

FEATURE STORY | PG.30

## SHS1.9B GRAVITY WATER SCHEME ENDS DECADES OF SCARCITY IN KABAROLE

### HIGHLIGHTS

How PDM is Transforming  
Farmer's Life in Bunyagabu  
District...**Page 4**

Christ AID Transforming Lives of  
Over 2,000 People in Rwenzori...  
**Page 6**

Tooro Kingdom Launches Youth  
Economic Empowerment Program...  
**Page 8**

Kamwenge District Commissions Two  
Mini Piped Water Systems and Latrines...  
**Page 9**

## HIGHLIGHTS (C.T.D)

Kasese District Aims for Top Performance in Upcoming National Assessment...**Page 11**

Regional Engagement Meeting Boosts Health Services in Kitagwenda District...**Page 13**

Kyarusozi Seed Secondary School Brings Hope amid Challenges...**Page 15**

Rotaract Clubs Bring Hope to Children at Mana Rescue Home...**Page 18**

Kamwenge District Reviews Wetland Restoration, Water and Sanitation Progress...**Page 19**

Kinyayobyo Bridge Project Brings Relief to Flood-Hit Karusandara...  
**Page 21**

Kitagwenda District Leaders Urge Teachers to Resume Work, End Strike...**Page 22**

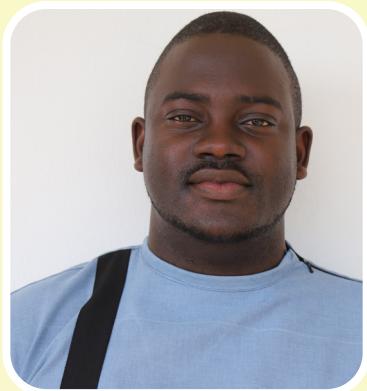
Government Begins Compensation Process for Mpokya Eviction Victims...  
**Page 24**

Hailstorm Wreaks Havoc in Kicheche Sub County...  
**Page 26**

Shs1.9B Gravity Water Scheme Ends Decades of Scarcity in Kabarole...  
**Page 28**

## Rwenzori Times Contributors

1. Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer, Bunyangabu District
2. Nyakoojo William – Fort Portal
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## TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

*Chief Editor*

### *Dear Reader.*

Welcome to the 9th Edition of Rwenzori Times, where we bring you stories of resilience, transformation, and progress from across the Rwenzori sub-region. This issue captures the pulse of our communities from the farms and classrooms to health centres and wetlands highlighting how local initiatives and government programmes are shaping lives and futures.

In this edition, we spotlight the Parish Development Model (PDM) and its growing impact on rural livelihoods. Our feature story from Bunyangabu District shows how farmers are turning small-scale projects into thriving

enterprises, improving household incomes and strengthening local economies.

We also shine a light on the work of Christ AID, whose interventions have touched the lives of over 2,000 people in the region, offering hope and opportunity where it is needed most. Education remains a central pillar of development, and the story of Kyarusizi Seed Secondary School reflects the determination to provide quality learning amid significant challenges.

Elsewhere, Kitagwenda District leaders call on teachers to end ongoing strikes and return to the classroom, emphasizing the importance of education continuity.

In Kasese, preparations are underway to achieve top performance in the upcoming national assessments, while Kamwenge District reviews key milestones in wetland restoration and improvements in water and sanitation services.

Finally, we cover a regional engagement meeting in Kitagwenda that is strengthening health service delivery — a crucial step toward better community well-being.

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

### KABUGHO SHARON

*Editor*



### AINGANIZA STEPHEN

*Editor*



# HOW PDM IS TRANSFORMING FARMER'S LIFE IN BUNYAGABU DISTRICT

By Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer, Bunyangabu District



**A** smallholder farmer in Bunyangabu District is reaping big rewards after embracing the government's Parish Development Model (PDM), turning a modest Shs 1 million support package into a thriving onion and dairy enterprise.

Mr. John Rubale, a father of four, once survived on small onion plots that barely sustained his family. But when he was selected as a PDM beneficiary, he used the funds to expand his onion farming,

transforming his fortunes.

“I used the money to buy onion seeds because I was already in the onion business. But due to limited capital, I wasn’t doing it on a large scale and therefore wasn’t benefiting from it so much,” Rubale explained.

Armed with experience in onion growing, Rubale established a nursery bed, transplanted seedlings into a larger garden, and applied manure, irrigation, and pest control measures. His efforts

paid off with a harvest worth Shs 3.7 million.

From the proceeds, he purchased an in-calf heifer and reinvested the rest into more onion production. Today, Rubale earns from both onions and milk sales, enabling him to pay school fees and meet household needs.

**“I thank the government for this programme. My life has changed. I encourage other people in Bunyangabu and across the country to take PDM seriously because it can transform their lives too.”**

“I sell milk to pay school fees for my children and also buy basic needs for the home,” he said proudly.

Rubale’s success story underscores the impact of PDM, which seeks to transition Ugandan households from subsistence farming to the money economy.

The programme, built on seven pillars including production and marketing, financial inclusion, mindset change, and social services, is designed to empower communities at the parish level as hubs of development.

The government’s Parish Development Model (PDM) is emerging as a key strategy for lifting Ugandan households out of subsistence farming and into the money economy.

The programme, which places parishes at the center of planning and implementation, seeks to empower communities by providing resources,

knowledge, and infrastructure to improve livelihoods.

At its core, PDM rests on seven strategic pillars:

- Production, Storage, Processing, and Marketing – boosting agricultural output, adding value, and linking farmers to reliable markets.
- Infrastructure and Economic Services – improving physical and social infrastructure to support growth.
- Financial Inclusion – providing affordable credit and financial services to rural households.
- Social Services – expanding access to education, healthcare, and other essential services.
- Mindset Change – encouraging Ugandans to adopt positive attitudes toward work, saving, and investment.
- Parish-Based Management Information System (PDMIS) – ensuring accurate data collection for effective planning and monitoring.
- Governance and Administration – strengthening transparency, accountability, and efficient service delivery.

Through these pillars, PDM is already creating success stories across the country. Beneficiaries such as Mr. John Rubale of Bunyangabu District, who turned a Shs 1 million PDM grant into a profitable onion and dairy enterprise, illustrate the programme’s potential to transform rural households.

Government officials say the model is designed not only to tackle poverty but also to inspire long-term prosperity by placing local communities at the center of Uganda’s development agenda.

# CHRIST AID TRANSFORMING LIVES OF OVER 2,000 PEOPLE IN RWENZORI

*By Stephen Ainganiza-Communication Officer Kabarole*

**M**ore than 2,000 vulnerable people in the Rwenzori region are benefiting from the work of Christ AID International, a charity organization that has been supporting orphans, needy children, and elderly women since its founding in 1998.

The organization was established by the late David Mpura Mpura Bbala from Kicuna, Rwengaju, one of President Museveni's model sub-counties. Over the years, Christ AID has grown from humble beginnings to become a major support system for disadvantaged families.

Currently, the charity sponsors 750 children at Kicuna Primary School, 458 at Christ AID Kicuna Secondary School, and over 150 at Kicuna Nursery School, while employing 64 staff members. In addition, it directly supports 355 orphans and needy children and assists 172 grandmothers through its flagship initiative, "Grandmas for Jesus."

Under this program, the elderly beneficiaries receive medical insurance at MK International Hospital in Njara and monthly cash grants of Shs60,000 to help meet their daily needs. So far, Christ AID has also constructed 37 houses for previously homeless grandmothers.



*The Bishop of Ruwenzori Diocese, Rt. Rev. Reuben Kisembo, poses for a group photo with Christ Aid Staff*



*The Shs2.5Bn Commissioned and Dedicated Building for sustaining Christ Aid Projects*

Resty Kaganda Mutooro, who has served as finance and administrative officer since 2000, recalled the organization's early struggles when staff taught under trees due to lack of buildings. She said the number of beneficiaries has since expanded dramatically, with more than 180 alumni graduating in various disciplines and now serving in professional positions across Uganda.

Jennifer Komuhendo, one of the alumni and now Project Officer and Alumni Coordinator, testified that the program had transformed her life. "I dropped out after Senior Four, but without Christ

AID, I would not be where I am today," she said, noting that hundreds of alumni are now contributing to society after completing diplomas, bachelor's, and master's degrees.

At the dedication of a new Shs2.5 billion building in Rwengoma, Fort Portal Tourism City, Country Director Grace Karungi Mugasa outlined recent achievements, including the establishment of a secondary school, provision of staff salaries, housing for grandmothers, and health insurance for beneficiaries.

The new facility, which includes a conference hall, Christ AID offices, 12 rental rooms, and the Muzungu Rooftop Restaurant, marks a major step toward self-sustainability. Mugasa credited

the USA team led by Pastor Bruce, the outgoing Executive Director, for mobilizing resources, and announced plans to establish a vocational school to support youth unable to pursue university education.

During the commissioning, Rt. Rev. Reuben Kisembo Amooti, Bishop of Rwenzori Diocese, commended the donors for their generosity and urged Ugandans to show compassion by supporting vulnerable children and women in their communities.

For many in the Rwenzori region, Christ AID International stands as a beacon of hope—providing education, healthcare, shelter, and dignity to thousands who once lived on the margins.



*Pr. Bruce, the outgoing Executive Director, is standing near Ms Lori the in coming Executive Director and Grace Karungi, the Country Director*

# TOORO KINGDOM LAUNCHES YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

By Nyakoojo William – Fort Portal

**F**ort Portal, Uganda – The Tooro Kingdom, in partnership with the Ugandan government, has launched the Tooro Kingdom Youth Economic Empowerment Program (TOKYEP), a comprehensive initiative aimed at uplifting young people across all counties through agriculture, entrepreneurship, and skills development. The launch took place today at Mucwa Grounds in Fort Portal. Rt. Hon. Armstrong Calvin Rwomiire, Prime Minister of Tooro Kingdom, said TOKYEP aligns with King Oyo's 25-Year Development Agenda and complements Uganda's National Development Plan and the Presidential campaign on wealth creation. Highlighting that 78% of Uganda's population is youth, Rwomiire noted that many remain unemployed or underemployed, and the program seeks to change that narrative.

The initiative will support youth involvement in coffee, cocoa, and poultry value chains while providing training in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and technology. Planned interventions include the distribution of 3 million coffee seedlings,



Leaders at the launch

2 million cocoa seedlings, and 3 million chicks at the county level.

TOKYEP aims to directly support 50,000 youth engaged in agriculture and agribusiness, train 5,000 youth at the Kingdom Youth Centre, and raise awareness among 500,000 young people about national wealth creation programs such as the Parish Development Model, Emoyaoga, and Operation Wealth Creation.

Deputy Prime Minister Henry Basaliza emphasized that integrating agriculture, skills training, and access to government initiatives will boost household incomes, reduce youth unemployment, and enhance Tooro's contribution to Uganda's export earnings, particularly in coffee and cocoa.

During the launch, Kwezi Nicholas from Kyenjojo urged parents to allocate land for youth projects, highlighting land scarcity as a key challenge to implementation.

The program represents a bold step toward a self-sufficient and prosperous future for Tooro's youth, contributing to national wealth creation and economic transformation.

# KAMWENGE DISTRICT COMMISSIONS TWO MINI PIPED WATER SYSTEMS AND LATRINES

By Joy Kiiza - Senior IT Officer, Kamwenge District



Kamwenge District Local Government has commissioned two new mini piped water systems and modern latrine facilities at BT Kasorora and Bwizi Primary School, in a move aimed at improving access to safe and clean water for residents and school communities.

The project, funded by UNICEF at a total cost of over Shs 472 million is a milestone in the district's ongoing efforts to expand sanitation and water supply

services, particularly in underserved areas.

The commissioning ceremony was presided over by the Assistant Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Mr Brian Karongo who commended the initiative and called upon residents to support the ruling government under the National Resistance Movement (NRM). He further emphasized the importance of community participation in protecting and maintaining the newly established facilities.

Speaking at the event, District Education Officer, Mr. Barinaitwe Stephen, urged headteachers to form health and sanitation clubs within their schools to ensure the long-term care and sustainability of the new facilities.

District Chairperson, Hon. Joseph Karungi, applauded the efforts of the technical team led by District Engineer Annet Kobusingye and the entire District Water Department for their dedication to extending water services to Bwizi Subcounty. He encouraged residents to use the water responsibly, stressing the importance of community ownership in sustaining the facilities.

“These projects are a clear demonstration of our commitment to improving the lives of our people,” Hon. Karungi said. “We call upon residents

to safeguard these facilities so that they can serve the current and future generations.”

The District Chairperson also extended appreciation to Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, and Member of Parliament for Kamwenge, for his continued support and partnership in advancing development projects in the district.

With the commissioning of the BT Kasorora and Bwizi Primary School water systems, hundreds of residents and school-going children are expected to benefit from reliable access to clean water. The initiative is also anticipated to reduce the burden of waterborne diseases and promote improved hygiene practices across Bwizi Subcounty.



*water commissioning*

# KASESE DISTRICT AIMS FOR TOP PERFORMANCE IN UPCOMING NATIONAL ASSESSMENT

*By Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer – Kasese*

Kasese District has launched preparations for the forthcoming national assessment exercise, scheduled for late October and November, with leaders and technical staff committing to enhance teamwork, accountability, and service delivery.

The preparations were highlighted on 30th September 2025 during a joint extended District Technical Planning Committee meeting, where internal performance results for FY 2024/25 were shared. The session, led by Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Eliab Begumya Ntarwete, aimed to inform departments of their current performance, identify gaps, and align teams ahead of the national assessment.

Mr. Ntarwete urged staff to embrace the district's assessment theme, "Recapturing the Lost Territory," stressing the goal of building on past success to reach higher national rankings.

"The purpose of this dissemination is to ensure departments are aware of their performance, compare progress, and identify gaps that can be filled before the national assessment," he said.



*Mr. Ntarwete Begumya Eliab DCAO Kasese disseminating the internal assessment results*

District Planner Paul Muganyizi emphasized that strong national assessment results influence central government grant allocations. He recalled that in FY 2023/24, Kasese improved to 10th position nationally, attracting an additional Shs 952 million to the district budget.

"We want to maintain and even improve this performance so that Kasese continues to attract more funding to support service delivery," he said.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of cross-department teamwork. Walakira Paul encouraged staff to treat the assessment as a strategic opportunity to increase the district's resources and urged the



*Extended District technical planning committee sitting ahead of the national assessment*

planning unit to organize engagements to ensure readiness.

LC V Chairperson Muhindi Elphaz praised the technical team and CAO for their dedication and stressed unity as the foundation for continued success.

“There is still hope for even greater performance if departments work together to strengthen their contributions,” he said.

Heads of departments and project officers pledged to fill identified gaps and prepare proper documentation to demonstrate effective service delivery.

With only weeks remaining before the assessment, Kasese District leadership expressed confidence that through teamwork, accountability, and focus on results, the district will safeguard its current position and potentially break into the single-digit national rankings.



*Mr. Walakira Paul the Chief Adminstrative Officer addressing staff during DTPC*

# REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT MEETING BOOSTS HEALTH SERVICES IN KITAGWENDA DISTRICT

By *Ainomuhangi Justus I.T Officer Kitagwenda District*



A recent regional engagement meeting held on 24th September, 2025 at the district headquarters brought new hope to the people of Kitagwenda District, as health services delivery is set to receive a significant boost. The meeting, which was supported by Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital, aimed to strengthen the district's health system and improve the overall well-being of its residents. The meeting brought together stakeholders from the district, health experts, and officials from Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital. Key areas of focus included health services delivery, human resource capacity building and community engagement.

One of the major concerns raised during the meeting was the need for improved infrastructure, particularly the upgrade of Ntara Health Centre IV into a full-fledged



*Dr. Kahimakazi DHO Kitagwenda*

district hospital.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of human resource capacity building, with a focus on training and recruiting more health workers to address the shortage of medical personnel in the district.

Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital has pledged to provide technical assistance, training, and capacity-building programs for health workers in Kitagwenda District. This support is expected to significantly improve health services delivery in the district.

As Kitagwenda District continues to work towards improving its health services, the regional engagement meeting marks a significant step forward. With the support of Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital, the district is poised to make significant strides in achieving better health outcomes for its residents.

Kahimakazi Irene District Health Officer remarks during the regional engagement meeting emphasized the significance of the meeting in boosting health services in Kitagwenda District. The DHO acknowledged the support from Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital and highlighted the key areas of focus,

including infrastructure development, human resource capacity building, and community engagement.

According to the DHO, the meeting provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss the challenges facing the district's health system and identify solutions. The DHO expressed gratitude to the participants and partners, noting that their contributions would help improve health services delivery in the district. She also told the stakeholders that the current staffing in health department is now at 54%.

The DHO welcomed the pledge by Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital to provide technical assistance, training, and capacity-building programs for health workers in Kitagwenda District.

Overall, the DHO's remarks emphasized the district's commitment to improving health services and acknowledged the critical role of partnerships and



*Dr. Bahizi giving his remarks*

collaborations in achieving this goal. The Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Dalili R.k Moses, emphasized the importance of strengthening the district's health system. He noted that the regional engagement meeting was a crucial step towards achieving better health outcomes for the residents of Kitagwenda <sup>1</sup>.

The CAO highlighted the need for improved infrastructure, particularly the upgrade of Ntara Health Centre IV into a full-fledged district hospital. He also stressed the importance of human resource capacity building, including training and recruiting more health workers to address the shortage of medical personnel in the district.

Dr. Bahizi Achibald Newton, The Senior Executive Consultant from Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital,

emphasized the significance of the regional engagement meeting in enhancing health services in Kitagwenda District. He noted that the meeting's focus on infrastructure development, human resource capacity building, and community engagement aligns with the district's health sector goals.

Dr. Bahizi commended the participants for identifying key areas that require attention, including the upgrade of Ntara Health Centre IV into a full-fledged district hospital. He believes that this support will significantly improve health services delivery in the district.

Dr. Bahizi concluded by emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving better health outcomes. He encouraged stakeholders to continue working together to address the health challenges facing Kitagwenda District.

# KYARUSOZI SEED SECONDARY SCHOOL BRINGS HOPE AMID CHALLENGES

*By Johnson Atuhaire, Communications Officer, Kyenjojo District*

The government's Seed Secondary Schools program is taking root in Kyarusizi Sub-County, where a new Seed Secondary School is under

*Ongoing Construction work at  
kyarusizi seed School*



construction, offering hope to families long deprived of nearby access to secondary education.

The initiative, implemented under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal

Transfers (UgIFT) Program, aims to establish 259 Seed Secondary Schools nationwide, in phases, to bridge gaps in underserved sub-counties.

These schools are designed to be small, affordable, and equipped with essential infrastructure such as science labs, teacher housing, and multipurpose halls.

In Kyarusizi, the new school will feature three classroom blocks (six classrooms), two science laboratories, an administration block, a multipurpose hall, teachers' houses and kitchen, VIP latrines for boys and girls, rainwater harvesting, and external works including a playground.

The project is expected to reduce long travel distances for students, lower costs for families, and help cut dropout rates linked to transport challenges. Officials say the school could particularly benefit girls, who often face barriers to attending distant boarding schools.

*“Having a local school means girls who cannot travel far will have an opportunity to continue their education,” said a district official during a recent site visit.*

District leaders, including the Resident District Commissioner,



CAO, Chairperson LC V, RDC at a site meeting visit at Kyarusizi seed school



Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition members together with district officials at a recent site visit

Chief Administrative Officer, and Vice Chairperson, inspected the site in September 2025. They noted slow progress but received assurances from contractors that the school would be handed over by December 2025.

Despite the optimism, concerns remain. Electricity, water, and internet services may not be ready when construction is completed, potentially limiting the use of laboratories and ICT facilities. Community leaders also stress the need for sensitization campaigns to build trust in the school's quality and encourage enrollment once it opens.

The Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition (RAC), through its community barazas, has involved residents in monitoring progress and reporting gaps, a move district leaders say strengthens accountability.

Once operational, Kyarusizi Seed Secondary School is expected to boost

local identity and parent engagement while attracting qualified teachers through on-site housing. Officials also predict broader economic benefits as new services emerge around the school. However, education experts caution that the project's success depends not only on construction but also on reliable utilities, recruitment of staff, and strong community participation.

**The Kyarusizi Seed School mirrors the broader Seed Schools program: it highlights both the promise of increased access to education and the challenges of implementation. For the people of Kyarusizi, it represents seeds of hope—if nurtured well, they could grow into lasting change.**



# ROTARACT CLUBS BRING HOPE TO CHILDREN AT MANA RESCUE HOME

*By Nyakoojo William – Fort Portal*

The Rotaract Clubs of Kabarole, Munyonyo, and Kasese have brightened the lives of vulnerable children at Mana Rescue Home Kasusu in Fort Portal by donating food and household essentials. The initiative targets orphaned children and those living with HIV, aiming to restore hope, dignity, and a sense of community.

The donation included soap, sanitary pads, books, pens, cooking oil, bananas, and maize flour, reflecting the clubs'

commitment to meeting the practical needs of children in care.

Emmanuel Muhumuza, Project Director of the Rotaract Clubs, said the organization's interventions are guided by thorough community assessments to ensure targeted and meaningful impact.

"We also engage in projects such as rehabilitating water sources and constructing waiting shades at Kiguma Health Center to address community needs," he explained.

Joseph Mugenyi, President of the



*Rotary Clubs Members Sorting Out Items*

Kabarole Rotaract Club, highlighted the role of collective member contributions in supporting humanitarian efforts.

Faith Patson, Head Caregiver at Mana Rescue Home, expressed gratitude for the support. She noted that the home, established in 2008, provides care for up to 30 HIV-positive children,



*Children Excited After Receiving the donations*

creating a stable environment for them to thrive despite challenges, including limited funding and the side effects of antiretroviral therapy (ARVs).

HIV/AIDS continues to pose challenges globally and in Uganda. According to UNAIDS, approximately 1.7 million children worldwide live with HIV, while

1.4 million children in Uganda have been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS-related deaths. These figures underscore the critical need for sustained community support and interventions.

Through this outreach, the Rotaract Clubs demonstrate how community-driven initiatives can make a meaningful difference, improving the welfare of vulnerable children and giving them hope for a brighter future.



A Volunteer Receiving the Items from Rotary Club

## KAMWENGE DISTRICT REVIEWS WETLAND RESTORATION, WATER AND SANITATION PROGRESS

By Joy Kiiza – Senior IT Officer, Kamwenge District

**K**amwenge District Local Government, in partnership with Water for People, successfully held its Quarter One Extended Water and Sanitation Coordination Committee (DWSCC) meeting from September 29-30, 2025, at Hotel Afreka Complex. The meeting focused on wetland restoration and enhancing coordination among WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) partners.

The two-day forum brought together district leaders, including the District Chairperson, Chief Administrative Officer, Subcounty Chiefs, LCIII Chairpersons, and WASH implementing partners. Discussions centered on reviewing successes, addressing challenges, and promoting sustainable wetland and riverbank conservation.

On the first day, participants conducted field visits to wetlands and bee-keeping



Members of the DWSCC pose for a group photo after the meeting at Afrika Hotel

projects in Bihanga, Biguli, and Kabuga Town Council, inspecting restoration efforts at Rwakasirabo, Nyakatoma, Karaki, Bishayumbe, and Kajororo, areas that were previously degraded.

Day two sessions at the hotel involved reviewing field findings, sharing best practices, and receiving presentations on policy aspects of wetland conservation. Participants also explored ways to integrate government livelihood programs such as the Parish Development Model (PDM), Emyooga, UWEP, and Youth Livelihood Programs to support communities affected by conservation efforts.

The committee recommended strengthening enforcement and patrols in wetland areas, establishing community wetland committees, promoting climate-smart agriculture, and mainstreaming wetland restoration into the PDM framework.

Chief Administrative Officer Harriet Katusiime praised the committee for its dedication and announced that Water for People would soon publish success stories on conservation achievements.

District Speaker Hon. Gerald Twebaze



Alternative sources of livelihood practiced in the wetland

noted that Kamwenge is serving as a benchmark for other districts due to its strong WASH performance, urging members to maintain commitment.

District Chairperson Hon. Karungi Kabona expressed gratitude for the district's achievements but highlighted persistent water access challenges in Kamwenge Subcounty and Nkoma, calling for closer collaboration with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation to expand piped water services.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to safeguard wetlands, enhance community involvement, and link conservation initiatives with economic empowerment programs to ensure sustainable results.

# KINYAYOBYO BRIDGE PROJECT BRINGS RELIEF TO FLOOD-HIT KARUSANDARA

By Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer-Kasese.



*Kinyayobyo Bridge in Karusandara Subcounty to be repaired*

Residents of Karusandara Sub-County in Kasese District have welcomed the reconstruction of the Kinyayobyo Bridge, a project that promises to restore vital transport links cut off for more than eight years by seasonal floods.

The bridge, which connects Kinyayobyo-Subwe to major trading centers, was rendered impassable after floods swept away its approach. Farmers and traders in the area, one of Kasese's leading food baskets, were left struggling to move produce to markets, leading to losses and increased transport costs.

Following persistent appeals, the district secured a UGX 1 billion grant from the central government and allocated an additional UGX 150 million for the project. Construction began in late

September and is being carried out by the district's engineering department.

On October 29, District Chairperson Hon. Muhindi Bukomi Elphazi led a team of technical and political leaders to the project site, where he assured residents that government is committed to equitable service delivery despite limited resources across Kasese's 41 local governments.

District Engineer Asiimwe Ronald explained that the works include installing two additional culverts alongside the existing one, building protection walls, and carrying out two kilometers of roadworks—one kilometer on each side of the bridge.

“Over 15 years ago, the existing culvert bridge served this community well. By adding more culverts and protection



*District political and technical team holding a site meeting with the Karusandara residents*

measures, we are confident this bridge will handle even the heaviest floods,” Eng. Asiimwe said.

Although some residents initially preferred a larger conventional bridge, they later accepted the technical plan after district officials explained its durability and cost-effectiveness.

Local leaders, including LC III Chairperson Dalaus and Sub-County Chief Isejjemba Phillip, urged residents

to support the project and asked that local youth be given casual employment during construction.

Once completed, the bridge is expected to ease transport, reduce post-harvest losses, and strengthen food security and household incomes in Karusandara and neighboring areas.

## KITAGWENDA DISTRICT LEADERS URGE TEACHERS TO RESUME WORK, END STRIKE

*By Ainomuhangi Justus I.T Officer  
Kitagwenda District*

**D**istrict leaders in Kitagwenda have called upon striking teachers to return to classrooms and resume their duties, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the future of learners while the government addresses salary disputes.

The appeal comes in the wake of a prolonged national strike by arts and humanities teachers, who have been demanding salary parity with their counterparts in the sciences. The industrial action, which has left thousands of learners stranded, has drawn concern from both parents and local leaders.

Speaking at a district education stakeholders' meeting on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 at district headquarters, Kitagwenda Resident District Commissioner Mr. Isiah Kanyamahane said education is a constitutional right and must not be jeopardized.

*"We understand the frustrations of our teachers, but we urge them to return to class as dialogue with the government continues. Our children cannot afford to lose more time," the RDC said.*

The District Vice Chairperson, Ashaba Peter, echoed the call, noting that prolonged absence from school not only affects learners' performance but also burdens parents and guardians who are anxious about their children's academic progress.

Local leaders assured teachers that government has already committed to addressing salary disparities in phases, beginning with budget allocations expected in the coming financial years. They encouraged patience, noting that continued engagement through lawful channels would yield more sustainable results than keeping learners out of class.

Parents who attended the meeting expressed relief at the leaders' intervention, with many urging teachers to heed the appeal.

"We respect our teachers and support their demands, but our children's future is equally



RDC Isiah Kanyamahane

important. We hope they listen to this call and return to class," said one parent.

As schools prepare for mid-of-term assessments, education officials in Kitagwenda said they would work closely with headteachers to implement recovery programs aimed at bridging the instructional gap caused by the strike.

Meanwhile, the Uganda Professional Humanities Teachers' Union (UPHTU) has insisted that its members will not relent until firm timelines for salary harmonization are established. National negotiations between the union and government representatives are ongoing.

For now, Kitagwenda's learners, parents, and school administrators await the teachers' response to the district leaders' appeal.

# GOVERNMENT BEGINS COMPENSATION PROCESS FOR MPOKYA EVICTION VICTIMS

By Stephen Ainganiza – Communication Officer, Kabarole District



*The evicted persons waiting to be compensated*

The government is in the final stages of compensating individuals who were evicted from Mpokya Forest Reserve in Kibaale, greater Kabarole district. A dedicated team comprising members of the State House Anti-Corruption Unit, the Internal Security Organization (ISO), and the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) commenced verification exercises to facilitate fair compensation for the affected residents.

Hundreds of residents displaced from Mpokya Forest Reserve within Kibaale National Park gathered at Kabarole District Headquarters in Kitumba to undergo the verification process.

**According to Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga, the District Chairperson of Kabarole, the evictees were originally displaced in 1992. Following their eviction, they filed a lawsuit protesting the manner in which they were removed and demanding compensation.**

Rwabuhinga stated, "In 2013, the High Court ordered the government to compensate the 3,730 evictees, with each household awarded Shs6 million." He further commended President Yoweri Museveni for sending a team

to verify the claims of these evictees, emphasizing, "I believe only the NRM government and President Museveni can listen to and address the plight of local communities."

Isaac Twinomugisha, Director of ISO, and Daniel Mayombo, Principal Legal Officer at the State House Anti-Corruption Unit, explained, "This is the first exercise to officially mark the beginning of the compensation process for these residents. The verification lasted three days and required full

cooperation from all parties involved." Twijukye Richard, the Chairperson of the evictees, recounted the hardships endured during the eviction. "We were displaced from our homes, our crops were destroyed, and animals killed," he said. "This led to our scattering across various locations and subjected us to physical and mental suffering. We are grateful that the government recognizes our plight and is taking steps to compensate us."

## What You should Know about Campaigns

- ✓ Campaign meetings allowed: **7:00am - 6:00pm only.**
- ✓ All candidates **MUST** be treated equally and fairly.
- ✓ You are **free to attend any rally** of your choice.
- ✓ All Presidential Candidates get **police protection** for security.

## PENALTIES



### **Bribery:**

Up to UGX 1.4M fine or 3 years prison or both

### **Violence/Intimidation:**

up to 3 years prison

### **Poster defacement:**

up to UGX 480,000 fine / 1 year prison

## What is NOT Allowed

- ✗ No bribery or gifts in exchange for votes.
- ✗ No violence, insults, or hate speech.
- ✗ No tearing or defacing campaign posters.
- ✗ No fundraising or donations by candidates during campaigns.

## REPORT ELECTION OFFENCES

↗ Nearest Police Station / Electoral Commission

↗ Toll Free: **0800200071**



**#UgVotes2026**

# HAILSTORM WREAKS HAVOC IN KICHECHE SUB COUNTY

By *Ainomuhangi Justus I.T Officer Kitagwenda District*



*Affected plantations*

**A** rare and destructive hailstorm struck Kicheche Sub-County on Friday 26th September, 2025 evening, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. The sudden storm, which lasted for nearly an hour, damaged dozens of homes, Schools, flattened crops across large swathes of farmland, and disrupted electricity and road transport in the area.

Residents were caught off guard as dark clouds rolled in around 5:30 PM, followed shortly by a violent downpour mixed with hailstones, some as large as marbles. The sound of hail pelting rooftops echoed through villages, shattering windows and damaging iron sheet roofs in several households.

“This is something we have never seen before,” said Esther Komujuni, a

farmer in Kigoto parish. “The hailstones destroyed my maize and bean crops completely. I was expecting to harvest in four weeks. Now everything is gone.”

Local authorities estimate that over 200 acres of farmland have been affected, threatening food security for hundreds of families who rely on subsistence farming. The hailstones also tore through banana plantations and vegetable gardens, with early assessments indicating potential losses in the millions of shillings.

Kicheche Sub-County Chief, Mr. Kabagambe Iyam Ernest, confirmed that emergency response teams headed by the sub county agricultural officer had been dispatched to assess the full extent of the damage. “We are working closely with the district disaster management



committee to compile a report and determine the necessary interventions. Our first priority is to ensure displaced families have temporary shelter,” he said.

Power lines were also damaged in several villages, causing widespread outages that have yet to be fully restored. Local roads, already compromised by recent rains, became impassable in some areas due to flash flooding and debris brought down by the storm.

“We were overwhelmed. All our plantations have been wiped out. People here have nothing left to depend on,” said Kagambirwe LC1 chairperson Buryansungwe village.

Residents warned that without immediate aid, hunger could hit hard over the next 3 months. “We are requesting the government to come to our rescue with food and seeds so that we can replant and sustain our families,” Mutahunga a resident of buraysungwe village said.

Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Dalili Moses confirmed that a technical team has been dispatched to assess the damage.

*“A technical team has been sent to evaluate the situation and prepare a report. This will guide us in fast-tracking aid for the affected families,” he said.*

Local leaders have called on the national government and humanitarian organizations to intervene swiftly and they are now hoping for swift government action to avert a looming food crisis in the area. District Member of Parliament Hon. Nyakato Dorothy Nzibonera urged for urgent food relief and seed distribution for affected farmers.

“We cannot let our people suffer alone. This is a natural disaster and it needs a coordinated response,” Nyakato said.

# SHS1.9B GRAVITY WATER SCHEME ENDS DECADES OF SCARCITY IN KABAROLE

By Stephen Ainganiza – Communication Officer, Kabarole District



*A Girl excited after getting clean and safe water nea her home.*

The International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), in partnership with Kabarole District, has commissioned the Buhara Gravity Piped Water Scheme, a Shs1.9 billion project that promises to transform access to clean and safe water for thousands of residents in Bwanika Parish, Kicwamba Sub County.

The scheme, estimated at Shs1.9 Billion, will serve 14 water-stressed villages and provide relief to a population of more than 8,700 residents. Key beneficiaries include Bwanika Health Centre II, three government-aided schools, four private schools, 130 households, five places of worship, and four business centers.

Funding for the project came from multiple partners: Shs630 million from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Shs372 million from other donors,



*Residents of Buhara celebrate as they fetch water*

Shs556 million from Kabarole District Local Government, and over Shs400 million mobilized by IRC to extend the scheme to additional villages.

According to Martin Watsisi, IRC's Regional WASH Coordinator, the project involves a 12 km pipeline from River Nkuranga in Karangura Sub County, within the Rwenzori Mountains

National Park. Infrastructure includes five public tap stands, ten household yard connections, a 20,000-liter sedimentation tank, and an 80,000-liter storage tank at Magunga in Bwanika.

**"This project has already improved access to safe water for communities in Magunga, Katumba, Buhara, Kahondo, and Nyankwanzi. Phase III, now nearing completion, will extend services to even more villages," Watsisi said.**

Residents and local leaders welcomed the project, describing it as life-changing. Nyakahuma Polly Innocent, LCII Chairperson of Bwanika, said the community had long depended on unsafe water sources such as Crater Lakes and streams, which exposed them to bilharzia.

"Now, our people will be healthier and will no longer spend money on treatment," he noted.

Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga, Kabarole District Chairperson, commended IRC and its partners for their contribution, recalling that water was one of the key

demands residents voiced during his early campaigns.

"Today, water and road challenges in Bwanika have been addressed, and only electricity remains," he said. "IRC is a dependable partner that helped us develop the District WASH Master Plan, which envisions universal access to safe drinking water by 2030."

He urged IRC to secure additional resources to cover the six remaining villages in Bwanika Parish.

Edinah Tusiime Mukarwiza, the District Councilor for the area, emphasized that the scheme would drastically reduce the burden of water scarcity, while Mr. Fredrick Kamya from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints appealed for community ownership.

"These facilities were funded through church tithes during fasting weeks. It is our collective responsibility to safeguard them against vandalism so that they benefit future generations," he said.

The commissioning of the scheme has been hailed as a milestone in the fight against waterborne diseases, high healthcare costs, and long hours spent fetching water, bringing renewed hope to the people of Kicwamba.



IRC and District Officials at the Reserve Water Tank



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**Rwenzori  
Times**

