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## RWENZORI REGION LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS BEGIN NEW TERM WITH RENEWED COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

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# TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

CHIEF EDITOR

*Dear Reader,*

**W**elcome to the maiden monthly edition of Rwenzori Times. We are delighted to once again connect with you through a publication that continues to highlight the voices, progress, and transformation taking place across the Rwenzori sub-region.

To serve our readers better, we have transitioned from a weekly publication to a monthly edition. This change is intended to give us more time to produce content that is deeper, more informative, educative, entertaining, and reflective of the realities shaping our communities. Going forward, as earlier communicated, Rwenzori Times will now be published monthly.

This edition captures remarkable developments across the region. In Fort Portal City, leaders are embracing data-driven tourism and investing heavily in health and education infrastructure. Kyenjojo District continues to impress with innovative nutrition interventions

and a UGX 59 billion budget focused on health and education. In Bunyangabu, there is a new civic education initiative aimed at strengthening governance and citizen participation. In Kasese, the massive mosquito net distribution campaign and expansion of rural water access reflect continued commitment to improving livelihoods.

Across Bundibugyo, Kamwenge, Ntoroko, and other districts, new leaders have assumed office with renewed promises of better service delivery.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and readership as we grow together.

**KABUGHO SHARON**

*Editor*



**AINGANIZA STEPHEN**

*Editor*

# FORT PORTAL CITY LEVERAGES DATA-DRIVEN TOURISM TO FUEL SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



*The Managers of Hotels, Tourist Attraction and City Officials after the workshop at Kalya Courts Hotel*

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

**I**n a move to enhance tourism and urban development, Fort Portal City authorities are leveraging the power of data through the DataCities initiative. This collaborative effort, spearheaded by Sunbird AI, UN Global Pulse, and TooroDev, aims to establish a comprehensive data hub system for tourist attractions and accommodation facilities that will facilitate effective data collection, foster informed decision-making, and sustainable urban policies.

The consortium, in partnership with the Fort Portal City Tourism Sector, hosted a one-day workshop at Kalya Courts, bringing together tour operators, event organizers, hoteliers, and key public stakeholders to unite around a shared, practical approach to tourism data collection, management, and utilization.

Deborah Baguma, Senior Tourism Officer for Fort Portal City, emphasized the importance of collaboration among stakeholders in data collection. She also

highlighted the need for the city and accommodation investors to improve planning and develop facilities that cater to both local and international tourists.

Michael Karwani, Fort Portal City Commercial Officer, underscored the critical role of data in urban development. He observed that if Fort Portal City is to grow, data collection and management are crucial to guide evidence-based decision-making.

Kellen Kanyunyuzi, Programs Manager at TooroDev, elaborated on the initiative's objectives, stating that it aims to empower cities to utilize data for evidence-based governance. The project is currently

being piloted in Fort Portal and Jinja, with aspirations to transform these areas into modern, smart, and resilient urban centers.

The initiative focuses on improving data management and decision-making for urban authorities, particularly in enhancing local revenue mobilization, public services, and infrastructure through digital innovation.

Key initiatives include the integration of datasets, harmonization of property naming conventions, and the creation of unique identifiers to bolster revenue collection and build taxpayer trust.

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## URA BOOSTS FORT PORTAL'S GREENING CAMPAIGN WITH TREE SEEDLINGS

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

**I**n a bid to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability across Uganda, the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) donated 200 tree seedlings to Fort Portal City's Natural

Resources Department, boosting the city's greening campaign.

The seedlings, which include guavas, citrus fruits, and various shade trees, have been planted around the Main Mosque Mpanga, Kahungabunyonyi Road, as well as



*URA and City Officials planting trees*

in the southern areas of the city's Central Division.

Former Deputy Mayor Betty Mujungu expressed her gratitude to URA for its support in the city's greening campaign.

***"We are thrilled to have URA join us in our efforts to beautify Fort Portal and address climate change challenges," she stated.***

Mujungu emphasised the city's commitment to nurturing the newly planted trees, highlighting the presence of a well-staffed Natural Resources Department

dedicated to environmental stewardship.

She urged the city's technical staff to safeguard the trees and encouraged residents to take an active role in protecting these vital resources from destruction.

"It is essential for our community to come together and ensure the survival of these trees for future generations," she added.

The URA team, led by Shaka Brian, noted that this initiative is part of a nationwide campaign to green Ugandan communities and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

# FORT PORTAL CITY UPGRADES BUKUUKU COMMUNITY SCHOOL TO SEED SCHOOL



*The completed classroom blocks at Bukuuku Community Seed School*

**A**uthorities in Fort Portal City have upgraded Bukuuku Community School to the status of a government-aided seed school, a move aimed at improving access to quality education in the Karago Town Council area.

The upgrade, funded by an allocation of UGX 2.45 billion from the Government of Uganda through the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Program (UGFIT), represents a transformative investment in the community's future.

It has come with the construction of modern classroom blocks, a library, an Information Communications and Technology (ICT) lab, three semi-detached staff houses, a self-contained administration block, state-of-the-art science laboratories, and Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines.

According to Fort Portal City Engineer, Herbert Kaihura, construction is currently 85 percent complete. He expressed optimism that the project will be finalized and handed over to the leaders by the end of the 2025/2026 financial

year.

Bukuuku Community Secondary School was founded in 2005 by community leaders with a vision to provide secondary education to students who previously faced daunting journeys to reach distant schools like Mpanga and Kahinju.

Ambrose Ocen, the Town Clerk of Fort Portal City, emphasized the importance of this upgrade in improving literacy levels within the community. He stated that enhanced infrastructure, paired with a dedicated and professional teaching staff, will naturally lead to elevated educational standards and

increased enrollment.

The early results already support that vision. Jackeline Katuhebwe, the head teacher of Bukuuku Community School, shared that the school is already seeing an increase in enrollment, from 530 to 680 students this year alone, with projections suggesting numbers could soar to 1,000 by 2027, once construction is fully completed.

She attributed this growth to the new infrastructure, improved performance in the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) examinations.

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## **UGX 1.5 BILLION MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING AT KATARAKA HEALTH CENTRE IV SET TO BOOST MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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

**A** state-of-the-art multipurpose building valued at Shs 1.5 billion is poised to significantly improve maternal health services at Kataraka Health Centre IV in Fort Portal City, a development

expected to transform healthcare delivery in the city and neighbouring areas of Kabarole District.

The facility will feature a neonatal room, paediatric wing, female ward, male ward, maternity ward, assisted



*City Officials tour Kataraka General Ward*

birth unit, outpatient department (OPD), theatre, and a waiting room, among other essential services, according to Dr Francis Kawesi, the in-charge of Kataraka Health Centre IV. He confirmed that all necessary equipment for the facility is already on-site, awaiting the completion and handover of the building.

Dr Emma Mugisa, the Fort Portal City Health Officer, revealed that funding for the project came from central development grants, with an additional Shs 300 million secured through lobbying efforts by Margaret Muhanga Mugisa during her tenure as the Minister of Primary Health Care.

Dr. Mugisa emphasised that the completion of this facility is expected to increase annual deliveries at the centre from 600 to

1,000 babies.

He noted that despite having doctors and midwives available to assist mothers, the previous facility was severely limited by space, with only one delivery bed. The construction of this new building will not only enhance delivery capacity but also alleviate congestion at the Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital, where many mothers were previously referred due to inadequate space and equipment.

Fort Portal City Engineer Hebert Kaihura stated that the contractor is currently finalising the project, with only cleaning and leveling off the ground remaining. He assured the community that the facility will be handed over before the end of June.

# KYENJOJO'S NUTRITION STRIDES IMPRESS MITYANA DISTRICT IN BENCHMARKING VISIT



*Officials inspect the Nursery bed for vegetables at Bufunjo Seed SS*

***By Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer, Kyenjojo DLG***

As malnutrition continues to challenge many parts of Uganda, Kyenjojo District is emerging as a beacon of progress, attracting the attention of Mityana District officials who recently undertook a benchmarking visit to learn from the district's successful nutrition model.

The visit, which brought together technical and political leaders from Mityana, focused on understanding how Kyenjojo has achieved a

downward trend in malnutrition through an integrated, multi-sectoral approach linking health, agriculture, and community development.

While malnutrition remains a serious concern, officials from Kyenjojo reported that several indicators now point to significant progress.

“Several indicators suggest progress is being made,” said Martin Paul Yiga, Deputy Chief Administrative



*Mityana DLG and Kyenjojo DLG Nutrition Committees in a group photo during the visit*

Officer of Kyenjojo District. He outlined that the district is fighting malnutrition through a combination of community health outreach, school nutrition programmes, agriculture-based interventions, and stronger coordination between departments and partners.

Key among Kyenjojo's strides is the promotion of kitchen gardens and school demonstration gardens, where communities and schools grow nutrient-rich foods such as carrots, beans, and sukuma wiki to improve dietary diversity.

At Bufunjo Seed Secondary School, a case study during the visit revealed that school feeding and nutrition garden programmes have improved both school attendance

and dietary intake among learners.

The district has also strengthened its District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC), which brings together health, agriculture, education, community development, and planning departments to coordinate nutrition interventions and mainstream nutrition into district plans and budgets.

Particular attention was given to how Kyenjojo has aligned nutrition interventions with the Parish Development Model (PDM), ensuring that economic empowerment efforts directly contribute to improved household welfare and nutrition outcomes.

Officials from Mityana District commended Kyenjojo for its strong coordination mechanisms and emphasis on community sensitization, noting that such approaches are critical in driving behavioral change.

“Learning from districts that are performing well enables us to adopt practical solutions that can transform the lives of

our communities,” said Joyce Nabwanika, the District Nutrition Focal Person for Mityana District.

The benchmarking visit concluded with a renewed commitment from both districts to strengthen collaboration, share knowledge, and scale up successful nutrition initiatives aimed at building healthier and more resilient communities.

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## NEW KYENJOJO DISTRICT CAO COMMITTS TO IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY

*By Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer, Kyenjojo DLG*

The new Kyenjojo District Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Malik Mahabba, has pledged to enhance service delivery and foster inclusive development in the district.

Mahabba made the remarks on 4th May 2026 as he took over office from Amis Asuman Masereka, who has been steering the district since 13th July 2023.

In his remarks, Mahabba promised to build upon the foundation laid

by his predecessor to strengthen transparency, improve service delivery, and foster inclusive development across the district.

“I am honoured to take on this responsibility and serve the people of Kyenjojo. My focus will be on enhancing efficiency, promoting teamwork, and ensuring that government programmes translate into tangible benefits for our communities,” Mahabba said.

On his part, Masereka expressed gratitude to the political leadership, technical staff, and



*Mr. Masereka hands over key documents to the new CAO, Malik Mahabba*

the people of Kyenjojo for their cooperation and support during his tenure. He highlighted key achievements realised under his leadership, including strengthened administrative systems, improved service delivery in sectors such as health, education, and agriculture, and enhanced collaboration with development partners.

The handover ceremony, held at the Kyenjojo District Headquarters, was attended by district leaders,

heads of departments, technical staff, and key stakeholders. The event symbolised continuity in public service and reaffirmed the district's commitment to effective governance and service delivery, while also underscoring the government's ongoing efforts to strengthen leadership across districts, ensure the continuity of service delivery, and guarantee the effective implementation of policies and programmes at the local government level.

***"I am honoured to take on this responsibility and serve the people of Kyenjojo. My focus will be on enhancing efficiency, promoting teamwork, and ensuring that government programmes translate into tangible benefits for our communities," Mahabba said***

# RWENZORI REGION LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS BEGIN NEW TERM WITH RENEWED COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

*By Rwenzori Region Communication Officers*

**L**ocal government political leaders from all districts in Rwenzori region have commenced the 2026-2031 term of office, pledging to enhance service delivery and foster development in their communities.

## **Fort Portal City: Rev. Muhanga Pledges Total Transformation**

Rev. Willy Kintu Muhanga, who contested as an independent candidate in the January 2026

general elections, assumed office as the Mayor of Fort Portal Tourism City in a colorful inauguration ceremony presided over by Fort Portal Chief Magistrate, Her Worship Jacklin Anna Namazzi.

Immediately after taking the oath of office, Muhanga appointed his political executive committee to drive the city's agenda, who include Margaret Kabajwara as his deputy, Jorum Sabiiti Kinuge as Secretary for Works and technical



*Rev Kintu Willy Muhanga giving his speech at his swearing-in ceremony at Boma ground*

services, Margaret Kihika as Secretary for Finance, Planning, and Administration, and Rosemary Haddijah Amutuhairwe will oversee Production and Natural Resources. In his inaugural address, Rev. Muhanga promised to work closely with President Museveni and the central government to accelerate development and socioeconomic transformation in Fort Portal Tourism City.

**Kyenjojo District: Rubaihayo pledges enhanced service delivery as he kicks off his second term**



*Kyenjojo district LCV chairperson swearing in*

The newly elected District Chairperson and Councillors were officially sworn into office in a colorful ceremony held at the district headquarters, marking the beginning of a new five-year leadership term running from 2026 to 2031.



*Hon Grace Atuheire takes oath as Vice Chairperson*

In his inaugural address after taking the oath, the District Chairperson, Gilbert Rubaihayo, pledged to promote transparency, accountability, and improved service delivery across all sectors, including health, education, roads, agriculture, and water services.

He emphasized the need for unity among leaders regardless of political affiliation in order to accelerate socio-economic transformation within the district.

Meanwhile, the inaugural council sitting elected Ronald Karamagi as the District Speaker and Hamida Kahunde as Deputy Speaker.

One of the major highlights of the ceremony was the nomination of members to serve on the District Executive Committee. The proposed team included Grace Atuhairwe as Vice Chairperson, Giscard Atuhairwe Rusoke as

Secretary for Works, Finance and Administration, Jane Ahaisibwe as Secretary for Community Based Services, and Kayondo Komwiswa – Secretary for Production, Health and Education, who were all duly approved by the council.

**Bundibugyo District:  
Tibakunirwa Embarks on  
Second Term, Calls for Unity**



*After swearing in, on the right the District Chairperson, Tibakunirwa receiving tools of office from the CAO Walakira Paul*

Robert Tibakunirwa was sworn in on 18th May 2026, as the District Chairperson of Bundibugyo district for a second term, in a ceremony held at Booma ground and presided over by Chief Magistrate, Hood Matovu.

Tibakunirwa and 53 District councilors took their oaths and

His Worship Matovu went ahead to preside over the election of District Speaker and the Deputy speaker whereby the first district council sitting elected Smith Tibamwenda, a Councilor representing Bubukwanga Sub county, as the new District Speaker. Dan Bwambale was elected unopposed as the Deputy Speaker.

In the same council sitting, the District Chairperson presented members of the District Executive Committee (DEC) with Eunice Kyomugisha as the District Vice Chairperson, Racheal Nansamba as secretary for finance, Likerenge Mwesige as Secretary for Production, and Enos Makanika as the secretary of social services.

**Kamwenge District: Service  
Delivery to Take Priority in  
New Term**



*Karungi Joseph Swearing in*

Kamwenge District officially ushered in a new leadership term with Joseph Karungi being sworn-in as the District Chairperson for the



*Hon Frank K. Tumwebaze addressing the congregation*

2026–2031 term during a ceremony held on 21st May 2026, at the District Headquarters.

He outlined several key priorities for his new term, pledging to focus on improving and maintaining roads, extending water services to every village and public institution, constructing a district stadium, and strengthening environmental conservation and wetland protection efforts.

Over 35 district councilors were also sworn-in during the ceremony, marking the beginning of a new political and administrative term for the District.

The chief guest at the event

was Frank K. Tumwebaze, the Member of Parliament for Kibale East Constituency, who commended the newly elected leaders and encouraged them to work together for the transformation of Kamwenge District.

On the same day, district councilors participated in

the election of the

District Speaker. Fred Mbonigaba emerged victorious after defeating Gerald Twebaze, who had served as Speaker during the 2021–2026 term.

The District Chairperson also unveiled members of the new District Executive Committee that will serve alongside him during the new term. The team includes Harriet Mujuni as Vice Chairperson, Sarah Sunday Katungyeza as Secretary for Community Based Services, Yonan Muhwezi as Secretary for Works, Production and Technical Services, and Peter Busobozi Kadoli as Secretary for Administration, Finance and Planning.

**Ntoroko District: Etyen Muhumuza took oath as the District Chairperson while Eric Tumusiime was elected Speaker deputized by Everlyne Namanya.**



*Etyen Muhumuza Swearing in*

The new District Executive Committee is comprised of Hellen Kyambango as the Vice Chairperson, Scovia Ibanda Secretary Finance, Mary Kayesu Mwesige, Secretary Production and Barbrah Komusisa as Secretary Social Services.

**Bunyangabu District: Peter Musunguzi was sworn in on 18th May 2026 as Bunyangabu District Local Government LCV Chairperson replacing James Ategeka who has been at the helm of the district since its creation in 2017.**



# **BUNDIBUGYO BUSINESS COMMUNITY SENSITISED ABOUT NEW TRADE ORDER**

*By Mbabazi Sylvia, Bundibugyo District Communications Officer*

**A**uthorities in Bundibugyo town council held a sensitisation meeting with traders at the Boma Grounds, where traders operating in undesignated areas were ordered to relocate as part of the enforcement of the New Trade Order, a government policy aimed at restoring order in urban trading areas.

In the meeting held at the Boma Grounds, leaders engaged traders about the importance of complying with the designated trading zones. While speaking in this engagement meeting, the Acting Town Clerk for Bundibugyo Town Council, Caesar Olega, explained that the initiative intends to remove all illegal structures, street vendors, hawkers, and traders with structures erected



*Business Community Sensitization Meeting Held at Boma Ground*

within road reserves and drainage channels as well as organise the transport systems in a bid to improve sanitation, ease congestion and ensure safer movements within Bundibugyo town.

The Town Clerk said that the town

council authorities organised and designated Bumate market for the relocation of affected traders. He therefore urged them to utilise the new market or look out for alternative designated areas to avoid penalties.



# **BUNDIBUGYO PREPARES CIVIL SERVANTS FOR SHIFT TO FUNDED PENSION SCHEME**

*By Mbabazi Sylvia Bundibugyo District Communications Officer*

**A**s the July 2026 rollout of Uganda’s new funded public service pension scheme draws nearer, civil servants in Bundibugyo District

have been urged to view the transition not with uncertainty, but as a journey toward a "promised land" of financial security.



*The Principal Human Resource Officer, Katusime Jane presenting to District Technical Planning Committee Members about Public Service Pension Fund transition*

At a technical planning meeting held in the district, heads of departments, sub county chiefs, and town clerks gathered to deliberate on the shift from the old non-contributory (pay-as-you-go) system to the Public Service Pension Fund Act, 2025. The meeting marked a crucial step in preparing local government staff for one of the most significant retirement reforms in Uganda's history.

Addressing the gathering, the Principal Human Resource Officer, Jane Katusime, laid out the framework of the new scheme, which is set to take effect in July 2026. Under the reformed system,

every employee will mandatorily contribute 5% of their basic salary monthly, while the employer (government) will add 10%, bringing the total monthly contribution to 15%.

"This transition aims to reform the retirement benefits sector to improve scope, coverage, and efficiency," Katusime explained. "It will ensure protection of members' funds, their interests, and those of their beneficiaries, while guaranteeing adequate, affordable, and sustainable pensions for Uganda's retiring workforce."

Katusime noted that the current system, governed by the Pension Act, Cap. 89, has long been a

non-contributory pay-as-you-go arrangement, where the government pays pensions and gratuities directly from the national budget. However, this model has frequently led to payment delays and mounting arrears, causing significant frustration among retirees.

For existing pensioners and civil servants who are five years or less from retirement, Katusime assured them that they have the option to remain under the old system or voluntarily transition to the new one.

A key pillar of the reform is the

enhanced regulatory role of the Uganda Retirement Benefits Authority (URBRA). Katusime explained that URBRA will operate with a Board of Trustees appointed under the new Act, responsible for setting regulations, supervising retirement benefits schemes and service providers, and protecting the interests of both members and beneficiaries.

Concluding her presentation, Katusime called upon all district stakeholders to actively sensitize civil servants about the benefits of the new scheme, urging them to embrace the reform with a positive mindset.

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## KASESE LAUNCHES MASSIVE MOSQUITO NET DISTRIBUTION TO COMBAT MALARIA

*Kabugho Sharon, Kasese District Communications Officer.*

**K**asese District has made significant progress in the fight against malaria by officially launching a large-scale mosquito net distribution campaign designed to protect thousands of households.

On April 19, 2026, the Resident District Commissioner, Joe Walunsimbi, flagged off the distribution of 518,550 mosquito nets at the district headquarters, and the exercise, which commenced early May, will see households receive nets based on



*Flagging off of nets distribution*

nursery beds.”

He also noted that the 1,371 bales of nets allocated to Kasese District are sufficient to cover the district’s population. To ensure the success of the campaign, he called on local leaders, including LCI officials and parish chiefs, to supervise proper distribution and usage.

their size, one net for every two people.

The initiative, supported by the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Health, is part of ongoing efforts to reduce malaria infections and improve public health across the district.

Speaking at the event, Walunsimbi emphasized the importance of proper usage, cautioning residents against misusing the nets. He stressed that the nets are strictly meant for protection against mosquitoes, not for alternative uses like poultry shelters or gardening.

“These mosquito nets are meant to keep families safe from malaria,” he said. “They should be used on beds, not for keeping chickens or making

District Vice Chairperson Monday Girivazio echoed these concerns, urging residents to take the campaign seriously. He reassured the public that the nets are safe and effective, encouraging widespread adoption to reduce malaria cases.

Health officials are also expected to carry out community sensitisation programmes to educate residents on proper usage and maintenance of the nets.

The campaign highlights the government’s continued commitment to safeguarding communities from preventable diseases, with malaria remaining one of the leading health challenges in the region.

# HOW KASESE DIOCESE WAS POISED TO DELIVER HISTORIC MARTYRS DAY CELEBRATIONS



*Namugongo Martyrs Shrine*

*By Kabugho Sharon, Kasese District Communications Officer.*

**W**hat had appeared to be a historic and spiritually significant moment for the Diocese of Kasese has been unexpectedly interrupted following the suspension of the 2026 Uganda Martyrs Day celebrations at

Namugongo due to the Ebola outbreak in Uganda.

Before the suspension was announced on 17th May 2026, the Diocese of Kasese had projected strong readiness to lead the national Uganda Martyrs Day

celebrations scheduled for 3rd June 2026 at Namugongo, one of Africa's most revered Christian pilgrimage sites.

Under the leadership of Francis Acquirinus Kibira, the Diocese had intensified preparations through pilgrim mobilisation, choir rehearsals, fundraising drives, and coordination efforts aimed at ensuring a successful national celebration.

For months, Bishop Kibira rallied Christians, institutions, and leaders across Kasese to participate in what was expected to be a spiritually uplifting and nationally significant gathering.

As part of preparations, on 23rd April 2026, Bishop Kibira presided over Holy Mass at Kasese District Local Government headquarters, bringing together district leaders and staff in prayer and support for the forthcoming celebrations.

The event culminated in a financial contribution from district staff toward preparations for Namugongo. Kasese District Chief Administrative Officer Edward Kasagara announced an initial

contribution of UGX 8 million from staff, alongside a further UGX 8 million pledge from the district local government, bringing the total commitment to UGX 16 million.

The Diocese's growing momentum was further demonstrated on 15th May 2026 when it received 78 foot pilgrims from the Butembo-Beni Diocese in the Democratic Republic of Congo at the Mpondwe-Lhubiriha border, underscoring the international importance of the annual pilgrimage.

However, the anticipated celebrations were later suspended following concerns surrounding the Ebola outbreak, bringing preparations to an abrupt halt and affecting thousands of pilgrims who had already begun plans for the spiritual journey to Namugongo.

Despite the setback, the Diocese of Kasese's preparations had already reflected strong organisation, faith, and regional solidarity – qualities that many believers say will remain significant whenever national celebrations resume.

# KASESE EXPANDS RURAL WATER ACCESS WITH PHASE II OF KENDAHI SOLAR PROJECT



*Solar water pumping system*

*By Kabugho Sharon, Kasese District Communications Officer.*

**R**esidents of Kitswamba Subcounty in Kasese District are set to benefit from improved access to clean and safe water following the launch of Phase II of the Kendahi Solar-Powered Water Supply System on April 21, 2026.

The project will serve communities in Hima and Kihyo parishes, covering villages such as Kendahi, Kibisire, Mototo, Kisanga, Nyangereka, and Kinyabwamba. Implemented in two phases, the

initiative is designed to ensure efficient water sourcing and distribution.

District Water Engineer Patrick Syaipuma said Phase I focused on establishing core infrastructure, including water source development, pumping systems, and a solar power installation. This phase, funded by the central government, cost approximately UGX 793 million.

Phase II, valued at UGX 645 million and funded by Kasese District Local



*Reserve water tank*

Government, will extend water access through the construction of a solar-powered booster station and pump house, installation of solar-mechanical systems, pipeline expansion, and a wider distribution network. The phase will also include 20 public stand taps.

District Chairperson Muhindi Eliphaz Bukombi said the project reflects the government's commitment to ensuring safe water access in every village.

"This project belongs to the community. Its success will depend on how well it is protected and maintained," he said, urging residents to actively participate in water user committees.

The launch was officiated by Deputy Resident District

Commissioner Geoffrey Katunda, who commended local leadership for advocating improved services.

For many residents, the project marks relief from years of water scarcity. Mughuda Yonah, one of the residents, highlighted the

burden on households, noting that women

and children often walk up to six kilometers to fetch water.

"In the process, people face risks, and some have lost their lives. This project will make a real difference," he said.

According to LC III Chairperson Yofesi Katenene, the Kendahi project builds on several water initiatives implemented in Kitwamba over the past five years, including the Bigando rural water system and other solar-powered projects supported by development partners.

He said water coverage in the subcounty has now reached approximately 80 percent, a significant improvement in service delivery.

# Rwenzori Times

## Congratulations

Rwenzori Times extends heartfelt congratulations to

### **H.E PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI**

upon your inauguration and continued leadership of the Republic of Uganda.

Your dedication to national unity, peace, and development continues to inspire many Ugandans across the country. As you begin another term of service, we wish you wisdom, strength, and success in guiding the nation toward greater prosperity and transformation.

As a media institution serving the people of the Rwenzori region and Uganda at large, Rwenzori Times remains hopeful for continued peace, inclusive development, and opportunities that uplift communities and improve livelihoods. We look forward to witnessing greater achievements under your stewardship.

May your leadership continue to foster progress, stability, and opportunities for all citizens.



**H.E. GEN. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI**  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



# CARITAS TURNS FOCUS TO BUNYANGABU IN NEW CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT



*Caritas team explaining the project to the stakeholders during an inception meeting at the district headquarters*

***By Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer Bunyangabu District***

**R**esidents of Kabonero Sub County in Bunyangabu District are set to benefit from a new civic education and governance project aimed at strengthening

citizen participation, improving accountability among local leaders, and helping vulnerable communities access justice.

The three-year initiative, being implemented by Caritas Fort Portal

under the Catholic Diocese of Fort Portal, runs from February 2026 to January 2029 and will also cover Kyenjojo and Kamwenge districts.

In Bunyangabu, the project will focus on empowering Local Council leaders, women, youth leaders, and vulnerable residents through civic education, legal support, financial literacy, and governance training.

During the inception meeting, officials from Caritas explained that many rural communities continue to struggle with weak local governance structures, limited access to justice, and low levels of participation in decision-making processes.

Benjamin Tumusiime, from Caritas, said the intervention is intended to bridge that gap by equipping local leaders with knowledge on their mandates, planning processes, and governance responsibilities.

In this new project, they are also targeting ordinary citizens, especially women and youth, who remain economically and politically vulnerable. "Unemployment, low literacy levels, and limited access to information have left many unable

to meaningfully participate in governance processes," Tumusiime added.

Under the new arrangement, women and youth leaders organized in VSLA groups will receive entrepreneurship and financial literacy training, alongside sensitization on land rights and civic participation.

In total, the project targets 3,780 direct beneficiaries across the three districts, including 1,080 Local Council leaders and opinion leaders, 900 religious leaders, 810 women leaders, 810 youth leaders, and 180 vulnerable victims requiring legal aid.

In his remarks, the Bunyangabu Deputy RDC, Robert Kamuntu, encouraged the target community members to embrace the project, arguing that it will have positive impact on their lives.

On his part, the Bunyangabu Deputy CAO, Baker Akampurira, welcomed the project, saying civic education is very necessary for community members to understand their roles in governance take active participation.

# KAMWENGE DISTRICT RECEIVES OVER 27,000 MOSQUITO NETS TO BOOST MALARIA PREVENTION DRIVE



*By Kiiza Joy, SITO -Kamwenge*

Kamwenge District on May 10th 2026 received a consignment of mosquito nets totaling 5,432 bales, equivalent to 27,160 mosquito nets, in a major boost to the government's ongoing efforts to combat malaria across the country. The intervention is expected to strengthen household protection, especially among vulnerable communities in rural and refugee settlement areas.

The mosquito nets were officially flagged off by Brian Karongo, who presided over the dispatch of the supplies to various sub-counties within the district. The distribution exercise aims to ensure that the life-saving nets reach intended beneficiaries promptly and efficiently.

Speaking during the flag-off ceremony, Karongo emphasized the importance of transparency,



*Brian Karongo Assistant RDC flagging off the mosquito net distribution to sub counties*

accountability, and fairness throughout the distribution process. He warned against any form of diversion or illegal sale of the mosquito nets, stressing that authorities will maintain zero tolerance for malpractice that undermines public health

interventions.

The initiative highlights the government’s continued commitment to improving public health services and reducing the malaria burden in communities across Uganda.

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## **KYENJOJO DISTRICT COUNCIL APPROVES UGX 59BN BUDGET WITH FOCUS ON HEALTH, EDUCATION**

*Kyenjojo and Bundibugyo communication officers*

**K**yenjojo District Council approved a budget worth UGX 59,573,245,000 for 2026/2027 Financial Year, in accordance with Section 77 of the

Local Governments Act, which mandates local governments to formulate, approve, and implement balanced budgets aligned to national priorities.



*The Bundibugyo District Chairperson, Tibakunirwa Robert presenting during the District Council meeting.*

health and well-being and SDG 4 on quality education.

Relatedly, Bundibugyo District council held on 29th April 2026, approved and passed a UGX 53.4 billion shillings budget for the 2026/2027 Financial Year.

The Education and Health departments took the lion's share of the budget, with UGX 22,969,315,000 and UGX 13,860,888,000, respectively.

These two received the highest share of the approved budget as they directly influence the welfare, productivity, and development of the population. Their funding is essential for improving service delivery, reducing poverty, strengthening human capital, and achieving sustainable district development aligned with global commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 3 on good

While presenting the budget, the

Secretary for Finance, Musa Mugisa Mujungu revealed the budget will be majorly funded by central government transfers projected at 95%, followed by other government transfers at 2%, domestic revenues at 2% and external financing at 1%.

He disclosed that education takes the biggest share among the major development projects followed by health, roads and water resources.

Speaking during the council sitting, Bundibugyo District Chairperson Robert Tibakunirwa warned fuel vendors against taking advantage of the Middle East crisis to levy exploitative prices.

# UPU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED



*By Ainganiza Stephen, Senior Communications Officer, Fort Portal City*

**U**ganda Pentecostal University (UPU) launched an alumni association in an event that took place at the University's main campus in Mucwa Fort Portal.

The event, themed *"Reconnecting the Past, Strengthening the Future,"* brought together a diverse group of alumni, university staff, current students, and key stakeholders.

The launch of the Alumni Association aims to strengthen the connection between UPU and its graduates, encouraging them to play an active role in shaping

the university's future. The event featured a series of engaging activities, including spirited sports competitions and a guided tour of the university's ambitious construction project in Kudukuru, Kasusu Ward.

During the event, Vice Chancellor Prof. Pelucy Ntambirweki emphasized the essential role alumni play in shaping the university's trajectory. "Always speak UPU wherever you go. Your support is crucial for the university's future," she urged.

The newly appointed Chairman



*UPU Alumni teams*

of the Alumni Association, Sam Magezi, pledged to mobilize alumni toward meaningful participation in university programs.

Founded by the visionary late Prof. John Ntambirwe, UPU has always transcended the role of a

traditional educational institution. Established with a mission to empower students through quality education grounded in Christian values, the university has nurtured countless leaders and change makers since its inception.



## PROF. PELUCY NTAMBIRWEKI

“Always speak UPU wherever you go. Your support is crucial for the university’s future,” Prof. Pelucy Ntambirweki urged.

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## PRESS RELEASE

Department of Press and Public Relations  
News | Information | Communication

17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### **GOVERNMENT POSTPONES MARTYRS' DAY CELEBRATIONS OVER EBOLA OUTBREAK RISKS**

The Government has postponed this year's Martyrs' Day celebrations, a major annual religious and national event held on June 3 in honour of the Uganda Martyrs.

This follows heightened public health concerns linked to an Ebola outbreak in neighbouring eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The decision was reached after consultations between President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the national epidemic response task force, and religious leaders.

According to the President, the postponement was necessary to safeguard lives amid increased cross-border movement of pilgrims from affected areas.

"After consultations with the national epidemic response task force and religious leaders, we have decided to postpone the Martyrs' Day to a later date, which will be communicated," President Museveni said.

He explained that Uganda continues to receive thousands of pilgrims annually, including from eastern DRC, where Ebola has been reported, making the mass gathering a potential public health risk.

"This decision was made because Uganda receives thousands of pilgrims annually from Eastern Congo, which is currently experiencing an Ebola outbreak," he noted.

# EBOLA



## PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- Avoid contact with suspected Ebola patients.



- Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based sanitisers.



- Do not handle bodies of suspected Ebola cases. Alert health teams to perform safe and dignified burial.



**Report symptoms immediately.**

Toll-free:  
**0800-100-066**

Free SMS to Report: **8500**

**STAY ALERT AND BE VIGILANT!**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH**



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