACCO, demonstrating a shift toward financial stability and self-

team has intensified mobilization efforts to create awareness about the program, encouraging more residents to participate and benefit from the available resources.

Among the many beneficiaries of the PDM are Michael Ahebwa and his mother, Rose Kezabu, from Kyamasongi in Busoro Town Council. Their story exemplifies the transformative power of this initiative. Kezabu applied for a loan of one million shillings, added two million of her own, and purchased a pregnant heifer for three million shillings. In just two years, their investment has yielded remarkable results: the heifer has produced two calves, with the older calf already pregnant.

“In a period of three years, we shall have five cows, and in five years, I believe we shall have around ten cows,” Ahebwa shares. The family

sufficiency.

Ahebwa, a young advocate for the PDM, encourages his peers to embrace the program. “As a family, we are earning big from the PDM. If the youth join and utilize the funds properly, there is no doubt that we can achieve a higher-income economy by 2030.” His optimism reflects the broader sentiment among beneficiaries who see the PDM as a viable pathway out of poverty.

The PDM has not only improved individual livelihoods but has also fostered a sense of community and collaboration among residents. The establishment of enterprise groups has encouraged knowledge sharing and collective problem-solving, further enhancing the program’s impact. As beneficiaries come

together to support one another, they are building a resilient local economy that can withstand future challenges.

In conclusion, the Parish Development Model is proving to be a game-changer for Kabarole District, empowering individuals and families to break free from the cycle of poverty. With substantial funds disbursed and a growing number of successful enterprises, the PDM

is paving the way for a prosperous future.

As more residents engage with this initiative, the vision of a thriving middle-income economy in Uganda becomes increasingly attainable. The stories of individuals like Michael Ahebwa and Rose Kezabu serve as powerful reminders of the potential that lies within communities when given the right tools and support.

FACTS ABOUT THE RWENZORI MARATHON

- The Rwenzori Marathon, officially called the Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon, is an annual running event held in Kasese, Uganda, at the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains.
- It includes multiple race distances: the full marathon (42.2 km), a half marathon (21.1 km), a 10 km run, and a 5 km fun run so both elite athletes and casual runners can take part.
- The marathon typically takes place August 22 August of every year.
- The event starts and finishes in Kasese town, which lies near

the Equator and close to Queen Elizabeth National Park.



Golden Posters represented and some of them won medals.

- The marathon has earned World Athletics certification, making it the only Ugandan marathon with this distinction and one of just a few in East Africa. This means finish times can be used to qualify for international races such as the Two Oceans and Comrades Marathons.
- First held in 2022 with around 800 runners, the event has rapidly grown, attracting thousands of participants from dozens of countries. By 2025, more than 5,000–6,000 runners from over 30-50 countries took part.
- Mount Rwenzori Half Marathon in Uganda has been listed among the World’s 30 Best Half Marathons by USA Today newspaper. It’s the only African half-marathon on the list.







Incase of a Road Traffic Accident

Call us for **Free** ambulance services



0800 211 088






redcrossug.org



✉ rwenzorieditorial@gmail.com

☎ 0701 498 242

Rwenzori
Tilnes 

