



# BUNYORO POST

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Newsletter

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# Editor's Note



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It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 9th edition of the Bunyoro Post, a platform dedicated to informing, inspiring, and amplifying voices from across the Bunyoro region. In this edition, we shine a spotlight on transformative developments shaping our communities. We take you inside Masindi's multi-billion-shilling investment in education infrastructure—an ambitious step toward strengthening learning environments and expanding opportunities for young people. We also explore the rollout of new WASH projects in Kiryandongo, where improved access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene is already changing lives. Additionally, we report on the ongoing crackdown on forest encroachment in Kikuube, showing both the urgency of conservation efforts and the progress being

made to safeguard our natural resources. These stories, along with many more featured in this issue, reflect the resilience, growth, and spirit of the Bunyoro sub-region. As always, we warmly welcome contributions from our readers. Whether you have insights, stories, opinions, or community updates to share, your voice is an essential part of what makes the Bunyoro Post a vibrant and relevant publication. We encourage you to reach out and be part of the dialogue. A gentle reminder: advertising space for upcoming editions is available. Organizations, businesses, and individuals looking to reach an engaged and diverse audience are invited to contact our editorial team for bookings. Thank you for your continued support. We hope you enjoy this edition and stay connected with us as we continue to document the progress of Bunyoro.

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*Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, let's continue to chronicle the rise of Bunyoro*

# Tilenga Project Hits 63% Completion

By Hannington Tibaijuka, Communication Officer- Buliisa



The Executive Director of the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), Ernest Rubondo, has concluded a two day supervisory tour of the Tilenga oil development project, reporting significant progress as the country pushes toward its First Oil target in July 2026.

Rubondo began the inspection on the northern side of the River Nile, where he assessed drilling operations at the Jobi Rii 5, 4, and 10 well pads. He also examined restoration works at the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) crossing point—an essential section where flowlines will be routed beneath the Nile to transport crude oil to the Central Processing Facility (CPF) in Buliisa District.

TotalEnergies EP Uganda, operator of the Tilenga Project on behalf of the Joint Venture Partners, informed the PAU chief that the development has now reached 63 % overall completion.

According to the operator, all wells required for First Oil have already been drilled. While 170 wells were initially needed for the first phase, 187 have now been completed, signaling faster than anticipated field progress. A total of 420 wells are planned across 29 well pads.

On the second day of the tour, Rubondo inspected installations at the project's Industrial Area, including the CPF, Drilling Support Base, construction camps, and the 4,000 person accommodation facility. He also visited the Water Abstraction Point, a critical site enabling

the intake of water used in drilling and processing operations.

Field reports indicate that major CPF infrastructure—such as oil storage tanks, PIG launchers, water treatment systems, and the central control building—is already in place, marking another key milestone ahead of commissioning.

Speaking to journalists at the end of the visit, Rubondo praised the pace of work and reaffirmed the sector's



commitment to meeting national timelines.

"All stakeholders are working to ensure that First Oil is achieved as planned," he said.

The Tilenga Project, one of Uganda's two flagship oil developments, remains central to the country's strategy to launch commercial oil production in 2026.



## Hoima Leaders Demand Fair Employment Share as Refinery Plans Advance

*By Alex Tumuhimbise, Communication Officer- Hoima*

Local leaders in Hoima District are urging the government and oil sector developers to guarantee a fair share of employment opportunities for communities in the Bunyoro region as Uganda's oil and gas projects move closer to major construction phases.

Hoima District Chairman Uthuman Mugisha said that despite years of upstream and midstream activity, many residents have yet to benefit from

the jobs anticipated to accompany the multibillion-dollar developments. He argued that inclusive hiring is essential for ensuring local communities feel a sense of ownership over the projects unfolding in their own backyard.

Mugisha made the appeal on Monday during a stakeholder engagement meeting organized by the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) at Hoima Resort Hotel. The meeting focused



Officials from Petroleum Authority of Uganda inspecting a drilling process at one of the Tilenga Oil wells in Buliisa District

on gathering community input for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the planned national oil refinery.

To support the ESIA process, UNOC contracted Prome Consultants Limited to assess potential environmental and social risks linked to the refinery, which will be situated in Kabalega Industrial Park in Kabaale Subcounty. The government has already selected Alpha MBM, a Middle Eastern firm, to construct the refinery, which is expected to become operational by 2030.

According to UNOC's Robert Mukondo, the refinery project will consist of four major components: the Mbegu water intake pipeline, the Kabaale refinery complex, a 211-kilometer multi-product pipeline to Mpigi, and a remote storage facility in Mpigi District. These installations are expected to form a central pillar of Uganda's long-awaited oil value chain.

Patrick Kamanda, lead ESIA consultant from Prome Consultants, said the ongoing consultations are intended to identify and propose mitigation measures for environmental risks such as water contamination, oil spills, noise pollution, and waste management challenges.

Representing the Hoima Resident District Commissioner, DISO Alex Omeja said the district leadership remains committed to supporting the refinery project, especially as the country anticipates its first drop of oil later this year.

Once complete, the Kabaale refinery is expected to process up to 60,000 barrels of crude oil per day, producing liquefied petroleum gas, jet fuel, petrol, diesel, and other refined petroleum products—positioning the region as a national hub for energy production.

# Kikuube Schools Shine in 2025 Primary Leaving Examinations

By Bunyoro Post Editor, Communications Officer - Kikuube



Pupils at Regina Primary School

**S**chools in Kikuube District have registered impressive performances in the 2025 Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), according to results released on Friday, January 30, 2026, by the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEBC).

St. Regina Primary School in Kikuube Town Council emerged as the district's top-performing school, with all 23 candidates passing in First Grade. Canan Primary School in Buhimba Subcounty followed closely, registering 34 First Grades and 18 Second Grades. Coburwas Primary School, located in the Kyangwali Refugee Settlement,

also excelled with 34 First Grades and 23 Second Grades. Other strong performers included Excel Primary School and Kigaaya BCS in Buhimba Town Council.

At the local government level, Kikuube Town Council topped the district rankings, followed by Kiziranfumbi Subcounty, Bugambe, Buhimba, Kyangwali, Buhimba Town Council, and Kabwooya Subcounty.

Officials noted a rise in the number of candidates who sat for the 2025 exams compared to 2024. However, data also showed that boys outperformed girls overall.

District Inspector of Schools, Mr. Zondera Amon, applauded the district leadership, technical teams, and development partners for their continued support. He emphasized that the strong collaboration and positive working environment have greatly contributed to improved service delivery in the education sector. Mr. Amon expressed confidence that with sustained teamwork and commitment, Kikuube District could soon rank among the best at the national level.

The Headteacher of St. Regina Primary School, Mr. Asiimwe Mathias, congratulated his former pupils for their remarkable achievement, attributing their success to discipline, resilience, and hard work. He also thanked parents and guardians for their consistent support, pledging to maintain the school's high standards and continue contributing to the district's educational excellence.

## Kiryandongo Schools Receive New Wash Facilities

*By Murungi Emmanuel, Communication Officer – Kiryandongo*



A water reservoir and solar system for supplying piped water at Kigumba COU Primary school

Learners at Kigumba Church of Uganda (COU) and Canrom Primary schools in Kiryandongo

District are set to benefit from improved hygiene and sanitation following the construction of new Water, Sanitation

and Hygiene (WASH) facilities by UNICEF Uganda, in partnership with the Government of Japan.

The project, valued at UGX 336 million, has delivered 10-stance latrines and 10 water taps at each of the two schools. At Kigumba COU, works also included the drilling of a new production well to ensure a reliable water source. Meanwhile, at Canrom Primary School, a piped water system was connected from an existing well to supply clean water to learners and staff.

The intervention targeted schools with high enrolment but limited WASH infrastructure, falling below the minimum required standards. Kigumba COU, located within the host community, and Canrom Primary, serving the refugee settlement, were prioritized to address both humanitarian and community needs.

By the end of third term 2025, Canrom Primary School had an enrolment of 3,915 learners, while Kigumba COU had 1,856 learners. The new facilities are expected to significantly ease pressure on the previously overused hand pump boreholes and reduce the time learners spent queuing for water.

Education officials and school administrators have welcomed the development, noting that improved access to clean water and sanitation will promote better hygiene practices among learners. This, they say, is likely to contribute positively to attendance, concentration in class, and overall academic performance.

The partnership between UNICEF Uganda and the Government of Japan continues to support efforts to strengthen basic services in vulnerable communities, ensuring that children learn in safe and healthy environments.

## Masindi Commissions Education Infrastructure worth over UGX 4 Bn

*By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer - Masindi*



Hon. Aled Ronald Akugizibwe, MP for Buruli County, (center) with District Chairperson Cosmas Byaruhanga (extreme right), other district leaders, and the school management of St. Andrea Kaahwa SS Labongo

Masindi District has officially commissioned over UGX 4 billion worth of infrastructure for two new Seed Secondary schools. The move promises to bridge the gap in educational opportunities for students in rural communities who previously faced long commutes and limited access to quality learning environments.

The newly constructed facilities at Kinumi Community Seed Secondary School in Miiryia Sub-County and St. Andrea Kaahwa Seed Secondary School in Labongo Sub-County, funded under the government's Seed Secondary School Program, represent a tangible commitment to expanding educational horizons in the region.

During the handover ceremony on



Some of the new structures at Kinumi Community Seed Secondary School

Kinumi-Katagurukwa, Pakanyi-Nyakarongo, and Kijunjubwa -Kitamba, acknowledging the strain on the district's resources due to its extensive road network of over 431 kilometers and limited funding.

Masindi District Chairperson, Cosmas Byaruhanga, lauded Hon. Akugizibwe's leadership, noting that the MP had successfully lobbied for four Seed Secondary schools in his first term, including St. Pauls Secondary School

Tuesday, Buruli County Member of Parliament, Hon. Aled Ronald Akugizibwe, emphasized the transformative potential of these schools. "These projects directly address the historical challenges faced by rural learners who had to travel great distances for secondary education," he stated. He commended SEMWO Construction Company Limited for their efficient and high-quality work, as well as the district leadership and technical teams for their effective coordination.

Beyond the physical infrastructure, Hon. Akugizibwe also highlighted the crucial role of improved road networks in supporting education, service delivery, and overall economic growth. He pledged to advocate for the upgrading of key district roads, including Kisindizi-



The new ICT lab that has been built at Kinumi Community Seed Sec.School

Pakanyi and Kijunjubwa Community Seed Secondary School. Byaruhanga urged parents and guardians to seize the opportunity and enroll their children, ensuring that the government's investment translates into positive educational outcomes for the community. He also highlighted that the schools would be equipped with essential ICT infrastructure and functional science laboratories to elevate teaching and learning standards.

Addressing concerns about staffing, Masindi's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Samuel Ruhweza Kaija, assured the community that the government plans to recruit approximately 30 teachers and support staff for both Kinumi and St. Andrea Kaahwa Seed Secondary Schools between June and July. He encouraged volunteer teachers to apply and urged the school management committees to prioritize security and proper maintenance of the facilities.

Acting District Engineer Alfred Ocen

clarified that while the projects are handed over, SEMWO Construction Company Limited remains responsible for addressing any minor defects within a 12-month liability period, adhering to government construction guidelines.

The completion of these schools, constructed between 2024 and 2025, is anticipated to significantly improve learning conditions and boost student retention rates in the beneficiary communities, marking a new chapter in educational development for the Masindi District.

## Kikuube District Authorities Crack Down on Forest Encroachment

By Faridah Ndagano, Communication Officer – Kikuube



In a concerted effort to combat environmental degradation and illegal land occupation, authorities in Kikuube District, spearheaded by the Resident District Commissioner's (RDC) office, have launched a crackdown on

forest encroachment. A joint operation targeted illegal clearing within the Bugoma Central Forest Reserve and encroachment on land belonging to Hoima Sugar Ltd.

The operation, involving security personnel and environmental protection staff, resulted in the arrest of several individuals implicated in illegal activities. Authorities also used the opportunity to engage with local communities, cautioning them against further participation in unlawful acts.

During community meetings, residents were urged to adhere to legal processes and avoid actions that disrupt the peace and stability of the community, such as land disputes, violent confrontations, and the destruction of forests.

Owek. Angalia Godwin, the district RDC, emphasized the importance of safeguarding natural resources for a sustainable future, particularly as the region anticipates the commencement

of oil production. He appealed to residents to actively protect forests and other natural resources.

"We must jealously protect our forests and all other natural resources for a sustainable future, especially as we expect oil production to commence," said Owek. Angalia Godwin. He further encouraged residents to collaborate in preserving the environment to foster responsible development throughout the district.

Efforts to protect natural resources and ensure sustainable development are ongoing throughout the entire district. The Kikuube District authorities are committed to maintaining these operations to deter further environmental destruction and promote responsible land use.

## Buliisa to Host State-of-the-Art Multi-Million-Dollar Oil and Gas Museum and Cultural Centre

By Hannington Tibaijuka, Communication Officer- Buliisa

Buliisa District is poised to gain significant social and economic benefits from Uganda's oil and gas developments, following plans to construct a state-of-the-art multi-million-dollar Oil and Gas Museum and Cultural Centre. The project, which is nearing the final stages before site handover, is expected to become a landmark attraction within the Albertine Graben.

The initiative is being spearheaded by TotalEnergies EP Uganda in partnership with the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) on behalf of the Government

of Uganda. The planned facility aims to boost tourism, promote industrial knowledge, and celebrate local cultural heritage, with particular emphasis on the rich traditions of the Bagungu community.

On Monday, December 18, 2025, the developer officially introduced the contractor, M/S Strucon Limited, to Buliisa District authorities during a stakeholder engagement meeting at the District Resource Centre. As part of the co-funding arrangements, the developer has requested the district and local community to voluntarily provide land



Design of the proposed Oil and Gas Cultural centre for Buliisa

for the establishment of the museum and cultural centre.

According to project details, the completed complex will include a range of facilities:

#### **Oil and Gas Museum features:**

- A collection of literature and digital displays on Uganda's oil and gas sector
- TV-screen displays of digital artifacts
- An interactive section with subject-matter experts for visitor Q\&A
- Exhibitions of artifacts such as an oil rig model, a Christmas tree, jars of crude oil, and other industry items
- A timeline exhibit chronicling Uganda's oil and gas journey since the early 20th century
- A conference room with capacity for 40 people

#### **Cultural Centre features:**

- Office space for site management
- A restaurant and laundry services to support visitor accommodation
- High-quality tourism suites, including a traditional-style five-room area allowing guests to experience local living, complete with washrooms and toilets
- A spacious craft shopping centre
- An open-air arena for dance and drama performances with auditorium-style seating
- A dedicated space for showcasing cultural artifacts

To fully accommodate all these components—including exhibition space, performance arenas, accommodations, restaurants, utilities, parking, nature trails, and administrative offices—the project will require at least

eight acres of land.

### **The development is expected to bring wide-ranging benefits to Buliisa, including:**

- Stronger community tourism centered on cultural heritage
- Expanded markets for local crafts, traditional music, dance, and drama
- Increased revenue for the local authority
- Employment opportunities in hospitality, transportation, administration, and cultural activities
- Enhanced aesthetic appeal of Buliisa Town and surrounding areas
- Increased land value and business opportunities within the locality

Buliisa Chief Administrative Officer, Prof. Dr. Levi Musinguzi Bahemuka, welcomed the project and pledged district support, including the allocation of land within Buliisa Town Council.

He urged the Town Council to offer a previously designated football stadium site for the development, noting that the opportunity comes with confirmed investment and funding.

Prof. Dr. Musinguzi emphasized that the facility will play a crucial role in educating communities about the oil and gas sector while helping to answer longstanding questions about industry operations.

The planned Oil and Gas Museum and Cultural Centre is expected to become a key educational and tourism hub, positioning Buliisa as a focal point for cultural preservation and industrial knowledge in Uganda's oil-rich region.



## **Restore Africa Expands Environmental Restoration Efforts in Kikuube District**

*By Faridah Ndagano, Communication Officer – Kikuube*

As Uganda's population continues to grow rapidly—driven by sustained peace and ongoing development—pressure on the country's natural resources is intensifying. Forest loss, land degradation, and unsustainable farming practices have become urgent national challenges. To

help reverse these trends, the Restore Africa programme has stepped in with a large scale environmental restoration initiative now taking root in Kikuube District.

Restore Africa aims to rehabilitate degraded landscapes through tree planting, sustainable land use practices,



The Kikuube District team with representatives from Restore Africa and NEMA at the district headquarters following the engagement

and community driven conservation. The programme empowers households to meet their livelihood needs without depleting the environment, while also preserving forests and ecosystems for future generations.

Funded by Climate Asset Management and developed by the Global EverGreening Alliance, the initiative plans to plant more than 25 million trees across 353,000 hectares. It targets at least 176,250 beneficiaries over its lifespan.

In Kikuube District, activities are currently underway in Buhimba Sub county, where 752 farmers have already been engaged. Together, they have planted 92,534 trees—marking a significant step toward restoring green cover in the area.

One of the project's most distinctive features is its integration of voluntary carbon markets. Through this system, participating farmers earn carbon payments for planting and maintaining trees that absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The approach not

only incentivises conservation but also provides households with an additional income stream.

The 30 year project is led by Catholic Relief Services in partnership with CARE, CARITAS, ECOTRUST, JESE, and World Vision. Its timeframe aligns with the natural growth cycle of native tree species, ensuring long term environmental stability.

District leaders, led by the Chief Administrative Officer, have applauded the initiative and pledged full cooperation. They described Restore Africa as a timely intervention that supports both environmental conservation and community livelihoods.



Baigana Daniel Project coordinator Hoima caritas Development Restore Africa project

# Masindi District Unveils New Trade Offices

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer - Masindi



The Bishop of Masindi Miracle Center Church, Pastor Robert Rwomushana Kibuuka (right), CAO Samuel Ruhweza Kaija (second right), CFO David Baguma, and the newly promoted District Commercial Officer, Moses Kalyegira, cut a cake to officially open the new Trade Offices

Masindi District has officially opened its newly constructed Trade Offices, marking a fresh chapter in the region's commercial services. The offices were inaugurated during a prayer and dedication ceremony held recently.

The service was led by Bishop Robert Rwomushana Kibuuka, Senior Pastor of Masindi Miracle Center Church. In his message, the bishop urged staff to embrace hard work, discipline, effective time management, proper planning, and integrity. He emphasized that professionalism is essential if

the district is to achieve sustainable growth and build a lasting legacy.

For years, the district's trade staff worked in an uncondusive environment, surrounded by bars and frequent disturbances—conditions that hampered efficiency and undermined the dignity of public service. The new office block, donated by prominent Masindi entrepreneur Tegras Byeitima, is expected to significantly improve the quality of service delivery and strengthen the district's trade operations.

Speaking during the prayer breakfast,

Chief Administrative Officer Samuel Ruhweza Kaija encouraged public servants to maintain discipline, commitment, and a desire for continuous self-improvement. He urged staff to pursue further studies to enhance career growth and boost service delivery standards.

Newly promoted District Commercial Officer Moses Kalyegira also expressed gratitude for the milestone, thanking district leadership—especially the CAO—for the support that enabled his advancement. He called on colleagues to remain focused and hardworking, noting that promotion comes through dedication and strong performance.

The opening of the new Trade Offices is

anticipated to enhance coordination, efficiency, and professionalism in the delivery of trade and commercial services, creating a more conducive working environment for both staff and the public.



The newly promoted District Commercial Officer, Moses Kalyegira, receiving a prayer from the Bishop of Masindi Miracle Center Church.

## Uganda Develops Home Grown Anti-Tick Vaccine to Cut Livestock Disease Burden

**By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer - Masindi**

The Government of Uganda, through the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), has developed a new livestock vaccine called NAROVAC Anti-Tick Vaccine aimed at controlling ticks and tick-borne diseases among cattle.

The vaccine was unveiled to government and private veterinary practitioners during a training session held recently at the district headquarters, focusing on its proper use and expected impact on livestock health.

Addressing the participants, Dr. James Bugeza Katamba, Senior Research Officer at NARO under the National Resources Research Program in the Department of Vaccinology and Biosciences, said the vaccine is designed to significantly reduce tick infestation in cattle, a major cause of productivity losses among farmers.

Dr. Katamba revealed that the vaccine was developed by Ugandan scientists at NARO's laboratories in Gayaza, Kampala, following a long and rigorous research process that began in 2013



Dr. Katamba from NARO displaying the new Anti-Tick Vaccine NARO

and spanned more than 13 years.

He explained that the vaccine has undergone extensive regulatory procedures, including laboratory development, field trials and stakeholder consultations and is now ready for rollout to farmers.

«So far, over 10,000 cattle have been vaccinated on different farms, and the results have been very positive, with a notable reduction in tick infestation,» Dr. Katamba told the veterinarians.

He added that the vaccine is awaiting official launch by the President, after which it will be introduced to the commercial market for widespread use.

According to NARO, the NAROVAC Anti-Tick Vaccine is expected to drastically lower farmers' production costs. Currently, farmers spend over shs 60,000

per year to spray a single cow using accaricides, while vaccination will cost about shs 20,000 per animal, making it a more affordable and sustainable option.

Dr. Katamba noted that reduced tick infestation will lead to fewer livestock diseases and deaths, improved animal health, and increased productivity in terms of milk and meat output. This, he said, will ultimately boost household incomes and strengthen Uganda's livestock sector.

The introduction of the locally developed vaccine is also expected to reduce reliance on imported caricides and support government efforts to promote innovation and value addition in agricultural research.

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