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# Rwenzori Times

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# TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

CHIEF EDITOR

*Dear Reader,*

**W**elcome to the 31st Edition of the Rwenzori Times, where we continue to spotlight stories shaping our region’s progress, resilience, and transformation.

This week, we reflect on a long-awaited step toward justice as government begins compensation for victims of the 1998 Kichwamba rebel attack, an important gesture of recognition and healing for affected families.

We also highlight a strong call for financial empowerment, as Bishop Kisembo urges Church of Uganda institutions to invest in the Ruwenzori Diocesan SACCO, reinforcing the role of collective savings in driving sustainable growth.

In Kasese, the unveiling of a UGX 116.8 billion budget signals renewed commitment to service delivery and economic transformation, with focus on education, health, and household incomes.

Equally significant is Bunyangabu’s commissioning of a Shs 427 million coffee factory, a strategic investment in value addition and farmer prosperity.

In Ntoroko, the rollout of the UCSATP e-voucher system marks a shift toward climate-smart agriculture, improving farmers’ access to inputs while promoting resilience and productivity.

Finally, the Nyakitokoli Solar Power Plant in Kabarole marks a milestone in rural electrification, unlocking opportunities for livelihoods and local enterprise.

Together, these and many more stories, reflect a region steadily advancing through accountability, innovation, and inclusive development.

**KABUGHO SHARON**

*Editor*



**AINGANIZA STEPHEN**

*Editor*

# GOV'T BEGINS COMPENSATION FOR 1998 KICHWAMBA REBEL ATTACK VICTIMS



*Some of the beneficiaries during the verification exercise on Monday at Kabarole district council chambers.*

***By Mpamizo Evalist, Ag District Communications Officer, Kabarole***

**K**abarole District Local Government, in partnership with Uganda Technical College–Kicwamba, has commenced the long-awaited verification exercise for families of victims who perished in the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attack on Uganda Technical College in Kicwamba.

The verification exercise, which started on Monday, March 23rd, 2026, at Kabarole district headquarters in Kitumba, has attracted families of the 41 students who were killed on the night of the attack. District authorities say the process is intended to ensure that the rightful beneficiaries receive government

support that was pledged years ago but delayed.

Speaking to the press, Kabarole District Chairperson Dr Richard Rwabuhinga confirmed the exercise. He explained that once completed, a verified list of beneficiaries with recommendation letters will be submitted to Central government for action.

“This has been a long journey for these families, and we are glad that the verification process has finally begun. Each family of the victims will receive 15 million shillings as a condolence from the government, as earlier pledged by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni,” Rwabuhinga said.

The attack on Uganda Technical College–Kicwamba remains one of the darkest chapters in Uganda’s history. It occurred on the night of June 8, 1998, when ADF rebels raided the institution located in Kicwamba Sub-County, Kabarole

District, targeting students in their dormitories.

During the brutal assault, the attackers set dormitories on fire and used machetes and guns to kill students who attempted to escape. A total of 41 students were killed on the spot, while several others were abducted and taken into the forests. Some of the abductees were never seen again, leaving



*A beneficiary presenting his documents before the verification committee on Monday.*

families in prolonged anguish and uncertainty.

The attack sent shockwaves across the country, drawing widespread condemnation and prompting intensified military operations against the ADF insurgents, who were at the time active in the



*Dr Richard Rwabuhinga speaking to the media during the verification exercise.*

Rwenzori sub-region.

For years, families of the victims have been demanding recognition, justice, and compensation from the government. Many have repeatedly petitioned authorities, arguing that the loss of their children not only left emotional scars but also deprived them of future support and opportunities.

Some parents have since passed away without seeing any form of compensation, while others have continued to press for government intervention.

Dr. Rwabuhinga acknowledged the long delay, however, he argued that the verification exercise was necessary to address

inconsistencies in earlier records and ensure transparency. “We understand the pain these families have gone through over the years. This verification was important to ensure that the right people benefit and that the process is fair and credible,” he

said.

The district has also announced that the current phase of compensation will focus specifically on families of those who died during the attack, while a second phase will address survivors and those who were abducted. According to Rwabuhinga, some victims survived with severe injuries and trauma, while others were taken captive and their whereabouts remain unknown to this day.

“The second phase will involve survivors and abductees whose whereabouts remain unknown. We ask this category to remain patient as the government works on the modalities to handle their cases,”

Rwabuhinga said. He added that addressing the needs of survivors and families of the missing will require additional verification and coordination with national authorities.

Several family members have welcomed the verification exercise and the promise of compensation, describing it as a long-overdue gesture of recognition from government.

Mr Robert William Ssempiira, who lost a son in the attack, said the development brings a sense of closure, even though no amount of money can replace the lives lost.

*“We have waited for so many years. Some of us had almost lost hope. This money will not bring back our children, but at least it shows that the government has not forgotten us,” Ssempiira said.*

Rose Sebulili, another parent who lost a son in the attack noted that the verification process has given families an opportunity to recount their experiences and reaffirm their claims. “It gives us confidence that this time, the process is serious,” she said.

However, some families expressed concern about the prolonged delay and urged authorities to

ensure that the compensation is disbursed without further setbacks. Local leaders say the compensation initiative is not only about financial support but also about acknowledging the suffering endured by affected families.

The Kicwamba attack left deep psychological and social scars in the community, with many families struggling to rebuild their lives in its aftermath. Schools in the region also experienced fear and disruption, as the attack raised concerns about the safety of students in boarding institutions.

Rwabuhinga emphasized that the government’s intervention should be seen as part of broader efforts to promote healing and reconciliation.

“This is about restoring dignity to the families and recognizing the pain they have carried for years. It is also a reminder of the importance of peace and security in our communities,” he said.

The attack continues to be remembered as a symbol of the devastating impact of insurgency on civilians, particularly students. Over the years, memorial events have been held to honor the victims and reflect on the lessons learned.

# NTOROKO DISTRICT SENSITIZES STAFF ON NEW PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION REFORMS



*PHRO Mughuma Joan in a sensitization meeting for the new Public Service Pensions Act at Ntoroko District Headquarters on Tuesday 24th April 2025. photo by Sahula.*

***Sahula Ibrahim, Communications Officer, Ntoroko District***

**N**toroko Local Government has launched a sensitisation campaign to prepare staff for the implementation of new sectoral legal reforms under the Human Resources and Management Department.

While addressing administrative staff from the district's 10 administrative units on Tuesday, March 24th, 2025, Principal Human Resources Officer Joan Mughuma

explained that the initiative is intended to ensure a smooth transition from the traditional non-contributory pension scheme to a new contributory system.

Under the revised arrangement, the employer will contribute 10 percent of an employee's basic salary, while employees will contribute 5 percent. In addition to mandatory contributions, staff will have the option to make voluntary savings, which will be invested to earn interest.



Mughuma noted that the new law introduces stricter provisions, including the forfeiture of pension benefits for employees who abscond from duty or are dismissed from service.

The reforms follow the decision by the Parliament of Uganda to repeal the Pensions Act and replace it with the Public Service Pension Fund Act (2025), aimed at addressing longstanding employment disparities and ensuring sustainability of pension payments.

***“Previously, the government bore the full responsibility of paying pensions and gratuity for all retired staff. The new system establishes a dedicated fund with a more structured administration,” Mughuma explained.***

The new law will take effect on July 1, 2026. However, officers who retire before this date will continue to receive benefits under the existing system.

As part of the transition process, all staff will be required to update their records with key details, including National Identification Numbers (NIN), Tax Identification Numbers (TIN), dates of birth, and employment information. Government will also issue new appointment letters reflecting updated terms in line with the Act.

Regarding access to bank loans, the law stipulates that financial institutions must factor in the employee’s 5 percent pension contribution when determining repayment capacity. Additionally, loan repayments must not exceed 50 percent of an employee’s gross salary.

The Act further guarantees a minimum pension level, ensuring that retirees receive no less than 25 percent of their final monthly salary.

To support implementation, all

government institutions will be required to increase their wage budgets by 5 percent to facilitate employee contributions as the scheme is phased in, with full operationalization expected by the 2028/2029 financial year.

## BRAC UGANDA TRANSFORMS LIVES OF YOUNG WOMEN IN KASESE THROUGH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

*Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese*

A joint monitoring exercise conducted on March 25th, 2026, by BRAC Uganda and the Kasese District Local Government has highlighted the growing impact of a transformative programme targeting adolescent girls and young women (AGYWs) across the district.

The monitoring team visited project areas including, Kidodo, Katooke Valley, and Kyanya, where they engaged directly with beneficiaries whose lives are being reshaped through economic and social empowerment initiatives.

Now in its first year of implementation in Kasese, the programme focuses on girls and young women aged 12 to 35. It aims to equip them with practical skills, improve their social well-being, and create safe spaces where they can advocate for their rights. A strong emphasis is also placed on ensuring that girls aged 12 to 17 complete lower secondary education.

According to Biira Winnie, Branch Manager of BRAC Uganda's Kasese 1 branch, the programme has already reached participants across all targeted age groups.

"We have so far empowered

women and girls in different categories. Our next focus is to ensure that girls aged 12 to 17 complete their lower secondary education, while those aged 15 to 35 are economically empowered through enterprises such as crop farming, livestock rearing, small businesses, and technical and vocational training,” she said.

records,” she said.

Another beneficiary in Katooke echoed similar sentiments, noting that the programme has not only improved their livelihoods but also contributed to more peaceful homes, attributing this to increased awareness and empowerment among women.

Beyond economic skills, the

programme also addresses critical social issues.

Muhindo Claret, a mentor at the Katooke Valley club, explained that participants undergo training in empathy, inclusion, and evidence-based advocacy. They are also sensitized on gender-



*Monitoring team engagement with beneficiaries.*

Kiiza Evelyn, a resident of Katooke and a beneficiary of the programme, shared how the initiative has changed her perspective on financial independence. “We didn’t understand the value of engaging in business before, but now we have been trained in financial literacy and can keep proper financial

based violence and equipped with knowledge on how to use reporting structures effectively. “We have seen a shift. Women are now saving, engaging in income-generating activities, and are more confident in speaking up against violence,” Claret said.

Local leaders have also taken note of the programme’s impact.

Mutabazi Justine, Assistant Resident District Commissioner for Kasese, commended BRAC Uganda for its work on the ground. “I am very impressed by the impact BRAC is creating in empowering women both socially and economically. This is the kind of transformation our communities need,” she said.

Despite the progress, challenges remain. Winnie pointed out that some participants drop out or relocate to distant areas, disrupting

continuity in the programme. She called on the district leadership to support efforts in mindset change to sustain participation and maximize impact.

BRAC Uganda continues to work closely with the district local government, particularly in community mobilization and monitoring, to ensure the programme reaches as many beneficiaries as possible.

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## BISHOP KISEMBO PUSHES COU INSTITUTIONS TO INVEST IN RUWENZORI DIOCESAN SACCO FOR FINANCIAL GROWTH

*William Nyakoojo, Fort Portal Journalist*

The Rt Rev Reuben Kitembo, Bishop of the Ruwenzori Diocese, has called upon all Church of Uganda institutions to open accounts, save, and invest in shares with the Ruwenzori Diocesan Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCO) to enhance financial stability and foster growth.



*The Bishop of Ruwenzori diocese Rt Rev Reuben Kitembo*

During his address at the RUDI

SACCO Annual General Meeting held at St. John's Cathedral in Kabarole, Bishop Kisembo expressed his frustration over the lack of savings from COU schools, churches, and hospitals with RUDI SACCO, which has resulted in limited share capital. He urged priests, lay readers, and heads of various church organizations to take immediate action to rectify this situation.

The Bishop also emphasized the importance of modern banking solutions, encouraging the RUDI SACCO board of directors to prioritize online banking services to improve accessibility for members.

Mr. Perez Mwebesa, Chairperson of the RUDI SACCO Board, reported that while the cooperative has experienced steady growth, its performance declined last

year due to falling cocoa prices in Bundibugyo and other commodities. This downturn led to increased withdrawals by members, subsequently reducing savings and weakening loan recovery efforts.

Consultant Mr. Nuwagaba Steven from Ankole Diocese highlighted the need for improved customer service and strategic partnerships to enhance the SACCO's operations.

Patrick Rwakasoro, Manager of RUDI SACCO, praised the members for their commitment to saving and encouraged more individuals to join the cooperative. He noted that RUDI SACCO offers a variety of loans, including boda boda and agricultural loans, at competitive interest rates, providing essential financial services to the community.

## KABAROLE DISTRICT COMMISSIONS MUGUSU GRAVITY WATER SCHEME TO ADDRESS WATER SCARCITY

*Mpamizo Evalist, Ag District Communications Officer, Kabarole*

**K**abarole District has taken a significant stride in improving access to

safe and clean water with the commissioning of the Mugusu Gravity Water Scheme, a Shs



*Officials commissioning the Mugusu Gravity Scheme project, photo by Mmamizo Evalist*

863 million project aimed at addressing persistent water shortages in Mugusu Sub-county.

The project, implemented under the Local Economic Growth Support (LEGS) Programme with funding from the Islamic Development Bank, is benefiting 21 villages, providing thousands of residents with reliable access to clean water sourced from the Rwenzori Mountains. For years, communities in Mugusu Sub-county have grappled with limited access to safe water, forcing many households to depend on unsafe

water sources such as streams and unprotected springs.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony on Wednesday held at Mugusu Sub County headquarters, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) for Kabarole, Mr. Joseph Ssekabiito Kitayimbwa, commended the government under the National Resistance Movement (NRM) for its continued commitment to extending essential services to rural communities. He described the project as a reflection of deliberate government efforts to improve the welfare of citizens, particularly those in underserved

areas.

“This project is not just about water but dignity, health, and development. Government has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring that even the most remote communities can access clean and safe water,” Ssekabiito said. He emphasized that access to clean water is fundamental to socio-economic transformation, noting that it reduces disease burden, improves productivity, and enhances livelihoods.

However, the RDC warned that the success of such projects largely



*RDC Kabarole Joseph Ssekabiito Kitayimbwa speaking during the commissioning on Wednesday*

depends on the level of community ownership. He urged residents to take responsibility for protecting the infrastructure, especially against vandalism. “Government has done its part by bringing this service closer to you. It is now your responsibility as beneficiaries to protect it. Many government projects fail because communities do not take ownership,” he cautioned.

Ssekabiito also raised concerns about what he termed as “hybrid contractors” from central the government who often sideline local leaders during project implementation.



*A water house at Mugusu sub county constructed under LEGS programme*



*State Minister for Local Government, Hon. Victoria Businge Rusoke speaking during the launch of Mugusu gravity scheme on Wednesday*

He noted that such practices undermine effective monitoring and supervision, ultimately affecting the quality and sustainability of government investments. “When local leaders are excluded, it becomes difficult to monitor progress and ensure accountability. We must promote transparency and involve local leadership at every stage,” he added.

Presiding over the function, the State Minister for Local Government, Hon. Victoria Businge Rusoke, stressed the importance of sustainability, urging

stakeholders to ensure that the project serves both current and future generations. She highlighted that infrastructure development must go hand in hand with proper management and maintenance systems.

“This water scheme must be sustained. It is not enough to commission such a project; we must ensure that it continues to function effectively for years to come,” she said. Rusoke tasked the Mugusu Sub-county Water Board with ensuring equitable distribution of water across all communities, emphasizing that no household

should be left behind.

“Every citizen in this community deserves access to clean water. The water board must ensure that the system is extended to all households and managed efficiently,” she added. She further noted that improved water access plays a critical role in advancing public health, particularly in preventing waterborne diseases and improving sanitation standards.

Representing the Kabarole District Chairperson, the area District Councillor, Joseph Muhumuza,

echoed the call for community ownership, urging residents to actively participate in safeguarding the project. He underscored the importance of clean water in promoting sanitation and hygiene, noting that access to safe water is a cornerstone of community health.

“Clean water is essential for

hygiene, sanitation, and overall well-being. This project will greatly reduce disease outbreaks and improve the quality of life for our people,” Muhumuza said. He reaffirmed the district’s commitment to expanding water coverage to all underserved areas, noting that the Mugusu project is part of a broader strategy to



*Officials demonstrating hand washing during the commissioning on wednesday*

achieve universal access to safe water within Kabarole.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Kabarole, Mr. Stephen Rubaihayo, called on local water management structures to prioritize sustainability through proper maintenance and accountability. He emphasized the need for strong governance

systems at the community level to ensure that the project remains functional and beneficial in the long term.

*“Sustainability begins with proper management. The water board must ensure that systems are in place for maintenance, repairs, and accountability,” Rubaihayo said.*

Meanwhile, the District Water Engineer, Eng. Bruno Basudde, who also served as the project manager, cautioned residents against water wastage and misuse. He explained that the scheme operates on a monthly user fee system rather than water metering, making responsible usage critical. “This system is designed to be affordable and accessible. However, it requires discipline from users. Avoid wasting water so that everyone can benefit,” Eng. Basudde advised.

The LCIII Chairperson for Mugusu Sub-county, Mr. Kusemererwa Tumbo Vincent, commended the government for responding to the long-standing water challenges in the area. He noted that the project will significantly reduce the burden on women and children, who often travel long distances in search of water.

“This project is a big relief to our people. Women and children have been spending hours looking for water, but that will now be history,” he said. Kusemererwa also highlighted additional developments implemented alongside the water project, including the rehabilitation of the Kiraro–Kinyankende–Kyezire–Kaboyo road using first-class murram.

He said the improved road network will enhance accessibility, facilitate trade, and support service delivery within the sub-county. In addition, he commended the construction of a modern toilet facility at the sub-county headquarters, describing it as a significant boost to sanitation infrastructure.

Despite the progress, Kusemererwa appealed to the government to extend the water scheme to the remaining villages of Kanyamutware, Kyakijara, and Magumba under the second phase of the LEGS Programme. “We are grateful for what has been done, but we still have a few villages without access to clean water. We request the government to consider them in the next phase,” he appealed.

# KASESE DISTRICT UNVEILS UGX 116.8 BILLION BUDGET WITH FOCUS ON SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.



*District Council in session.*

## ***Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese***

**T**he Kasese District Local Government has announced a proposed budget of UGX 116.8 billion for the 2026/2027 financial year, signalling a continued commitment to improving essential services and boosting household incomes.

The budget was presented during a District Council sitting on Tuesday, March 24th, 2026, at the Multipurpose Hall by the Secretary for Finance, Planning and Administration, Musoki Sharon, who underscored the urgency of aligning spending with economic transformation.



*Secretary for planning, finance and administration presenting the district budget.*

and economic activity.

Despite these plans, the district remains heavily reliant on central government transfers, which will account for 92.2% of the total budget. Locally generated revenue is projected at just 4.8%, with donor funding contributing 3%.

“Our dependence on central government

“This budget is designed to boost household incomes and accelerate service delivery, especially at the grassroots level. We are focusing on sectors that directly impact people’s livelihoods,” Musoki said.

Education has been allocated the largest share of the budget at 38.9%, reflecting the district’s push to improve learning infrastructure and outcomes. The health sector follows with 25.2%, targeting expanded maternal services, upgraded health centers, and improved staff accommodation.

Administration will take 16.5%, while sectors such as roads, production, and water will receive smaller but strategic allocations aimed at supporting infrastructure

funding limits our flexibility. We must strengthen local revenue collection if we are to effectively respond to local priorities,” Musoki advised.

She attributed the low local revenue performance currently at 4.02% to poor tax compliance, low agricultural productivity, and legal disputes affecting property tax collection.

The district highlighted several achievements in the current financial year, including road construction and rehabilitation across sub-counties, expansion of water supply systems, and upgrades to health facilities such as maternity wards and staff housing.

Education infrastructure has also improved, with new classrooms and teachers' houses constructed in primary schools. Meanwhile, farmers have benefited from irrigation schemes, fish farming initiatives, and agricultural extension services.



*Counselors during the council session.*

Through the Parish Development Model (PDM), over 190 SACCOs have been supported to enhance household incomes.

### **Key Priorities for 2026/27**

Looking ahead, the district plans to:

- Construct climate-resilient water systems
- Expand maternal health services
- Rehabilitate and build school infrastructure
- Improve road networks to ease market access
- Strengthen agricultural productivity through irrigation and extension services

Efforts will also be made to boost local revenue through improved tax administration and expansion of sources such as property taxes and

market infrastructure.

While addressing the council, Hon Bukombi Muhindi Eliphaz urged leaders to tackle pressing issues affecting the district. He raised concerns about congestion at the Mpondwe–Lhubiriha border, where trucks reportedly face severe parking challenges.

He noted that a proposal to establish a parking yard in Isango Subcounty should be carefully reviewed to avoid legal complications.

Hon Muhindi also highlighted upcoming community events, including preparations by the Diocese of Kasese to lead prayers at Namugongo on June 3, and the anticipated return of Charles Wesley Mumbere to the district.

Meanwhile, Resident District Commissioner Joe Walunsimbi commended the council for maintaining stability and mobilization support for the ruling government during the recent elections.

Despite progress, Kasese continues to grapple with a limited local revenue base, erratic weather affecting agriculture, land degradation, population pressure, and rising cases of gender-based violence and teenage pregnancies.

Leaders acknowledged that addressing these challenges will require stronger partnerships,

increased funding, and deeper community engagement.

As the budget moves to council committees for scrutiny ahead of final approval in May, district leaders are calling for enhanced oversight to ensure effective use of public funds.

With strategic investments and improved accountability, Kasese hopes to turn its financial plan into tangible improvements in livelihoods and service delivery while also leveraging opportunities such as the upcoming Rwenzori Marathon to boost tourism and local economic growth.

## BUNYANGABU COMMISSIONS SHS 427M COFFEE FACTORY TO BOOST VALUE ADDITION

*Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer, Bunyangabu District*

The State Minister for Local Government, Hon Victoria Rusoke Busiinge, has commissioned the Gatyanga Coffee Processing Plant in Rwimi Town Council, Bunyangabu District, in a move aimed at promoting value addition and increasing household incomes.

The Shs 427 million facility is part of projects implemented under the Local Economic Growth Support (LEGS) programme in the district. Other interventions include the construction of markets in Nyamiseke and Nyamukube town councils, as well as road and bridge improvements.



*State Minister for Local Government, Hon Victoria Busiinge Rusoke, cutting the ribbon during the commissioning of the coffee plant*

Speaking at the commissioning, Rusoke said the project reflects government's commitment to transitioning households from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. "This factory has the capacity to process 2.5 tonnes of coffee per hour. Farmers should now increase production to ensure the facility does not remain idle," she said.

The Bunyangabu Chief Administrative Officer, Haji Nsubuga Isa Hood, welcomed the initiative, noting that it will significantly improve household incomes and livelihoods.

He urged farmers to take advantage of government programmes such as the Parish Development Model (PDM) and GROW to boost production and fully utilize the factory. He also tasked the cooperative leadership to mobilise farmers and work closely with extension officers. "I





*The machines inside the coffee plant.*

Rwimi Town Council LCIII Chairperson, Abel Ngomayondi, emphasised the need for vigilance to protect the facility from vandalism. “This is a complete system. If one component is

urge the district agriculture office to support the cooperative through exposure visits and continuous capacity building,” he added.

The Deputy Resident District Commissioner, Robert Kamuntu, commended government and

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for prioritising development projects aimed at inclusive growth. “We have fertile soils that should be fully utilised to grow more coffee and improve household incomes,” he said.

tampered with, the entire operation is affected. Let us safeguard it together,” he said.

Ngomayondi also encouraged residents to prepare for electricity connectivity by wiring their homes in anticipation of power



*The coffee processing plant in Gatyanga, Rwimi Town Council, Bunyangabu District*

distribution, describing it as a key multiplier effect of the project.

He further urged families to prioritise education so that local residents can qualify for skilled jobs at the factory. “Currently, only a few workers are from this area, mostly in casual roles. We need educated youth to take up technical positions,” he noted.

The District Production Officer, Ms Yusta Asiimwe, said the plant can process up to 25 bags of coffee per hour and stressed the importance of proper harvesting and post-harvest handling.

She advised farmers to harvest only

ripe coffee commonly referred to as crimson red and maintain quality standards to remain competitive in international markets. “This coffee is not cooked, after processing; it is exported. Poor handling can damage our reputation and reduce market opportunities,” she warned.

The factory is operated by the Gatyanga-Nyabwina Coffee Farmers Cooperative Society, which currently has 400 members.

In addition to processing equipment, the facility is equipped with a drying slab, a chain-link fence, sanitation facilities, and a reliable water system.

## UCSATP ROLLS OUT E-VOUCHER SYSTEM TO BOOST CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE IN NTOROKO

*Sahula Ibrahim, Communication Officer, Ntoroko*

The Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformational Project (UCSATP), funded by the World Bank and the Government of Uganda, has moved from planning to full-scale implementation with the rollout of an e-voucher system aimed

at improving farmers’ access to agricultural inputs in Ntoroko District.

The e-voucher system is now serving as the primary delivery mechanism for inputs, benefiting hundreds of farmers in the district. The broader project targets more than 25,000 farmer groups



*UCSTAP coordinator Mr. Muhanguzi Fredrick during the refresher training of District extension staff at the district Headquarters on Wednesday*

nationwide.

Speaking during a three-day refresher training on farmer institutional development, Mr. Muhanguzi Fredrick noted that the project has already made significant progress. “We have mobilized, profiled, and onboarded thousands of farmer groups, while production matching grants are being implemented to support enterprise development,” he said. He added that capacity-building efforts are ongoing for both extension workers and farmers.

The training also included field visits, enabling extension staff to support farmers with practical guidance on agronomic practices aimed at strengthening both crop and livestock value chains.

Dr. Businge Patrick emphasized that the project is promoting climate resilience in agriculture by equipping farmers with sustainable farming techniques. These include access to climate-resilient seeds and practices that help safeguard productivity and livelihoods amid changing weather patterns.

Under the crop value chain, UCSATP is advancing sustainable land management practices such as agroforestry, crop rotation, and conservation agriculture. The project is also strengthening market linkages to ensure farmers access fair prices, while promoting digital innovations in farming, agro-processing, and value addition. Additional focus areas include farmer capacity building, research and innovation, as well as gender



*Stat Min. For Local Government Hon Businge Victoria Rusoke commissioning one of the projects under UCSTAP recently in Ntoroko.*

and youth inclusion.

For the livestock sector, the project is supporting farmers to adopt climate-resilient practices that address challenges such as drought and disease outbreaks. It also promotes improved herd productivity and sustainable grazing practices, particularly in cattle-rearing communities like Rwebisengo, Butungama, and Bweramule sub-counties.

Mr. Muhanguzi urged both extension workers and farmers to remain committed to professionalism and results. “The opportunity before us is significant but it requires action,” he stressed.

Meanwhile, the Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Ssonko Patrick, called on technical

staff to strengthen supervision and accountability in project implementation. He cautioned against promoting enterprises that do not align with farmers’ skills, warning that such decisions could lead to misuse of public resources.

***“Guide farmers to select enterprises within their capacity and focus on quality rather than quantity. The mindset of keeping large numbers of unproductive animals must change,” Ssonko advised.***

UCSATP is being implemented in regions that have historically faced climate-related disasters. Ntoroko District, in particular, has experienced repeated flooding, leading to the displacement of thousands of residents.

Last year alone, more than 10,000 people were displaced, with camps established in Budiba, Rwangara, and Kanara Town Council. The floods also caused the collapse of

school buildings, disrupted social services, and severely affected agricultural production and road connectivity.

## RWENZORI LEADERS URGED TO PRIORITIZE PEACE AND SERVICE DELIVERY POST-ELECTIONS

*Kajumba Gorretti, Fort Portal Journalist*

Leaders from Rwenzori sub-region have been urged to rise above political divisions and focus on reconciliation, unity, and responsible governance following the recent elections.

This urgent message was the focal point of a half day dialogue hosted by the Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice at St. Joseph's Inn Virika, Fort Portal Tourism City .

During the opening remarks, Bundibugyo's Assistant Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Musinguzi Albert Kaliruga, noted that RFPJ has commitment to fostering peace and cohesion in the region. He acknowledged the vital contributions of civil society and non-governmental organizations, which have stepped in to fill the

void left by politicians, particularly in the areas of voter education and service delivery.

“As politicians, we have fallen short in raising adequate public awareness. NGOs have filled that gap and played a commendable role,” he stated.

Mr Kaliruga urged leaders to abandon divisive political tactics and instead focus on strategies that promote peace, stability, and effective service delivery. He cautioned that self-serving political interests are not only obstructing development but also straining families and communities.

Safari Martin from Kasese expressed concern over widespread misconceptions regarding government initiatives, particularly



### *Rwenzori Leaders On Reconciliation Mission*

the Parish Development Model (PDM). He noted that some beneficiaries mistakenly perceive the funds as political rewards rather than repayable support.

Mutahira Jovia, a councillor from Karugutu Town Council, encouraged politicians to gracefully accept electoral defeats and pursue other productive avenues.

Komuntale Traxier, a councillor from Fort Portal Tourism City, criticized the Electoral Commission for postponing elections without adequate public communication, a decision she argued led to financial losses for candidates. She

announced her intention to seek legal recourse.

Assistant RDC for Kabarole District, Mr. Asaba Frank, commended RFPJ's reconciliation efforts, highlighting the emotional and financial toll that elections have taken on many leaders. He cited instances where candidates sold property or incurred debts to fund their campaigns, only to suffer significant losses.

He further raised concerns about the increase in domestic violence linked to political pressures, urging families to offer support rather than add to the burdens faced by those

in leadership roles. He challenged leaders to actively guide their communities toward government financial support programs, such as microfinance initiatives, rather than engaging in perpetual conflicts.

*“Leadership begins at home. Use your positions to advocate for your people and drive development,” he emphasized.*

Other stakeholders called for reforms to enhance political accountability.

Kabongoya Edward from Kyenjojo District proposed establishing minimum academic qualifications for political aspirants and stressed the importance of better monitoring of government programs. He also

urged the ruling NRM party to reinforce discipline and a clear code of conduct.

Meanwhile, newly elected councillor Rwankya Mary Kenya

underscored the importance of moving forward after elections, asserting that unity is essential for effective service delivery.

Media practitioners were also encouraged to maintain impartiality during electoral periods.

RFPJ Human Rights Officer, Mathias Murungi, explained that the reconciliation meeting aimed to help leaders heal from the tensions, losses, and trauma associated with elections. He



*Rwenzori Leaders On Reconciliation meeting at St. Joseph's Inn Virika*

noted that campaigns often leave deep divisions, including conflicts, insults, and financial strain, which must be addressed for communities to progress.

# BUNDIBUGYO LEADERS TIPPED ON UNITY, SERVICE DELIVERY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY



*The Senior Presidential Advisor and Mobiliser, Lt. Col. (Rtd) Ambako Kibrai presenting*

## ***Mbabazi Sylvia, Communication Officer, Bundibugyo***

**B**undibugyo District leaders convened at the District Community Hall for a high-level meeting with Ambako Kibrai, the Senior Presidential Advisor in charge of Mobilization under the Office of the President. The engagement was part of his ongoing mobilization tour across the Rwenzori Sub-region.

The meeting brought together

key stakeholders, including District Executive members, heads of security agencies, National Resistance Movement (NRM) district leadership, technical staff led by the Chief Administrative Officer, heads of departments, Sub-county Chiefs, and Town Clerks. During the meeting, Lt. Col. (Rtd) Ambako conveyed the President's message, commending local leaders and technical teams for their role

in the recently concluded elections, which saw the NRM retain power. He emphasized that the next phase should focus on unity, reconciliation, and improved service delivery.

Addressing the aftermath of the elections, Ambako urged both political and technical leaders to embrace reconciliation and avoid conflicts stemming from political differences. He stressed the

district leaders to adopt a proactive mindset by engaging in income-generating activities. He cautioned against excessive borrowing and encouraged leaders to guide communities in utilizing government programs to improve household incomes and overall livelihoods.

Ambako expressed concern over increasing school dropout rates and children not attending



*The RDC, Rtd Maj. Jones Mugabirwe closing the meeting*

school. He tasked the Chief Administrative Officer, District Education Officer, and Inspectors of Schools with investigating the causes and ensuring accountability. He further called on all stakeholders to sensitize parents on their responsibility to keep children in school, including providing meals to support learning.

importance of fostering harmony among all candidates and their supporters, regardless of election outcomes, as a foundation for effective implementation of government programs.

On poverty eradication, the Presidential Advisor challenged

In the health sector, he criticized lapses in environmental health enforcement, citing ongoing environmental degradation and insufficient public awareness. He also raised alarm over alleged drug theft in health facilities, urging stricter monitoring systems to

safeguard government medical supplies.

The Advisor concluded by calling on all departmental heads to work collectively to protect government achievements through improved service delivery. He also emphasized the need to reactivate and strengthen Sub-county security committees to ensure community safety and effective governance.

In response, the District Chairperson thanked Ambako for delivering the President's

message and pledged to promote reconciliation and unity among leaders. He also extended forgiveness to colleagues who did not support him during the election period.

The Resident District Commissioner (RDC), in his closing remarks, appreciated the Presidential Advisor's commitment and urged all stakeholders to actively monitor and supervise government programs to ensure effective implementation.

## NYAKITOKOLI SOLAR POWER PLANT COMMISSIONED TO TRANSFORM RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN KABAROLE DISTRICT

*Mpamizo Evalist, Ag District Communications Officer, Kabarole*

**A** new chapter in rural electrification and economic transformation has begun in Kabarole District following the commissioning of the Nyakitokoli Solar Power Plant, a 1.2-billion-shilling project expected to significantly improve access to electricity in underserved communities.

The mini-grid solar power facility, located in Nyakitokoli B Cell, was officially commissioned on Wednesday in a ceremony attended by government officials, district leaders, and members of the local community. The project was implemented under the LEGS (Local Economic Growth Support) Programme with funding support



*Dr. David Siriri explaining how the solar plant system operates*

from Islamic Development Bank, marking a milestone in the district's efforts to expand sustainable energy solutions.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, the State Minister for Local Government, Hon. Victoria Businge Rusoke, emphasized the need for sustainability and strong community ownership to ensure the long-term success of the project. She noted that while government and development partners can initiate such transformative projects, their survival and impact largely depend on how well local communities manage and protect them.

“This project belongs to the people of Nyakitokoli. It is your responsibility to ensure that it is maintained, protected, and fully utilized. Government interventions are meant to empower you, but sustainability must begin with you,” Hon Victoria said.

The minister further underscored the importance of renewable energy in driving rural development, noting that solar power remains one of the most viable and environmentally friendly solutions for expanding electricity access in remote areas.

The Resident District

Commissioner (RDC) Kabarole, Joseph Ssekabiito Kitayimbwa, commended the government under the National Resistance Movement (NRM) for prioritizing service delivery, particularly extending electricity to rural communities that have long remained off the national grid. “This is a clear demonstration of government’s commitment to equitable

warning that such infrastructure often becomes vulnerable if communities fail to take collective responsibility. “You must treat this project as your own property. Protect it, monitor it, and ensure that no one tampers with it. Development can only be sustained where there is discipline and ownership,” he added.

Kabarole District Chairperson,

Dr Richard Rwabuhinga, highlighted the critical role the district leadership played in ensuring that the project was successfully implemented in Nyakitokoli. He described the solar plant as the first of its kind in the



*A technician explaining how the power plant operates,  
Photo by Mpamizo Evalist*

development. Access to power is not a luxury, it is a necessity for economic growth, education, and improved standards of living,” he remarked.

Mr Ssekabiito called upon residents to guard the facility jealously against vandalism and misuse,

district, marking a significant step toward modernizing rural infrastructure.

“This project did not come easily. It required consistent follow-up, engagement with the funders and ensuring that all necessary conditions were met. We made sure Kabarole was not left behind,”



*RDC Kabarole, Joseph Ssekabiito Kitayimbwa speaking during the commissioning event, photo by Mpamizo Evalist*

he noted.

Dr Rwabuhinga also commended the sub-county leadership for offering land for the project, describing their contribution as a key factor in its realization.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kabarole, Mr. Stephen Rubaihayo, expressed gratitude to the government for funding the project and applauded the local community for their commitment and positive attitude toward the initiative. “We have seen strong cooperation from the people of Nyakitokoli,” he said. “Their

willingness to embrace the project is a clear sign that it will succeed.”

Mr. Rubaihayo emphasized that beyond providing electricity, the solar plant is expected to stimulate local economic activities, improve service delivery, and enhance social welfare in the area.

While providing technical details about the project, Dr. David Siriri, a Consultant for LEGS Programme at the Ministry of Local Government, explained that the plant is equipped with modern solar technology designed to meet the growing energy needs of the community.



*Solar panels installed at the plant, Photo by Mpamizo Evalist*

to power generation and distribution, the project also supports local economic activities through supplementary resources provided to the user committee. These include a brand-new motorcycle to facilitate

“The system consists of 72 solar panels, each with a capacity of 550 kilowatts, four inverters rated at 12 kilowatts, and 32 batteries with a capacity of 1.8 kilowatts,” he said. He added that the project infrastructure includes 30 installed poles, 80 prepaid meters, and 10 independent streetlights aimed at improving security and visibility within the trading center.

coordination and monitoring, as well as a maize milling machine intended to boost agro-processing in the area.



*CAO Kabarole, Mr. Stephen Rubaihayo speaking during the commissioning function on Wednesday*

In addition



businesses, and more productive use of the available power,” he explained.

Dr. Siriri urged local leaders and the community to mobilize more users to connect to the mini-grid in order

Dr. Siriri noted that the overarching goal of the project is to drive economic transformation by prioritizing business operators as the primary beneficiaries of the electricity supply. “We encourage entrepreneurs to take advantage of this power to start and expand businesses. Electricity should translate into income generation and improved livelihoods,” he said.

to maximize the benefits of the investment. The Chairperson of the User Committee, Erisa Kihuku,



*Kabarole District Chairperson, Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga at the event*

However, he raised concern that the facility is currently underutilized, with only about 20 percent of the generated power being consumed. “This is a major opportunity that has not yet been fully tapped. We need more connections, more

reported that so far 130 households have been connected to the mini-grid, with plans underway to expand access to more beneficiaries.

“We are still in the early stages, but the response from the community has been encouraging. We are working to ensure that more homes and businesses get connected in the coming months,” Kihuku said. He expressed optimism that increased connections would not only improve household welfare but also stimulate local trade and small-scale industries.

Residents who attended the commissioning ceremony welcomed the project with excitement, describing it as a long-awaited solution to the challenges of unreliable and inaccessible electricity. Nyakitokoli B Zone

Chairperson, Mr. Tumusiime Tom expressed hope that the availability of power would enable them to extend working hours, reduce operational costs, and diversify their services.

The Nyakitokoli Solar Power Plant stands as a symbol of progress in Kabarole District, reflecting a growing shift toward renewable energy solutions as a driver of rural development. As leaders emphasized during the commissioning, the success of the project will depend not only on infrastructure but also on the commitment of the community to utilize, protect, and sustain it.

## KABAROLE DISTRICT RECRUITS TECHNICAL STAFF TO BOOST SERVICE DELIVERY

*Mpamizo Evalist, Ag District Communications Officer, Kabarole*

**K**abarole District Local Government has recruited a new cohort of technical staff in a move aimed at strengthening service delivery across key sectors, including education, health, agriculture, and community development.

The newly recruited personnel include head teachers, deputy head teachers, senior teachers, education assistants, a tourism officer, a commercial officer, medical assistant, agriculture officer, among others. The recruitment is part of the district’s broader strategy to address staffing gaps and improve



*CAO Kabarole, Mr. Stephen Rubaihayo speaking during the orientation exercise on Monday*

(CAO) of Kabarole, Mr. Stephen Rubaihayo, emphasized adherence to the public service code of conduct, describing it as the foundation for effective and accountable service delivery. Rubaihayo noted that civil servants play a critical role in translating government policies into tangible services that directly impact citizens' lives.

“You are now part of the public service system, and the expectations are high. The public service code of conduct is not optional, it is a guiding framework

government procedures, reporting systems, and performance expectations, noting that efficiency in public service depends on both competence and attitude.

The Kabarole District Chairperson, Dr Richard Rwabuhinga, cautioned the newly recruited staff to uphold discipline and professionalism in their respective roles, with a special focus on teachers. Dr. Rwabuhinga highlighted the critical role teachers play in shaping the future of society and urged them to serve as role models for learners.

“As a teacher, you are not just an



*Kabarole district new staff during the orientation on Monday*

he emphasized. also stressed the importance of understanding learners’ needs and adopting modern, child-friendly approaches to teaching. Dr. Rwabuhinga strongly discouraged the use of corporal punishment,

instructor, you are a mentor and a guide. Your conduct, both in and outside the classroom, has a lasting impact on the learners,” he said. He warned against inappropriate dress code, indiscipline, and unprofessional behavior, urging teachers to maintain standards that reflect the dignity of the profession.

“Dress decently, behave responsibly, and respect your profession. The community looks up to you, and you must live up to that expectation,”

noting that it is not only outdated but also prohibited.

However, Dr Rwabuhinga cautioned teachers against reckless



*Kabarole District Chairperson, Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga, cautioned the newly recruited staff to uphold discipline and professionalism*



*Assistant RDC for Kabarole, Mr. Mike Mukiibi addressing new staff on Monday*

lifestyles, urging them to plan for their future, including retirement. Addressing other categories of staff, particularly those in senior positions, he issued a stern warning against corruption, describing it as a major threat to service delivery. He also reminded all recruits that they may be deployed anywhere within the district, including remote areas, and urged them to embrace the responsibility with a positive attitude.

The Assistant Resident District Commissioner (RDC) for Kabarole, Mr. Mike Mukiibi, echoed the call for discipline, urging the new staff to serve diligently and remain committed to their duties. Mukiibi emphasized that public service requires dedication, resilience, and

a willingness to work under challenging conditions.

“You have joined a system that demands commitment. The people we serve rely on us, and we must not fail them,” he said. He urged the recruits to maintain

high levels of discipline, respect authority, and work collaboratively with local leaders and communities. He also encouraged the staff to be prepared to work in hard-to-reach areas, noting that some of the district’s most vulnerable populations reside in remote locations.

District officials revealed that the recruitment drive was necessitated by persistent staffing shortages that have affected service delivery in several departments. The recruits were also encouraged to embrace teamwork, continuous learning, and innovation in order to effectively address emerging challenges in their respective sectors.

# ELEVATING HOSPITALITY STANDARDS: UGANDA TOURISM BOARD ENHANCES FORT PORTAL'S HOTEL SECTOR



*Rose Form Manufacturers Display the best mattresses suitable for hotels*

**Stephen Ainganiza, Senior Communication Officer, Fort Portal City**

The Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) has initiated a comprehensive training program aimed at ensuring that all hotels and accommodation facilities meet rigorous standards of quality and safety. This initiative, which took place on Tuesday, March 24 th, 2026, at Nyaika Hotel, brought together managers and proprietors from various establishments to enhance their operational capabilities and align with

national tourism standards.

The training session, led by Nalugo Angela, the Quality Assurance Officer at UTB, focused on equipping participants with essential skills and knowledge regarding the grading and certification of hotels.

Nalugo emphasized the importance of adhering to established hotel management policies and minimum operational standards, which are crucial for delivering quality service and attracting a steady stream of



*The Managers and Proprietors of Hotels Pose in a Photo after the training at Nyaika Hotel*

customers.

***"Fort Portal, now recognized as a city, necessitates that all hotels and accommodation facilities are registered, verified, and graded," Nalugo stated.***

She highlighted that while not every hotel may achieve a one-star or two-star rating, it is imperative that they are officially approved through registration with UTB. This process is designed to protect visitors from potential risks associated with unverified and unhygienic facilities.

To further ensure the safety and satisfaction of tourists, Nalugo urged travelers to seek verified

accommodations. "Visitors should prioritize staying at facilities that have undergone the necessary verification to avoid risks related to insecurity and poor sanitation," she advised.

For those seeking information about legally registered hotels, Nalugo recommended visiting the UTB website, where a list of verified facilities is available.

In response to the growing number of unregulated hotels, Nalugo said that UTB, in collaboration with Fort Portal City authorities, is developing a plan to address illegal accommodations that fail to meet legal standards. She noted that since the implementation of the verification and grading system,



*Training of the Hotel Managers and Directors*

there has been noticeable growth and improvement within Uganda's hospitality industry.

Baguma Deborah, the Senior Tourism Officer for Fort Portal City, observed the need for excellence in client service delivery, particularly given Fort Portal's status as a tourism hub. She praised UTB for organizing the training and expressed optimism that the skills acquired would lead to enhanced facilities and the employment of qualified staff dedicated to providing exceptional service.

UTB also underscored the significance of effective communication and the adoption of digital channels by hotels. This includes translating information

and providing sign language services to ensure all guests receive the best possible experience.

Additionally, hotels with health clubs are encouraged to employ certified instructors and maintain a strong social media presence to engage with potential clients.

Finally, city health inspectors were tasked with organizing a training session for guest house proprietors and managers to address concerns regarding the charging of clients for short and long-term services.

UTB clarified that in the hospitality industry, "short services" refer to stays of less than two days, no hours or minutes and proper guidelines must be followed to ensure transparency and fairness in pricing.

# DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICIALS PUSH FOR IMPROVED SANITATION IN KABAROLE FACILITIES



*Mr. Kisembo Brain and Birungi Cecilia during the workshop training on Tuesday*

***By Mpamizo Evalist, Ag District Communications Officer, Kabarole***

**K**abarole District in partnership with IRC - Uganda, has intensified efforts to improve hygiene and sanitation in health centres through a Health Care Facility WASH reflection workshop held on Tuesday at the district headquarters in Kitumba.

The one-day workshop training, attracted health facility in-charges, health inspectors, health assistants, and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) focal persons from across the district. The engagement provided a crucial platform for stakeholders to assess progress, share experiences, and identify gaps in the implementation of Health



*A participant making a presentation during the workshop training on Tuesday*

Care Facility WASH improvement plans.

Speaking during the workshop, the Kabarole District Health Inspector, Madam Birungi Cecilia, emphasized that the primary objective of the engagement was to provide a structured space for both district and facility-level stakeholders to jointly reflect on the status of WASH interventions in health facilities.

She noted that access to safe and reliable water remains a cornerstone of effective health service delivery. "Water sources for health facilities must be located within the premises or not more than 500 metres away, and the water must be safe for use," Birungi said, stressing that inadequate

water access compromises hygiene standards and patient care.

On sanitation, Birungi highlighted the importance of maintaining acceptable patient-to-latrine ratios, stating that facilities should maintain a

stance ratio of 1:20. She added that sanitation facilities must be gender-segregated and inclusive, with separate stances designed for people with reduced mobility.

***"Latrines must guarantee privacy, be well-maintained, and equipped with essential supplies such as toilet paper and functional handwashing facilities," she added.***

The Acting Assistant District Health Officer in charge of Environmental Health, Mr. Kisembo Brian, urged facility managers to prioritize proper medical waste management practices. He emphasized the need for waste

segregation using color-coded bins, safe storage, and proper disposal through designated incinerators in Kicwamba, Ruteete, and Kijura.

**“Open burning of medical waste is a crime and is strictly prohibited,” Kisembo warned.**

Kisembo further underscored the importance of hygiene practices within health facilities, particularly hand hygiene compliance among health workers. He called for the provision and proper placement of educational materials

such as the “Five Moments of Hand Hygiene” guidelines at all handwashing stations in patient care areas.

The workshop also addressed menstrual health and hygiene management, with participants urged to ensure that all female sanitation facilities are equipped with bathrooms with running water and waste bins in each stance for

the safe disposal of used sanitary materials.

On environmental cleanliness, health officials stressed that all health facility compounds must be kept clean and free from overgrown vegetation and litter. Participants were also encouraged to plant trees



*A participant making a presentation during the workshop training on Tuesday*

within facility premises to improve the environment and promote sustainability.

In his closing remarks, the Secretary for Health and Education in Kabarole District, Joseph Muhumuza, called on health facility in-charges to take deliberate action in improving sanitation and hygiene standards within their respective facilities.

Muhumuza emphasized the need for facility leaders to implement the knowledge and skills acquired through various trainings, noting that improved hygiene practices are essential in ensuring quality healthcare and preventing infections. He urged health workers to prioritize cleanliness, proper waste management, and adherence to infection prevention protocols as

part of their daily operations.

Muhumuza also commended IRC Uganda for its continued support towards strengthening health services in the district, particularly in promoting sanitation and hygiene interventions. He noted that such partnerships play a critical role in enhancing service delivery and improving health outcomes for communities across Kabarole.

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## MESSAGE FROM ALEX MASEREKA, DISTRICT PLANNER -KASESE

### “Buy Kasese, Build Kasese”

**K**asese District is facing a serious economic challenge. A large share of the money earned by our people is leaving the district at a high rate. For every 100 shillings spent in our markets, only about 20 shillings remain within Kasese, while the rest flows to other districts.

answer is simple. We are not producing enough of what we consume. Much of the food on our tables and many of the products



*Alex Masereka, District Planner -Kasese*

Why is this happening? The

in our markets come from outside Kasese. From beans to livestock products, we are spending our hard-earned money on goods produced elsewhere. This means that instead of building our own economy, we are building others.

Even in livestock, we are falling behind. We have very few goats, cattle, or even chickens within our communities. As a result, we lose nearly all the income that could come from animal production. At the household level, most of our income is spent on food, yet our own food production remains low. This is a major loss for our district.

At the same time, we are losing money through our choices in education. Many parents believe that better education is found outside Kasese and send their children away for secondary school. However, our local schools are performing well, and government has invested heavily in them. When we take our children elsewhere, we take our money with them, instead of supporting and improving our own schools.

The effects of these choices are visible across the district. Our SACCOs are collapsing because people have little to save. Businesses are struggling because money is not circulating locally. Economic pressure is increasing social challenges, including domestic violence, gender-based violence, and a growing number of street children.

But this situation can change, and it starts with us.

It is clear that we must take deliberate action to reverse this trend. As a community, we need to embrace local production, especially in food and livestock, and take full advantage of the irrigation schemes and government programs that have been put in place. We must also begin to trust and support our local schools, recognizing the investments that have already been made in education within the district.

The future of Kasese depends on the choices we make today. When we support what is local, we strengthen our district.

**LET US CHOOSE WISELY.**

**LET US BUY KASESE TO BUILD KASESE.**



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**Rwenzori**  
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