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TUSIIME CHRISTOPHER

Chief Editor

Dear Reader. //

Welcome to the Fourth Edition of the Rwenzori Times. With each issue, our mission remains clear to tell the stories that matter most to the people of the Rwenzori region and beyond: stories of progress, resilience, opportunity, and transformation.

In this edition, we highlight the heartbeat

of local development: from the ongoing expansion of health services in Kabarole, to the government's push for inclusive growth through the Parish Development Model, and the untapped tourism treasures of Kyegegwa District that are ready for investment. Together, these stories remind us that the Rwenzori sub-region is not only rich in culture and

natural beauty, but also in possibilities for socio-economic growth.

The Rwenzori Times continues to serve as a platform for ideas, dialogue, and action. We celebrate the achievements made, spotlight the challenges that remain, and above all, invite you our readers, partners, and stakeholders to be part of shaping the future of our region.



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GOVERNMENT MOVES TO **IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE** IN BUNYANGABU DISTRICT



The team from the Ministry of Health and stakeholders of Bunyangabu District pose for a group photo in front of the district headquarters

By Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer, Bunyangabu District

The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Health, on Monday, August 25, 2025, launched the Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) programme in Bunyangabu District. The programme is aimed at improving access to healthcare and reducing the burden of preventable illnesses across communities in the district.

The official rollout took place during

a stakeholder engagement meeting held in the council hall at the district headquarters. While addressing the participants, Dr. Richard Mugahi, the Commissioner in charge of Reproductive and Infant Health at the Ministry of Health, explained that the introduction of the CHEWs programme in Bunyangabu follows its successful implementation in other parts of the country.

“We conducted a pilot for the CHEWs in Mayuge, Lira District and Lira City in 2022, and the results were impressive.

We have since scaled up to some districts around here like Kyenjojo, and they already have good testimonies,” Dr. Mugahi said.

He explained that the community health workers will play a crucial role in extending health services closer to households. Each parish will have two CHEWs who will be responsible for conducting home visits to provide health education, screening for diseases such as diabetes, leading integrated health outreaches, and identifying and referring at-risk individuals, especially those flagged during screenings.

Other responsibilities will include overseeing the supply chain of community health commodities such as materials for screening, coordinating health education and risk communication campaigns, and strengthening community-based surveillance by managing Village Health Teams (VHTs) reporting on diseases, health events, and data.

Unlike traditional recruitment methods, the selection of CHEWs will be entirely community-led to ensure ownership and trust. According to the Ministry of Health guidelines, applicants must have completed Senior Four and be aged between 22 and 35 years for new entrants, or 22 to 40 years for those who have been actively serving as VHTs. Each parish will select one male and one female candidate, who must be residents of at least one village within the parish

they seek to serve. The selection will be conducted through open community voting by lining up behind candidates.

Once chosen, the two candidates per parish will undergo a four-month training programme covering various health modules before being deployed to their respective communities. Dr. Mugahi further revealed that each CHEW will receive a monthly salary in addition to tools and supplies needed for their work.

The Bunyangabu District Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Baker Akampurira, welcomed the programme and expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Health for extending it to the district. He pledged the district’s full support to ensure smooth implementation.

Similarly, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Robert Kamuntu, praised the initiative and urged for inclusive stakeholder engagement. He noted that involving all leaders would facilitate quicker community acceptance and foster stronger collaboration.

The introduction of the CHEWs programme in Bunyangabu District is expected to enhance access to primary healthcare, reduce preventable illnesses, and strengthen disease surveillance at the grassroots level.

KICWAMBA SEED SCHOOL NEARS COMPLETION, ENDING LONG TREKS FOR LEARNERS

By Ainganiza Stephen, Communication Officer Kabarole

Learners in Kicwamba Subcounty, Kabarole District, are set to end decades of walking over 22 kilometers daily to access secondary education in Fort Portal Town. The Shs 3.7 billion Kicwamba Seed School is nearing completion, bringing quality education closer to families in the area.

The government-funded project, contracted to Karobwa Engineering Services Ltd, includes three classroom blocks (each with two classrooms), a multi-purpose hall for assemblies, worship, and entertainment, an IT and

computer lab block, a science block, an administration block, staff quarters, and pit latrines. Eng. Donanto Ayebazibwe said the school is in its final stages, with flooring, painting, electrical works, furniture, and glass fittings remaining. He assured residents the facility will be handed over within two months.

District Education Officer Mr. Rujumba Joseph confirmed that staffing is already complete. “We now have 24 professional teachers, two nurses, a school bursar, and attendants. The school is fully staffed and ready to receive learners,” he said.

The idea of Kicwamba Seed School began in 2018 when then LCIII Chairperson Mr. Businge Charles responded to parents’ outcry over the lack of a local secondary school. “As a leader, I had to act. Starting a community secondary school was the only way to support our children,” he said.



The Classroom Blocks at Kicwamba Seed School

Kabarole District Chairperson Mr. Richard Rwabuhinga described the project as a long-awaited relief. “I saw the suffering of our children walking long distances. I lobbied council and pushed for a government seed school. Today, we celebrate the fruits of that effort,” he said.

Rwabuhinga urged parents to fully utilize the new facilities. “This school is a gift from government, and I appreciate President Yoweri Museveni for prioritizing education and health. Parents must send their children to benefit from the modern facilities and qualified staff,” he added.

Once completed, Kicwamba Seed School will be commissioned and handed over to the community. It adds

to other government investments in the subcounty, including the Buhara Water Supply System Phase II, road maintenance works, and the construction of a maternity ward at Kicwamba Health Centre III.

“As a district, we’ve done many projects in Kicwamba including water services, road maintenance, and health facilities,” Dr. Rwabuhinga said. “The seed school is not just another project—it’s a symbol of progress, equity, and the power of responsive leadership.”



The science block and Multi- Purpose Hall



The Administration Block



The staff quarters at Kicwamba Seed School

BUSABURA PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KAMWENGES GETS **HYGIENE BOOST WITH ECOSAN TOILETS & WATER INSTALLATION**

By Joy Kiiza ,Senior IT Officer-Kamwenge



Pupils and teachers at Busabura Primary School in Busiriba Sub-county, Kamwenge District, have received a major boost in hygiene and sanitation following the commissioning of two Ecosan toilets and a 10,000-litre water tank, valued at over Shs 76 million.

The facilities were handed over by the Joint Efforts to Save the

Environment (JESE) in partnership with Join For Water and Kamwenge District leaders. The initiative seeks to improve hygiene standards at the school, ease access to clean water, and promote the sustainable use of water resources.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony on Friday, the school's head teacher, Wilberforce Turyagyenda, welcomed the

development, noting that it will ease the burden of pupils who previously walked over four kilometers in search of clean water.

“With more than 500 learners and very few latrines, sanitation was a big challenge,” Mr. Turyagyenda said. “These new facilities will improve hygiene, attract more children to school, and enhance academic performance.”

In addition to the school facilities, a Shs 107 million piped water system was commissioned to benefit three villages in Kiyagara Parish—Rwebikwato II, Miyora I, and Miyora II—in Kahunge Sub-county.

According to Lawrence Tusiime, JESE’s Program Manager, the projects were a direct response to concerns raised by the District council regarding limited water and sanitation services.

“We responded to a public demand raised through the district council,” Mr. Tusiime explained. “Our message to the school and community is clear: take care of these structures sustainably so that they benefit many generations.”

Kamwenge Chief Administrative Officer Madam Harriet Katusiime hailed the projects as a significant step forward in service delivery.

“These facilities not only support Busabura Primary School and surrounding communities but also create an opportunity for us as a district to extend similar services to other high-need areas,” she said.

George Bwambale, representing Join For Water, attributed the success of the project to strong collaboration between the District and its partners.

“We now call on the community to embrace and use these projects responsibly so they can have a lasting impact,” Mr. Bwambale urged.

Kamwenge Assistant RDC Mr Benjamin Mutegeki, who officiated the commissioning, commended Join For Water for its financial support and JESE for its technical expertise.

“Projects like these uplift communities and meet pressing needs,” Mr. Mutegeki said.

For over two decades, JESE has worked with Join For Water to promote equitable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services while advocating for the conservation of water resources across the Rwenzori region, from Fort Portal to Lake George and the Semliki Basin.

TUSKERLITE MT. RWENZORI MARATHON 2025: A RACE BEYOND RUNNING, A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY AND TOURISM



Runners showcasing explore Uganda after the run

*By Kabugho Sharon, Communications
Officer, Kasese District*

Kasese town came alive on 23rd August 2025 as it proudly hosted the Tuskerlite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon, an international sporting event that has grown into one of the most anticipated activities on Uganda's tourism and sports calendar. The marathon attracted over 6,000 runners from 35 countries, turning the heart of Kasese into a hub of sports, culture, and business.

The races featured a 42km full marathon, 21km half marathon, 10km race, and a 5km fun run. Runners and fans flocked in from across the globe, with the largest delegation coming from Kenya, including over 500 runners and fans led by the Deputy Speaker of the Kenyan Parliament. The event also attracted high-profile personalities such as the Ambassador of Uganda to Kenya, Hon. Martin Mugarra (Minister of State for Tourism), Hon. Godfrey Kabyanga Kime



Start of the 10 KM race

(Minister of State for ICT and National Guidance), Members of Parliament from Kasese, Andrew Kilonzo (MD, Kenya Breweries Limited), and the CEO of Serengeti Marathon, among others.

Speaking at the awarding ceremony, the Deputy Speaker of the Kenyan Parliament expressed her delight in participating, describing the Tuskerlite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon as "one of the

best in the world.” Unlike marathons in Western capitals, she noted, Kasese offers runners a unique experience: breathtaking views of the majestic Rwenzori Mountains, national parks, lakes, and rich landscapes.

“This marathon is beyond running; it is a celebration of Uganda’s tourism. We are committed to supporting and participating every year,” she said, commending the improved infrastructure in Kasese, especially the road network that now meets international standards for marathon events.

The Director of the Tuskerlite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon, Amos Wekesa, celebrated the growth of the event, highlighting the increased number of international participants and partner support. He thanked key sponsors such as Tuskerlite, Standard Chartered Bank, Britam, Rwenzori Mineral Water, UCC, Ministry of Tourism, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda Breweries Limited, and Explore Uganda for their contributions in making the marathon a success.

The marathon brought life and economic opportunity to Kasese. With over 6,000 participants and fans, hotels and lodges reported 100% occupancy, restaurants sold out, and vendors thrived as they supplied food and refreshments. For many small business owners, the event was a timely blessing that boosted household incomes.

Hon. Martin Mugarra, Minister of State for Tourism, praised the government’s

efforts in improving Kasese’s infrastructure since the marathon began in 2022. He emphasized how the transformation of the town, combined with the warm hospitality of its people, has elevated Kasese into a tourism and sporting destination.

The races saw outstanding performances from both Ugandan and international athletes:

- 42KM Women: Winner – Rachel Zena Chebet (UGX 10M)
- 42KM Men: Winner – Bannard Cheptosh (UGX 10M)
- 21KM Women: Winner – Kevin Cherop (UGX 5M)
- 21KM Men: Winner – Abel Chebet (UGX 5M)

Prizes ranged from UGX 1 million to UGX 10 million, rewarding the top performers in each category.

For the people of Kasese, the Tuskerlite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon is more than a race—it is an opportunity to showcase the district’s hospitality, culture, and natural beauty. The cheering crowds, the bustling markets, and the sense of pride in welcoming thousands of visitors highlighted the deep community spirit that has made the marathon special since its inception.

As the dust settles on the 2025 edition, one thing is clear: the Tuskerlite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon has become a global sporting event and a local economic engine, putting Kasese on the world map as a destination where sport meets tourism.

RAC APPLAUDS KITAGWENDA'S EFFORTS IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



RAC meeting with district officials

By Ainomuhangi Justus, Communications Officer Kitagwenda DLG

Kitagwenda District has been commended for making significant strides in fighting corruption and improving public service delivery since entering into a partnership with the Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition (RAC) in 2021.

Speaking during a recent People's Parliament Forum organized by Rwenzori Anti-Corruption at the district headquarters, the Chairperson Board of Governors, Gerald Twebaze, praised Kitagwenda leaders for their commitment to transparency and accountability.

"Compared to the earlier years when Kitagwenda was constantly in the spotlight over corruption scandals, the district has made tremendous efforts to curb corruption. We commend the leadership for staying on the course," Twebaze said.



Twebaze Gerald CP BOG RAC

The forum served as a platform to assess the implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed in 2020 between RAC and the Kitagwenda District Local Government. The agreement focused on promoting accountability, transparency, and improved service delivery.

Twebaze encouraged district leaders and departmental heads to double their efforts in closing existing service delivery gaps. "While progress has been made, there are still critical areas that need attention. Let's remain focused on transforming the lives of the people

through efficient service delivery,” he added.

As part of its ongoing oversight role, Rwenzori Anti-Corruption team also monitored the progress of the Kicwamba–Nyabanni road project. Discussions at the forum highlighted concerns such as the need to upgrade dental services at Ntara Health Centre IV and establish a piped water supply system to improve sanitation and access to clean water at the health facility.

In his closing remarks, Assistant Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Philip Nabasa called for continued cooperation between elected leaders and civil servants.

“Strong collaboration between political leaders and public servants is the backbone of effective service delivery. We must work together if we want to see sustainable development in Kitagwenda,” Nabasa stated

MUSEVENI’S HEALTH AGENDA BRINGS LIFE CHANGING SERVICES TO KABAROLE THROUGH NYABUSWA HC III UPGRADE



District Chairman Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga Commissioning the facility

*By Ainganiza Stephen,
Communication Officer
Kabarole District*

President Yoweri Museveni’s commitment to strengthening Uganda’s health sector has been highlighted in Kabarole District with the commissioning of the newly upgraded Nyabuswa Health Centre III, a Shs 614 million investment

that promises improved healthcare for Mugusu Subcounty.

The facility, formerly a modest Health Centre II, now features dedicated maternity, female, male, and children's wards, easing the burden on residents who previously traveled to Bukuuku Health Centre IV and Fort Portal Regional Hospital for basic services.

Assistant RDC Asaba Frank, who presided over the commissioning, praised the district's leadership under Chairman Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga, saying that if all districts worked like Kabarole, we would be in Canaan.

The commissioning drew joy and

celebration from local leaders and residents. Moses Karatunga, Chairperson of the Health Unit Management Committee, thanked Dr. Rwabuhinga for championing the upgrade. "The struggle ends today," he said, pledging to mobilize the community to fully utilize the facility and commending health staff for their dedication.

LCIII Chairperson Kusemererwa Vincent Tumbo also credited the achievement to what he called visionary leadership by the district and the NRM government. He called for further support in the form of solar power, electricity, and a minor theatre, vowing to ensure service delivery through active monitoring.



Reflecting on the milestone, Dr. Rwabuhinga reminded residents that the demand for improved health services had been voiced since the 2021 elections. "Back then, all we had was a community hall and an OPD. Today, we celebrate two maternity wards, two staff quarters, and a fully equipped general ward," he said, stressing that responsive leadership is about listening and delivering visible solutions.

District Health Officer Dr. Kalyegira Stephen announced further plans, including a Shs 30 million borehole, a Shs 120 million solar system, new equipment, and recruitment of additional staff when the wage bill allows.

While applauding the progress, Assistant RDC Asaba Frank urged residents to complement government efforts by improving home sanitation and tackling child malnutrition, noting that Kabarole is a region blessed with agricultural abundance.

The commissioning of Nyabuswa Health Centre III marks a significant step in bringing healthcare closer to the people, aligning with Uganda's decentralization policy and national efforts to improve service delivery across districts.

NMS DELIVERS ESSENTIAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO KAMWENG DISTRICT

By Joy Kiiza, Senior IT -Officer -Kamwenge District

The National Medical Stores (NMS) has delivered essential medical supplies to eight health facilities in Kamwenge District, in a move aimed at strengthening healthcare service delivery.

The consignment included Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), Panadol, ciprofloxacin (Cipro), Coartem, condoms, syringes, soap, Mama Kits, and Jik. According to health officials, the supplies are expected to boost maternal and child health services, improve the management of infectious diseases, and support HIV/AIDS programs.

The benefiting health centers are Kimulikidongo Health Center II, Kabambiro Health Center III, Kabuga Health Center III (PNFP), Kabingo Health Center III, Bihanga Health Center III, Bisozi Health Center IV (PNFP), Mabaale Health Center III (PNFP), and Kyabenda Health Center III (PNFP).



District health officials welcomed the delivery, saying it came at a critical time when many facilities had been experiencing shortages. They noted that the inclusion of RUTF will help treat malnutrition among children, while Mama Kits will support safer deliveries for mothers.

Dr. Mucunguzi William, the District Health Officer, expressed appreciation for the intervention. “We thank NMS for their continued commitment to ensuring that even the most remote health centers are adequately stocked,” he said.

According to NMS, this delivery forms part of a broader initiative to improve healthcare service delivery and ensure equitable access to medicines and medical supplies across Uganda.

RIVER MPANGA GORGE: A HIDDEN PREHISTORIC PARADISE

*By Ainomuhangi Justus, IT Officer,
Kitagwenda DLG*

Tucked away in Kanara Sub County, about 30 kilometers from Ntara town, lies one of Uganda's most breathtaking natural treasures, River Mpanga Gorge. Known for its dramatic landscapes, rare plants, and prehistoric legacy, the gorge is fast becoming a must-visit destination for nature lovers, photographers, and adventure seekers.

River Mpanga flows from the highlands before plunging 50 meters down a granite cliff into a deep gorge, eventually winding toward Lake George. Its location on the eastern edge of Queen Elizabeth National Park offers sweeping views of the savannah, the calm waters of Lake George, and on clear days, the

distant Rwenzori Mountains.

What sets River Mpanga Gorge apart is its status as the only place on Earth where the critically endangered giant cycad, *Encephalartos whitelockii*, grows naturally. Often called "living fossils," these plants have survived for over 200–300 million years, dating back to the age of dinosaurs.

The gorge's misty spray forests and granite slopes also host rare orchids, ferns, mosses, butterflies, and birds, making it a paradise for biodiversity and a valuable site for eco-tourism and conservation.

Unique Features & Significance

- Prehistoric cycads: The gorge shelters the world's only population of *Encephalartos whitelockii*.
- Waterfall: River Mpanga plunges 50 meters into the gorge, creating a misty spray that feeds lush vegetation.
- Scenic views: From its cliffs, visitors can see Queen Elizabeth National Park, Lake George, and the Rwenzoris.



River Mpanga gorge in Kitagwenda District

- Wildlife: Baboons, birds, and butterflies thrive here, with baboons playing a key role in dispersing cycad seeds.

Activities for Visitors

- Hiking the Cycad Trail: A moderate trek along cliff edges and forested slopes, ending at the roaring waterfall.
- Bird watching & Photography: The gorge's unique habitats provide ideal settings for birders and photographers.
- Guided Nature Walks: Visitors can discover orchids, medicinal plants, and local community knowledge.
- Beyond the Gorge
- River Mpanga Gorge is part of a wider western Uganda circuit. Visitors can explore:
- Lake George for boat rides and

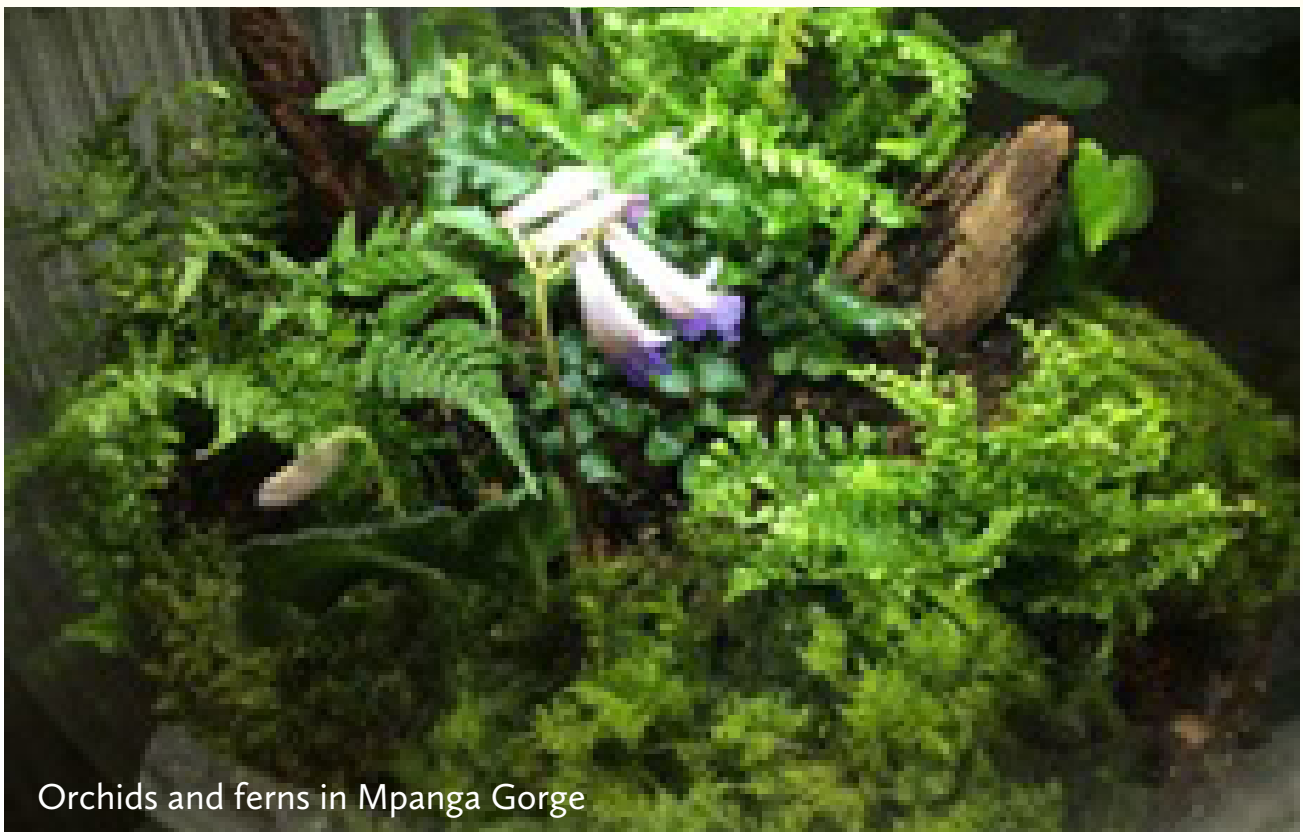
birdlife.

- Queen Elizabeth National Park for Big Five safaris and tree-climbing lions.
- Rwenzori Mountains for trekking and alpine scenery.
- Mpanga Falls, another dramatic display of the river downstream.

Why You Should Visit

Walking among cycads older than the pyramids, feeling the spray of Mpanga Falls, or watching birds over Lake George, visitors discover a destination where history, ecology, and adventure converge.

For Kitagwenda District, River Mpanga Gorge is more than a natural wonder — it is a community asset with the potential to drive eco-tourism, create jobs, and promote conservation for generations to come.



Orchids and ferns in Mpanga Gorge

KASESE SHINES NATIONALLY AS IRRIGATION PROGRAM TRANSFORMS FARMERS' LIVES



Mr Rutagarama a beneficiary of the Micro scale irrigation in his tomatoe farm

By Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer, Kasese District

Kasese District has been recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) as the Best Performer in the Microscale Irrigation Program (Cluster 6) on 14th August 2025, thanks to the district's outstanding success in promoting irrigation among farmers. This recognition comes at a critical time when Kasese, like many districts in Uganda, continues to face prolonged droughts that threaten food security and livelihoods. Through the Microscale Irrigation Program, farmers in Kasese are turning the tide, producing crops even in the harshest dry spells and building resilience for their households.

The Micro-Scale Irrigation Program is a Government initiative implemented by

MAAIF and Local Governments, with support from the World Bank through the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UgIFT) program. It is aligned with Uganda's Vision 2040, the National Development Plan, and the National Irrigation Policy, which prioritize irrigation as a key driver of agricultural transformation.

The program was designed to co-finance irrigation technologies for smallholder farmers. Farmers contributed part of the cost (25%), while government funds covered the majority share (75%). Prequalified suppliers then designed, installed, and trained farmers on the use and maintenance of the equipment, ensuring sustainable use.

In FY2024/25, Kasese District was allocated UGX 1.11 billion as its

UgIFT Micro-Scale irrigation capital development budget, targeting 62 farmer installations. But the district leadership went beyond the set target. By mobilizing farmers, leveraging co-funding, and strengthening community commitment, Kasese set an ambitious target of 90 installations.

The results have been remarkable:

- 175 farmer commitments secured for co-funding (113 in FY24/25).
- 139 farmers fully co-funded their systems.
- 90 installations completed in FY24/25 inclusive of a demonstration.
- An estimated 150 irrigation systems were expected to be operational by the end of FY24/25.
- A total of 146 installations so far done since program inauguration in the district.

According to Mr. Agaba Benson, the Senior Agricultural Engineer and focal person for the Micro scale irrigation program, the performance reflects the community's determination and the district's effective coordination. "For a district that often suffers long dry spells, irrigation is more than a technology—it is a lifeline. Farmers who have embraced the program are now growing high-value crops such as vegetables, fruits, and cereals throughout the year", he said.

"With irrigation, I no longer wait for the rains. I can plant tomatoes throughout the year and when the



Mr. Rutagarama's Micro scale irrigated farm

demand for tomatoes is high, I am always able to produce to the market season in season out" says Mr Rutagarama a beneficiary of Nyiravara Venecio system.

The impact goes beyond food. Families are generating income, children are going to school from farming proceeds, and communities are becoming more resilient to climate change.

Kasese's success story under the Microscale Irrigation Program demonstrates what can be achieved when government programs meet community ownership. By investing in smallholder farmers, the program is laying a foundation for food security, climate resilience, and rural prosperity.

As Kasese celebrates this award, the district's example offers a model of how innovation, commitment, and partnership can transform agriculture, one irrigation system at a time.

NTOROKO PARISH DEVELOPMENT MODEL PROGRAM: **A GAME OF THE MIND**

By Sahula Ibrahim



“Unlike the past, we need to see everyone into the money economy. If you had a production capacity for only hand to mouth, after receiving Parish Development Model (PDM) program money, we need to see you have a better diet and some money for a saving”, Mr. Mwesige Hasheem Uthman, the Ntoroko Assistant Resident District Commissioner said during a beneficiaries’ verification exercise at Rwebisengo Town Council Hall, yesterday.

The district has embarked on a weeklong exercise of verifying all people meant to benefit from the one million support from the third phase of the Parish Development Model

program. The purpose of the exercise is “to ensure the right people are served rightly”, he added.

“Today my son has joined Divine International University for a degree course because I have been saving 50,000 shillings every week from my chicken sales, thanks to the one million PDM cash I received last year,” Mr. Friday Swizen a farmer in Rwebisengo noted yesterday.

Swizen, a resident of Ngabi cell in Rwebisengo Town council said he received 980,000 shillings from the Bank with intention of trading in milk but immediately after getting the money, a quarantine against beef and dairy products was announced and he quickly switched to buying local chicken

and selling them in the neighboring Bundibugyo.

“I usually buy between 40,000= shillings and 50,000= shillings and then sell at 55,000 or 60,000= shillings on Thursdays and Saturdays in Bundibugyo. I then save 50,000 with our local Sacco and spend 30,000= shillings on construction materials for my new chicken shelter and a few feeds”, he explained.

Mr. Swizen started the business when he had a very small local shelter for a few birds and is currently constructing a bigger one using the profits made.

“I should be a real goat farmer and richer than now in the next two years”, Mr. Mutegeki Moses a goat farmer said.

Mutegeki revealed that he had only five goats two years ago but restocked his small farm using the one million fund and today he boasts of 27 goats that he intends to sell this Christmas season at a projection of 300,000 each and be able to expand the shelter and restock buy a plot of land for commercial investments. “I am glad that I spend less on treatment of my goats because we get supplies and all veterinary services from the district. We recently had an outbreak of diseases affecting goats, mine survived because I don’t allow them grave with any other goats”, he noted.

Meanwhile, the disaster prone district has embarked on agroforestry campaigns first by supplying improved fruit plants like jackfruits and avocados for environmental and food security.

“We are empowering our farmers with value trees that will address both the climate change aspects as well as provide a sustainable food supply”, Mr Yerehiah



Some of the local chicken reared at Mr. Friday Swizen home courtesy of PDM funding for Phase II last year (photo by Sahula Ibrahim)

Munubi, the district forestry officer said yesterday upon receiving 50,000 jackfruit seedlings with funding from the World Food Program. The supplies also target the mostly hit flood plains as well as the refugee hosting communities in the district.

Relatedly, the district has also trained farmers on how to manage coffee and cocoa nursery beds and be able to “give operational certificates to nursery operators who conform to the standards”, Mr. Kahungu Noah, the District Principal Agriculture Officer, explained.

The production department gave out free seedlings to model farmers like Mr. Kiiza Abel in Nombe Sub County recently.

With support from Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), the department verified nursery beds for both cocoa

and coffee and largely focused on seed selection and seedling management, acquisition of quality seeds, precautions in seed handling, and nursery management.

The training was conducted in greater Karugutu “where cocoa is cherished as a high value crop and quality of any plant is largely dependent on the source of seeds or seedlings used,” Kahungu noted.

As a priority,

“the department is focusing on enabling local establishment of local nursery beds whose conditions are like where the crops will be grown to enable adaptability,” Kahungu added.



Mr. Kahungu Noah, Principal Agriculture Officer (Right) during training by MAAIF officials with some of the farmers at a nursery bed in Nombe sub county recently (courtesy photo)



Mr. Kahungu Noah (left) at one of the Cocoa nursery beds in Nombe Sub county during the training by MAAIF recently (courtesy photo)

KYELEGWA: UGANDA'S UNTAPPED TOURISM FRONTIER RIPE FOR INVESTMENT

By Baingana Samuel, Communications Officer Kyegegwa



Kyegegwa District, located in the heart of Western Uganda, is positioning itself as one of the country's most promising frontiers for tourism and investment. Blessed with rich natural attractions, cultural diversity, and strategic location along the Kampala–Fort Portal highway, the district is inviting private sector players to tap into a market that remains largely untapped.

Strategic Location and Untapped Potential

As the gateway to the renowned Fort Portal Tourism City, Kyegegwa offers a unique blend of wildlife, geology, culture, and adventure. Its signature

attraction, Katonga Wildlife Reserve, is undergoing ecological recovery and is already home to elephants, buffalo, impalas, zebras, and rare bird species. At just 42 kilometers from the highway, the reserve provides opportunities for game viewing, birding, and eco-tourism ventures.

District tourism officials note that unlike other destinations saturated with operators, Kyegegwa's tourism sector is "still virgin" but highly attractive. "Minimal competition in this district creates a golden opportunity for investors to establish accommodation, restaurants, and tour services," a district officer emphasized.

Unique Attractions that Differentiate Kyegegwa

Beyond Katonga, Kyegegwa boasts giant rocks and caves with strong cultural and historical value, making it a prime spot for adventure and cultural tourism. Habitebbe Falls, Engali Zanyinamwiru basins, and Nyinamwiru's legendary footmark add geological intrigue that appeals to both tourists and researchers.

The cultural mosaic further sets the district apart. Originally home to the Batooro, Kyegegwa now hosts Banyankore, Bakiga, Banyarwanda, and refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi. This diversity provides a vibrant platform for cultural tourism, traditional crafts, and community-based tourism enterprises.

Reasons to Invest in Kyegegwa Tourism

District leaders are actively promoting tourism as a driver for local economic development. According to the Kyegegwa District Local Government,

five factors make the area ripe for investment:

Katonga Wildlife Reserve Upgrade:

With plans to elevate the reserve into a national park, visitor numbers are expected to grow, creating demand for accommodation, tour companies, and related services.

Unique Natural Assets:

The district's giant rocks, caves, and waterfalls remain largely unknown in Uganda's tourism market, offering first-mover advantage to investors who market and develop them.

Minimal Competition: Unlike established hubs such as Queen Elizabeth or Murchison Falls, Kyegegwa offers investors room to grow without the pressure of oversaturated markets.

Cultural Mix:

The Kyaka II Refugee Settlement enriches Kyegegwa's cultural landscape, making it an ideal location for cultural centers, art exhibitions, and festivals.



Zebras at Katonga game Reserve

Supportive Local Policy:

Through the Local Economic Development (LED) approach, the district is prioritizing tourism and agro-tourism ventures, with emphasis on partnerships between communities and private sector actors.

Opportunities Awaiting Development

Potential investors are encouraged to explore diverse opportunities, including hotel and lodge development, campsites, agro-tourism ventures, rock climbing and cave exploration, car hire services, restaurants, and nightclubs. District officials also highlight the hospitality sector as a priority area, noting that demand for quality accommodation and services already exceeds supply.

In addition, Kyegegwa's strong agricultural base—including dairy, pineapple, and citrus farming creates

avenues for agro-tourism, where visitors can experience farm stays and value-addition enterprises. The integration of agriculture and tourism is expected to boost food security and improve household incomes.

Public and Private Sector Collaboration

Tourism promotion in Kyegegwa is driven by a mix of public and private players. The Kyegegwa Private Sector Tourism Association (KPSTA) is mobilizing local entrepreneurs, while the District Local Government works closely with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to conserve Katonga Reserve. Art and crafts groups are also emerging, producing hand-made items for the growing tourism market.

District leaders say the goal is to market Kyegegwa as a sustainable, high-quality destination. "Tourism here is more than leisure; it is an engine for jobs, income generation, and infrastructure development," officials noted, adding that investors who enter now will shape the future of Kyegegwa's tourism landscape.

With its blend of wildlife, natural wonders, and cultural richness, Kyegegwa stands as Uganda's hidden gem waiting to be discovered. For investors, the district presents an opportunity not just to profit, but to be part of a transformative journey that uplifts local livelihoods through sustainable tourism development.



Emanga Y'abatwairwe and the Cliff Nkomangani Kyegegwa District

GOVERNMENT BOOSTS LIVELIHOODS WITH GOAT DISTRIBUTION IN KYONGERA PARISH, KYENJOJO DISTRICT

BY Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer Kyenjojo District



Beneficiaries receive their goats from the Deputy RDC and DPO

Under support from the Statehouse Poverty Alleviation Department (PAD), over 300 goats were handed over to the grass root communities in Kyongera Parish Kyarusozi Sub county, Kyenjojo District on Sunday August 24th, 2025.

The Deputy RDC Kyenjojo, Mr. Allan Bamuha, Assistant RDC Kyenjojo Hamza Rwantale, and the District Production Officer, Mr. Shem Ssekyanzi, and LC III Chairperson Kyarusozi Sub County, Mr Nyakoojo Denis, presided over the distribution exercise.

The Poverty Alleviation Department (PAD) in State House was established in 2000. The State House Poverty Alleviation

Department (PAD) is a unit under the Office of the President of Uganda, established to support the President's vision of reducing poverty at the household level. It mainly works through direct interventions in selected communities, serving as a demonstration arm of government on practical poverty eradication strategies. In 2003, the department was mandated to develop wealth creation models. The department has so far designed more than 12 initiatives aimed at increasing productivity and value addition.

In 2003, the department received a mandate to develop wealth creation models to benefit the people of



One of the beneficiaries of the cattle initiative

Uganda. The department has thus far designed more than 12 initiatives aimed at increasing productivity and value addition. Kyarusozi has been a lucky beneficiary of the goat and cattle farming initiative, which was designed to provide starter livestock, skills, and training so that poor households can build sustainable enterprises and move from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture.

Speaking at the function, the Sub county chairperson, Mr. Nyakoojo Denis, thanked the government and President's office for the poverty alleviation program, and for prioritizing the people of Kyongera, and Kyarusozi. He noted that this has improved household incomes through fast-multiplying livestock as goats reproduce quickly, supply manure for crop production, serve as an entry point for families with limited resources, since goats are cheaper to manage than cattle. He requested the initiatives be extended to other villages so the whole district can

be impacted positively just like Kyarusozi has been.

The District Production Officer, and Coordinator Parish Development Model in Rwenzori region, Mr. Shem Ssekyanzi, informed the congregation that the State House Poverty Alleviation Department (PAD) has been rolling out several goat and cattle farming initiatives as part of its household income improvement programs. These projects are usually introduced in model villages or targeted vulnerable communities, with the aim of turning livestock farming into a reliable source of wealth. He emphasized that they had zeroed on the cattle and goat initiatives because both animals are wealth multipliers at the household level, require low maintenance, have a quick reproduction rate, and an availability of ready market. They complement crop farming (manure for soil fertility), and most importantly fit into the model village strategy, where one household's success demonstrates to neighbors how livestock farming can

transform livelihoods. He urged the beneficiaries to take good care of the goats so as to improve their standards of living, improve the community, and the country at large

The Deputy RDC, Mr Allan Bamuha, thanked State House for the initiative, noting that it showed how government is committed to improving livelihoods of every Ugandan citizen. He emphasized that the goat and cattle farming initiatives of Poverty Alleviation Department of state house are designed to provide starter livestock, skills, and training so that poor households can

build sustainable enterprises and move from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture.

PAD works in tandem with other government anti-poverty initiatives. The program aims at enhancing or supplementing the five pillars of the Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP) and the Prosperity for All program, especially the element that calls for the creation of Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS).



Kids of one of the beneficiaries from the goat initiative



RDC, DPO and RDC interact with Mzee Byabazaire, a beneficiary of the cattle initiative in his matooke farm

PARISH CHIEFS, LOCAL LEADERS ORIENTED ON CHAMPIONING NUTRITION INTEGRATION UNDER PDM IN KYENJOJO DISTRICT

By Johnson Atuhaire, Communication Officer Kyenjojo District



Participants in a group photo at the end of the training

Local leaders in Kyenjojo District have completed a three-day orientation on promoting nutrition interventions through the Parish Development Model (PDM).

The training, held from August 25th to 27th, 2025 at Tropical Hotel, Kyenjojo, brought together LC III Chairpersons, Sub-county Chiefs, Town Clerks, Community Development Officers, Parish Chiefs, and Town Agents from selected areas of the district.

Organized by the Ministry of Local Government with support from the Food Rights Alliance (FRA), the orientation focused on a simplified handbook developed to guide the integration of nutrition into PDM activities at

parish level. The handbook provides practical steps for leaders to ensure that nutrition-sensitive interventions are mainstreamed in development programs.

While opening the workshop, representing the Permanent secretary, Mr. Galiwango Sam, the Assistant Commissioner and Nutrition Focal person at the Ministry of Local Government, emphasized that in alignment with the Second Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP II), the Ministry of Local Government is committed to creating an enabling environment for scaling up nutrition interventions, especially at the local government level. The PDM is a crucial pillar in this mission, serving as a key framework to expand food security

and nutrition efforts across our beloved country. “This handbook is not just a document—it is a blueprint. It provides a clear framework for integrating nutrition interventions within the PDM’s seven pillars. It helps us identify, map, and emphasize the essential actions needed to address hunger and malnutrition at the parish level. By utilizing this handbook, we ensure that multi-sectoral nutrition services—delivered by both government and non-state actors—are better coordinated and harmonized”, he remarked.

Speaking during the training, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Yiga Martin Paul, emphasized the importance of nutrition in driving household productivity and community health. “Nutrition is central to improving livelihoods. By embedding it within the Parish Development Model, leaders are better positioned to support families not only to increase income but also to live healthier lives,” he said.

The District Planner, and District Nutrition focal person Mrs. Immaculate Atuhurra, highlighted the importance of mainstreaming nutrition in all development plans. “We cannot talk about sustainable development without addressing nutrition. This training has shown us how to link nutrition with planning and budgeting all the way from parish level, which is the future of effective service delivery. Our communities are ready for change, but they need guidance. With the PDM structures and the skills gained from this orientation, leaders now have the responsibility to



The Deputy CAO, Mr. Yiga Martin Paul, addresses participants in the training

ensure nutrition is not left behind in local government programs” she said.

The District Nutritionist, Mr. Raymond Nyabongo, applauded the orientation, saying it was a critical step in addressing malnutrition at household level. “Kyenjojo District still faces cases of stunting and undernutrition, especially among children under five. By equipping parish-level leaders with nutrition knowledge, we are empowering them to make informed decisions that can transform household health,” he remarked.

Participants engaged in discussions on how PDM structures can be used to strengthen food security, reduce malnutrition, and promote sustainable community development. They also

shared experiences on the challenges faced in their parishes and proposed solutions tailored to their local contexts.

Participants welcomed the training, describing it as timely and eye-opening, and re hopeful that the knowledge gained will translate into better nutrition-sensitive planning and interventions across parishes.

Mr. Ndyanabo Richard, LC III Chairperson for Kihuura Sub-county, noted that many households often focus on income generation while neglecting diet quality. “This training has shown us how to strike a balance. We must encourage families to grow food that not only earns money but also nourishes their children,” she said.

Ms. Kiiza Alice, a Parish Chief from Katooke sub County, added that the handbook will serve as a practical guide in her daily work. “Sometimes we know nutrition is important, but we lack tools to integrate it in planning. This handbook is simple, practical, and something I can use immediately,” she explained.

The Parish Development Model, launched as Uganda’s flagship approach for grassroots transformation, continues to expand its scope beyond poverty eradication to include issues such as nutrition, food security, and inclusive growth.

With the orientation concluded, leaders in Kyenjojo expressed commitment to apply the knowledge acquired to ensure that nutrition is prioritized in parish-level planning and implementation.



The district Planner, Mrs. Atuhurra Immaculate at the training.



Mr. Galiwango Sam, representing the PS at the Workshop



Raymond Nyabongo, the District Nutritionist guides in the training

WHY LOCAL REVENUE MATTERS FOR BUNYANGABU DISTRICT'S DEVELOPMENT

By Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer, Bunyangabu District

Local revenue collection is more than an administrative routine in Bunyangabu District, it is the foundation for stronger service delivery, community empowerment, and sustainable development. As Uganda continues to build on the decentralization policy, local governments such as Bunyangabu are playing a central role in bringing services closer to the people.

What Local Revenue is

Uganda's decentralization journey, strengthened by the 1995 Constitution and the Local Government Act of 1997, gave districts authority to collect revenue from property taxes, market dues, trade licenses, fines, and parking fees. According to the Local Government Finance Commission Act of 2004, this revenue is central to sustaining district operations and delivering government priorities.



Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer, Bunyangabu District

In Bunyangabu, local revenue collection is not just about finances; it is about building independence, accountability, and trust between leaders and citizens.

How Revenue Translates to Services

Studies in Bunyangabu show a direct link between higher revenue and better services. More funds mean expanded healthcare, improved schools, rehabilitated roads, and even street lighting. Communities benefit directly when local revenue complements central government support.

Records from the 2024/2025 financial year show that Bunyangabu mobilized **UGX 883,897,041** under the Integrated Revenue Administration System (IRAS). Town councils including Rwimi, Kibiito, Nyakigumba, and Kyamukube contributed through property taxes, trade licenses, and market tenders.

“These figures demonstrate government’s commitment to building robust systems that enable districts to collect, account for, and use revenue transparently,” reads a report from the district.

Why It Matters

Local revenue provides co-funding for government and donor projects, sustains investments, and ensures services reflect local priorities. It also reduces over-reliance on external support, making districts more resilient to urgent needs such as road repairs or health facility expansion.

Revenue collection strengthens accountability too. When citizens see improved schools, functioning health centers, and better roads, they are more willing to comply with tax obligations, creating a positive cycle of growth.

To modernize revenue collection,

Bunyangabu uses IRAS, which automates registration, assessment, and receipting. The system reduces leakages, improves efficiency, and makes every shilling traceable. The government is also investing in staff training, ICT tools, and internet connectivity to strengthen this system.

However, systems alone are not enough. Community sensitization campaigns are being rolled out to show how taxes directly translate into better services. This encourages compliance and builds a spirit of partnership between leaders and citizens.

Local revenue is the cornerstone of service delivery in Bunyangabu District. It complements central government support, empowers communities, and builds resilience. At its core, it is about trust, accountability, and development and in Bunyangabu, it is already proving to be a powerful driver of progress.

Bunyangabu District in focus plans to:

- Expand the revenue base through better mapping of taxable sources.
- Train staff to improve efficiency.
- Enhance taxpayer education for stronger compliance.
- Invest revenue directly in priority services such as health, education, and infrastructure



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