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Editor's Note



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Welcome to this month's edition of Bunyoro Post Magazine.

October put Bunyoro in the national spotlight. In our cover story, Hoima City Stadium hosted the Uganda Cranes against Libya and Kitara FC against Al Ahly within weeks of each other. The two matches were an early test of how ready the region is to host big events.

Beyond the stadium, this edition follows Minister of State for Bunyoro Affairs, Grace Mary Mugasa, to Kiryandongo, Masindi and Buliisa. She urged communities to move from dependence on affirmative action towards sustainable livelihoods, as the second phase of the Bunyoro affirmative action programme begins.

Good governance is another thread. Councillors in Masindi, Buruli and Bujenje took part in Ministry of Local Government inductions, and Masindi leaders were urged to put unity ahead of division.

We also report on what government programmes are delivering. Kiryandongo has commissioned boreholes to widen access to safe water, and Masindi has commissioned classrooms, latrines and health facilities. Masindi's State of the District Address and its Parish Development Model figures show how wealth-creation funds are reaching households. In Kikuube, tea farmers received fertiliser, and pupils from Rusaka Primary School won a debate in defence of forests.

As always, we go beyond reporting activities. We ask what these interventions mean for people, what challenges remain, and what more needs to be done.

Enjoy the read.

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Hoima's Double Test: Hosting History Under the Lights

By Editorial

In the space of three weeks, Hoima City Stadium stepped onto the continental map twice. First came the Uganda Cranes' historic encounter with Libya on September 29. Then, on October 17, Kitara FC welcomed Egyptian giants Al Ahly. Both nights tested the young venue's ability to host major football, and both left the oil city with growing confidence.

The Cranes match was the stadium's first senior international fixture and the first time Uganda's national team played a competitive game outside the Kampala-Wakiso area. Fans travelled from across the country. By kick-off, the 20,000-seater ground was nearly full, with estimates of 15,000 to 17,000 supporters filling the stands in national colours. Vuvuzelas, drums and chants echoed long before the floodlights came on. Street vendors did brisk business, hotels filled up, and the city centre pulsed with energy. Despite challenges with access roads and accommodation, the night passed without major incident. Hoima had welcomed the nation.

Three weeks later the stadium faced a different challenge. Kitara's CAF Confederation Cup clash with Al Ahly drew passionate local support and official backing from Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom. Prime Minister Owek. Andrew Byakutaga Ateenyi and a delegation of princes and officials joined thousands of fans in the stands. The atmosphere was charged, the organisation tighter after lessons from the Libya game. Officials noted that the venue again handled crowd flow, security and hospitality with improving efficiency.

Together the two fixtures offered an early dress rehearsal for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations. They showed that Hoima can generate genuine football



atmosphere far from the capital. They also highlighted remaining work: smoother roads, more hotel rooms and better traffic management. Yet the overall verdict was positive. The stadium had hosted the national team and a major African club within a short span, proving its readiness for bigger stages.

For a region long defined by oil, these two nights marked a new identity. Hoima is no longer just preparing for AFCON. It has already begun hosting it, one historic evening at a time.

Minister Mugasa Urges Shift from Affirmative Action to Sustainable Livelihoods

By Murungi Emmanuel, Communication Officer – Kiryandongo

The Minister of State for Bunyoro Affairs, Grace Mary Mugasa, has challenged leaders and communities in Bunyoro to reduce dependence on affirmative action by investing in sustainable economic activities that can improve household incomes.

Mugasa made the call during a meeting with Kiryandongo District political leaders and technical staff at the district headquarters, urging farmers to make better use of the region's agricultural potential instead of relying heavily on anticipated benefits from oil and gas.

"We want to leave affirmative action. We have to," she said, emphasising the need for economic activities that can sustain households beyond government support.

She cautioned against treating oil and gas as Bunyoro's main economic niche, noting that the resources are national assets intended to benefit Ugandans across the country.

Instead, Mugasa encouraged farmers, particularly those with small plots of land, to diversify beyond dependence on maize and sugarcane. She promoted the four-acre model, which combines coffee, dairy cattle, bananas, vegetables, poultry, pigs and fish to support household food needs while generating income from different enterprises.

She also urged farmers to identify reliable markets before producing commodities, noting that sustainable agricultural businesses require



Minister Mugasa addressing technical and political leaders of Kiryandongo at the District headquarters

dependable buyers and income throughout the year.

Mugasa further warned that excessive tree cutting and charcoal production could undermine livelihoods and environmental sustainability. She said the Ministry of Bunyoro Affairs, whose budget is about Shs2.7 billion, has limited resources for direct development interventions and is working to renew the Bunyoro Integrated Affirmative Action Development Plan while coordinating development through other government institutions.

Kiryandongo Chief Administrative Officer Anselm Kyaligonza said the district has approximately 500,000 residents, including about 180,000 refugees. He reported that the district expects Shs18.8 billion this financial year under the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP), supporting interventions in roads, schools, health facilities, infrastructure and climate-related activities.

Kyaligonza also said six secondary schools are being expanded under the Uganda Secondary Education Expansion Project at a cost of more than Shs10 billion.

District Vice Chairperson Salama Peace pledged stronger political oversight of government programmes, saying leaders would monitor implementation while allowing technical officers to carry out their responsibilities.

The meeting provided a platform for district leaders and technical staff to present development achievements, challenges and priorities requiring central government support.



A group photo with Minister Mugasa,technical and political leaders of Kiryandongo at the District headquarters

MASINDI: Balaam Urges Respect for Councils to Improve Service Delivery

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer- Masindi



Hon. Balaam, cuts the ribbon to officially launch the induction of local government councils

The Minister of Local Government, Balaam Barugahara, has urged stakeholders in local governments to respect the powers and mandate of councils, saying effective decision-making and service delivery depend on strong local governance structures.

Barugahara made the call while launching a three-day induction for Local Government Councils from Masindi District and Masindi Municipality at Country Inn Hotel in Masindi Town. The induction is being held under the national theme, "Enhancing Capacities of Local Government Leaders for Efficient and Effective Service Delivery."

He emphasised that councils play an important role in decisions affecting local communities and called on stakeholders to recognise their authority and work together to advance local development.

The Minister also urged leaders and residents to maintain cleanliness in Masindi Municipality, particularly amid development projects and preparations associated with the Africa Cup of Nations. He said a clean and well-maintained municipality would provide a better environment for residents and visitors.

Speaking at the launch, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government, Ben Kumumanya,

explained that decentralisation is intended to bring government closer to the people by transferring decision-making and administrative responsibilities to local governments.

He outlined five objectives of decentralisation: transferring power closer to communities, bringing service management nearer to the people, allowing local managers to develop solutions to local challenges, strengthening financial accountability and building communities' capacity to plan and manage resources for their development.

Kumumanya urged council leaders to understand their responsibilities and use the powers entrusted to them to respond to community needs while ensuring public resources are managed accountably.

The Minister of State for Bunyoro Affairs, Grace Mary Mugasa, encouraged leaders to promote agriculture, particularly coffee farming, as a means of improving household incomes and contributing to the national economy. She described coffee as a major Ugandan export earner and urged leaders to support communities in adopting income-generating agricultural enterprises.

Masindi District Chairperson Patrick Wobusobozi commended the Ministry of Local Government for organising the induction, noting that strengthening councils' capacity is important for improving their performance.

He also highlighted political civility as an important foundation for unity and a harmonious working relationship between elected leaders and technical officers.

The induction provides an opportunity for councillors to strengthen their understanding of local government responsibilities and the importance of cooperation, accountability and effective administration in delivering services to communities.



Hon Balaam stands alongside Permanent Secretary Ben Kumumanya (third right), Woman MP Dr. Florence Asiimwe (far right), and various Distr

Buruli Leaders Complete Training to Improve Grassroots Governance and Service Delivery

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer, Masindi District

Lower local government leaders from Buruli County have completed a three-day induction aimed at strengthening grassroots leadership, improving service delivery, and promoting accountable governance across their respective communities.

The induction, which concluded recently, brought together leaders from local governments for capacity building in key areas of local governance, equipping them with knowledge and skills to perform their duties more effectively.

The training covered several modules, including legislation, communication skills, cross-cutting issues, planning and budgeting, human resource management, and mindset change, among others.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, the LCIII Chairperson of Kijunjubwa Town Council, Jassi Yahaya, commended facilitators from the Ministry of Local Government for equipping the leaders with practical knowledge to strengthen their leadership skills and improve their ability to serve communities.

Yahaya said the induction had provided valuable insights that would support leaders in executing their responsibilities more effectively. He, however, appealed to the government's top leadership to consider increasing facilitation for lower



The district chairperson, Patrick Wobusobozi, addressing the participants during the induction

local government leaders to motivate them in carrying out their duties at the grassroots.

Closing the induction, the Masindi District Chairperson, Patrick Wobusobozi, urged the leaders to put the knowledge and skills acquired into practice, emphasising that the success of the training would be reflected in responsible leadership, sound decision-making and improved service delivery.

Wobusobozi challenged the leaders to use their positions to promote security, unity and peace in their respective communities, noting that a peaceful and united population provides a strong foundation for sustainable development in Masindi District.

He also called on the leaders to take a firm stand against corruption in all its forms, urging them to uphold integrity, transparency and accountability in the execution of their mandates.

The completion of the induction marks an important step in strengthening the capacity of Buruli County's lower local government leaders to improve planning, enhance accountability and respond more effectively to the needs of residents.



Participants during the induction

MASINDI: Bishop Kugonza Urges Leaders to Unite for Better Service Delivery

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer -Masindi District

Leaders in Masindi District have been urged to strengthen cooperation between political leaders and technical staff, with the Bishop of Masindi-Kitara Diocese, Rt. Rev. Joshua Kugonza, warning that divisions among colleagues can undermine public service and district development.

Bishop Kugonza made the appeal during a prayer service held at Masindi District headquarters on Wednesday, where he encouraged leaders to put aside political differences, support one another and work collectively for the benefit of the communities they serve.

He said unity among leaders strengthens their ability to implement government programmes and deliver services effectively. He also cautioned against practices that divide the public, reminding leaders that their offices carry a responsibility to serve everyone.

The Bishop urged leaders to approach their responsibilities with humility and remain mindful of the opportunity they had been given to serve.

"Do not forget the grace of God. You have been given an opportunity to serve, and you should use that opportunity with humility and without selfishness," he



District leaders attend a prayer service led by Bishop Joshua Kugonza in Masindi

said.

Masindi District Chairperson Patrick Wobusobozi welcomed the prayer service, noting that seeking God's guidance was important for the district's development.

He echoed the Bishop's call for teamwork, urging political leaders and technical officers to complement one another's efforts to ensure government programmes are implemented smoothly.

"We need to work together and complement each other's efforts so that government programmes can be implemented smoothly," Wobusobozi said.

Musa Kyamiza, the Principal Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, thanked Bishop Kugonza for ministering to district leaders. He observed that public service comes with various challenges and that some leaders silently deal with stress.

Kyamiza said the prayer service offered leaders an opportunity to find relief and receive spiritual encouragement as they carry out their responsibilities.

The meeting highlighted the importance of cooperation, humility and mutual support among district leaders. These values, the speakers emphasised, are essential to building a working environment in which leaders can focus on their shared responsibility of serving the people of Masindi.



Rt. Rev. Joshua Kugonza delivers a message to district leaders during a prayer service at the district headquaters

MASINDI: Mugasa Pledges to Pursue Staffing and Infrastructure Gaps

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer -Masindi District

The Minister of State for Bunyoro Affairs, Grace Mary Mugasa, has pledged to pursue solutions to Masindi District's human resource shortages and infrastructure challenges, identifying staffing in key public services as a priority for improving service delivery.

Speaking during a meeting with Masindi District and Municipal leaders at the district headquarters, Mugasa said she would push for the recruitment of more teachers, agricultural extension workers



Hon. Grace Mary Mugasa, Minister of State for Bunyoro Affairs (center, front row), poses for a group photo with the District and District leadership

and health workers to strengthen education, agriculture and healthcare services.

She noted that adequate staffing is essential to ensuring government programmes reach communities effectively and contribute to improved livelihoods.

The Minister also pledged to present concerns over electricity and road infrastructure to Cabinet, with particular emphasis on Greater Kimengo, an area with significant milk production potential. She said improved electricity access would help farmers and other stakeholders add value to milk, improve prices and support agro-industrialisation.

Better roads and reliable power, she added, could create more favourable conditions for agricultural investment and other economic activities, helping communities increase household incomes.

Mugasa said she was also pushing for the Bunyoro Development Agenda, which is intended to guide and accelerate development across the sub-region, with the ambition of transforming Bunyoro into a middle-income sub-region.

On local administration, she pledged to work with the Minister responsible for Local Governments to fast-track the coding of lower local governments in Masindi that have not yet been coded. She said resolving the issue would help strengthen local administration and service delivery in the affected communities.

Masindi District Chairperson Patrick Wobusobozi commended President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for introducing the four-acre model of farming and urged residents to embrace it to improve agricultural productivity and household incomes. He particularly encouraged coffee production, describing it as an enterprise with



Some of the participants attending the meeting

income-generating potential when supported by proper production and value-addition practices.

Masindi Municipality Mayor Rogers Amanyire asked the Minister to lobby for road construction equipment, improved access to water and electricity, more paved roads and additional human resources for the municipality.

The leaders' concerns highlight the need to strengthen public services while addressing infrastructure gaps that constrain economic activity. For Masindi, progress on these priorities would support better service delivery and help communities make greater use of the district's agricultural potential.

Bujenje Leaders Urged to Strengthen Revenue to Fund Local Development Projects

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer- Masindi

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Masindi District, Samuel Ruhweza Kaija, has urged lower local government leaders in Bujenje County to intensify revenue mobilisation to improve service delivery, fund development projects and enhance the welfare of local communities.

Kaija said increased revenue collection would enable lower local governments to finance and implement planned

development projects, ultimately improving access to essential public services and addressing residents' needs.

He emphasised that effective revenue mobilisation is critical to strengthening local government operations and ensuring that communities benefit from improved public infrastructure and other development initiatives.

The CAO also called on leaders to strengthen supervision of technical staff in their respective lower local governments to promote accountability, prevent revenue leakages and ensure the proper management of public resources.

He made the remarks while officially opening a three-day induction training for lower local government leaders from Bujenje County at the District Health Officer's Resource Centre.

A team from the Ministry of Local Government, under the Department of Local Councils Development, is conducting the training. It is intended to equip the leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to execute their responsibilities effectively and improve service delivery in their respective communities.

The induction provides an opportunity for local government leaders to strengthen their understanding of their roles, improve administrative practices, and enhance accountability in the management of public funds.

Kaija's call highlights the importance of combining effective revenue mobilisation with strong supervision and prudent resource management to ensure that locally generated funds translate into tangible development outcomes.

If implemented effectively, the measures could help local governments improve the financing of planned projects, strengthen the delivery of public services and respond more effectively to the needs and priorities of residents across Bujenje County.



The CAO, Samuel Ruhweza Kaija, addressing lower local government leaders.

Buruli Councillors Begin Induction to Improve Leadership and Service Delivery

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer, Masindi District

The Ministry of Local Government has commenced a week-long induction programme for lower local government councils in Buruli County, aimed at strengthening leadership and improving service delivery in local communities.

The training, held at the District Health Officer's Resource Centre, seeks to equip councillors with the knowledge and skills needed to perform their duties effectively and support community development.

Addressing the councillors, the Member of Parliament for Buruli County, Hon. Aled Ronald Akugizibwe, urged the leaders to embrace teamwork, mutual respect and integrity to strengthen cooperation and build public trust.

Akugizibwe also called on the councillors to support the implementation of government programmes to ensure communities benefit from development initiatives and improved livelihoods.

He emphasised that cooperation among council members and commitment to their responsibilities are essential for effective leadership and better service delivery.

The induction is scheduled to conclude on Wednesday, after which the programme will proceed to Bujenje County from Thursday to Saturday.

The initiative forms part of efforts by the Ministry of Local Government to strengthen grassroots governance, promote accountability, and equip local leaders to serve their communities more effectively.



Some of the leaders who attended the induction of local government councils

BULIISA: Leaders Press Minister On Flooding, Cattle Theft As Bunyoro Plan Enters Phase Two

By Hannington Tibaijuka, Communication Officer – Buliisa

Butiaba Primary School has been submerged by the rising waters of Lake Albert, and Buliisa District is still waiting for government compensation, LCV Chairman Wandera Atuhairwe Twaili told the Minister of State for Bunyoro Affairs, Mary Grace Mugasa, during her visit to the district on 30 September 2026.

The minister, who serves under the Office of the Prime Minister, came to monitor the first phase of the Bunyoro affirmative action programme (BIADP 1) and to launch its second phase, BIADP 2. District leaders used the visit to set out the problems they say still hold Buliisa back.

Water, schools and staff

Mr Twaili asked for a higher wage allocation so the district can fill vacant posts, especially head teachers in secondary schools such as Bugungu Secondary School. "Why have capitation grants to the district from central government continued to reduce?" he asked. He also appealed to the Office of the Prime Minister to have National Water and Sewerage Corporation services extended to Buliisa.

Chief Administrative Officer Prof Levi Musinguzi Bahemuka said UGX 1.4 billion in wage money had not yet been re-voted for the district, although UGX 1.7 billion had been earmarked for staff recruitment, pending clearance from the Ministry of Public Service. He reported that Buliisa had moved from 137th to 69th position in the recent national assessment, which he credited to a year of strategic leadership.

Security on land and lake

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Silvesta Tumukurate said theft is rising, with cattle and goats stolen daily, and asked for another Assistant RDC to be posted to help with security and monitoring. He said Congolese fishermen were still causing trouble on Lake Albert. He also said Parish Development Model funds were reaching residents.

Mr Twaili raised a dilemma facing fishing communities. "Our fishing communities are poor due to lack of adequate money to buy recommended fishing gears, yet the Fisheries Protection Unit is busy arresting people with illegal gears," he said.

Land and food

Ms Mugasa urged residents to protect their land. "Do not sell land anyhow. Protect your land for your children and for development," she said. She warned lands officials against defrauding landowners through dubious transactions.

She called for clear zoning that separates agricultural land from grazing land, and for by-laws requiring every household



Hon Mary Grace Mugasa (Mrs) (middle in green jacket) Min of state for Bunyoro Affairs meeting Buliisa District officials.

to keep a family food garden. She also challenged residents on production: "What are you producing? What are you known for as leading producers?"

The minister reminded residents of the historical injustices of the colonial period, which she said had translated into underdevelopment in Bunyoro, the reason for the affirmative action programme.

The CAO proposed that all open public land in Buliisa be leased in the name of the district local government. District Planner Tadeo Tumusiime pledged to work with the minister to consolidate the programme.

As BIADP 2 begins, the leaders' list of concerns, from flooded schools and delayed compensation to stolen livestock and unfilled posts, offers a clear set of tests for what the second phase delivers.

KIKUUBE: Rusaka Pupils Win Debate In Defence Of Forests

By Faridah Ndagano, Communication Officer- Kikuube

Should forests be protected, or has conservation done more harm than good? Pupils from two Kikuube primary schools took on that question in an inter-school debate, and the side defending conservation won.

Rusaka Primary School beat Wambabya Primary School by 83% to 70% in the competition, held at Rusaka Primary School in Kitambara LCI, Kidoma Parish. The motion was "Environmental conservation has done more harm than good." Wambabya proposed it and Rusaka opposed it.

Rusaka's speakers argued that many households depend on forests for firewood because alternative energy is too expensive for local communities,

that forests absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, and that they provide medicine from leaves and roots as well as food such as mushrooms and honey.

Wambabya's team argued that forests can shelter rebels and dangerous wild animals, stand in the way of construction and drive human-wildlife conflict, with animals such as monkeys raiding crops.

Rusaka's best speakers were Womugisa Assumpta (92%), Ainembabazi Mary (88%) and Mugisa Ivan (87%). For Wambabya, Tumwebaze Derick scored 80%, while Atugonza Judith and Byaruhanga Justus each scored 73%.

The debate grew out of school environmental clubs trained by the Kitara Civil Society Organization (KICSON), which works with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). KICSON's project manager said the organisation is implementing FRECA, the Natural Forests Regeneration for Enhanced Carbon Stocks in the Albertine region project, a restoration project targeting Bugoma Forest in Kikuube and operating across Bunyoro.

The project also works on livelihoods, he said, because people whose livelihoods improve have no reason to destroy the forest.

"We carry out environmental sensitisation meetings in both schools and communities. We train Environmental Clubs in schools which brought about this debate competition on forest conservation," he said. KICSON has also provided costumes for Rusaka's drama club and fruit tree seedlings for planting.

Acting District Education Officer Hannington Atugonza, the chief guest, said such debates build confidence, critical thinking and academic excellence. He presented certificates and a football to each school and mathematical sets to every participant.

The head teacher of Rusaka Primary School praised the debaters' skill and confidence and urged both schools and the surrounding communities to keep working together for the good of the children and the district.

Kiryandongo District Allocates Shs652 Million for 20 New Boreholes to Enhance Safe Water Access

By Emmanuel Murungi, Communication Officer, Kiryandongo District

Kiryandongo District authorities have launched and commissioned 20 deep borehole projects worth Shs652 million to improve access to safe water, reduce waterborne diseases and strengthen community resilience amid prolonged dry spells.

The projects comprise 10 newly launched boreholes valued at Shs321 million under the 2026/2027 financial year and 10 completed boreholes worth

Shs331 million implemented during the 2025/2026 financial year.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony at Kibura village borehole in Kigumba Sub-county, Samuel Muhumuza, the District Water Officer, said all the commissioned boreholes had undergone test pumping and were found to have adequate water yields to serve the intended communities.

Muhumuza said the tests established the facilities' capacity to provide water, paving the way for communities to benefit from the investments.

Peace Salama, the District Vice Chairperson, called upon water user committees and community members to ensure the boreholes remain functional through proper management and timely maintenance.

She also expressed concern over the dry spell that has affected the district for three consecutive agricultural seasons, highlighting the importance of reliable water sources for communities facing prolonged dry conditions.



Deputy RDC Jonathan Akweteireho officially flagging of the construction of a deep borehole at Kigengere village in Kigumba sub county

Salama urged residents to take ownership of the facilities to ensure they continue providing safe water for household use.

Tadeo Tugume, the Local Council I Chairperson of Kibura village, commended the district leadership for providing the village with its only deep borehole, saying it would help residents access safe water and reduce the risk of waterborne diseases.

However, Tugume appealed to the district to construct an additional borehole, arguing that the existing facility may not adequately serve the village's 148 households.

He said an additional water source would improve access and reduce pressure on the newly commissioned facility.

Jonathan Akweteireho, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner, emphasised the importance of launching and commissioning public projects, saying the practice promotes accountability and transparency in service delivery.

He noted that such activities enable leaders and communities to appreciate government investments and monitor progress in the delivery of public services.

The Shs652 million investment reflects the district's continued efforts to expand access to safe water. However, community participation, proper maintenance and continued investment will remain essential to ensuring the boreholes serve residents sustainably.

As implementation of the 2026/2027 projects begins, residents are expected to benefit from expanded water infrastructure, while communities such as Kibura continue to seek additional facilities to meet their growing needs.

Masindi District Commissions Shs679.4 Million Projects

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer- Masindi



Masindi District leaders have commissioned development projects worth Shs679.4 million implemented during the 2025/2026 financial year to improve access to education, healthcare and administrative services.

The projects include school facilities, health infrastructure and local government offices. Leaders have urged beneficiary institutions and communities to protect the investments and ensure they serve their intended purpose.

The commissioned works include a five-stance lined latrine at Karongo Primary School, valued at Shs28.4 million; renovation of the outpatient ward at Kisalizi Health Centre II, Shs28.1 million; and renovation of the inpatient ward at Bwijanga Health Centre IV, Shs99.9 million.

Other projects include five-stance lined latrines for boys at Mihembero Primary School and Nyakarongo Primary School, valued at Shs29.7 million and Shs29.9 million respectively. Five-stance lined latrines for girls were also constructed at Kihoole Primary School and Kibamba Primary School at Shs29.7 million and Shs28.8 million respectively. A two-stance lined latrine for boys was built at Kijunjubwa Primary School at a cost of Shs20.7 million.

The district also commissioned a three-stance lined latrine at Ikoba Health Centre III, valued at Shs29.7 million; renovation of the Masindi Centre for the Handicapped, Shs126.5 million; a two-classroom block at Waiga Primary School, Shs105.7 million; and renovation of a three-classroom block at Kibali Primary School, Shs74.5 million.

Administrative projects included a two-stance lined latrine at Labongo Sub-county headquarters, valued at Shs16.9 million, and the second phase of construction of the headquarters, Shs30.2 million.

Speaking at Waiga Primary School in Pakanyi Sub-county, Deputy Resident District Commissioner Dhaala Sanon commended the contractor for delivering quality work. He urged school authorities to maintain the new classroom block and asked district leaders to provide the school with a reliable water source, such as a borehole.

Waiga Primary School has 1,283 pupils—656 boys and 627 girls.

District Chairperson Patrick Wobusobozi commended the Government for funding school infrastructure, while Secretary for Finance Simon Byaruhanga called for additional facilities to match the school's growing enrolment.

Leaders also urged parents to support their children's education and beneficiary institutions to properly use and maintain the projects.

Masindi District Restores 4,250 Hectares of Land, Secures 15 Gov't land titles

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer- Masindi

Masindi District has made significant progress in environmental conservation, protection of public assets and implementation of government wealth creation programmes, with 4,250 hectares of land restored and 15 government land titles secured during the 2025/2026 financial year.

The achievements were highlighted by the District Chairperson, Patrick Wobusobozi, while presenting the State of the District Address for the financial year 2025/2026 during a council session held at the District headquarters.

According to the report, the District has continued working closely with communities to combat wetland destruction through restoration initiatives aimed at protecting the environment, promoting sustainable land use and preserving natural resources for present and future generations.

The acquisition of 15 government land titles is another milestone in safeguarding public assets, strengthening land ownership documentation and protecting government property from potential land disputes and encroachment.

The report also highlighted progress registered under various government wealth creation and Social protection programmes designed to improve household incomes, promote Entrepreneurship, alleviate poverty and support vulnerable groups across the District.

Under the Parish Development Model(PDM),Masindi District received shs 18.7375 billion, of which shs 16.222 billion was disbursed to 16,222 households through 46 Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisations(SACCOs).

The beneficiaries are engaged in various income-generating enterprises, including poultry farming, dairy production, piggery, fruit growing and tree planting.

Under the Emyooga programme, the District received shs 1.34 billion in seed capital, benefiting 2,582 people organised into 258 associations operating through 36 SACCOs.

The programme supports individuals engaged in similar economic activities to organise themselves into associations and SACCOs, enabling them to access financial resources, strengthen their businesses and improve their livelihoods.

The Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP)also registered progress during the reporting period, with SHS 889.976 million received and disbursed to 134 women groups, benefiting 1,560 individuals.

The programme is designed to support women economically by providing financial assistance and opportunities to establish, expand and sustain



income-generating activities.

Under the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP), Masindi District received and disbursed shs 857.292 million to 149 youth groups, benefiting 1,618 young people.

The programme is intended to empower young people economically by supporting them to establish income-generating enterprises, develop practical business skills and improve their livelihoods.

The State of the District Address further indicated that Masindi District received Shs 2.901781 billion under the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), benefiting 1,300 older persons.

The programme provides financial assistance to eligible older persons to support their welfare and help them meet some of their basic needs.

MASINDI: Shs16.2Bn In PDM Funds Disbursed As Minister Urges Producers To Organise

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer- Masindi

Masindi District has disbursed Shs16.2 billion under the Parish Development Model (PDM) since the programme began, out of Shs18.7 billion received, according to District Commercial Officer Moses Kalyegira. The remaining Shs2.5 billion had not yet been distributed.

Mr Kalyegira presented the figures at a meeting at the Masindi District headquarters, where the Minister of State for Cooperatives, Tom Aza Alero, called on district leaders and leaders of Emyooga and PDM groups to build stronger, well-organised cooperatives and savings and credit cooperative organisations (SACCOs).

Who has received the money

According to the district report, women received Shs5.8 billion (36% of funds disbursed), youth Shs5.1 billion (32%), older persons Shs1.2 billion (8%) and persons with disabilities Shs973.4 million (6%). Other beneficiaries received Shs2.8 billion (18%).

Under Emyooga, the district's SACCOs started with seed capital of Shs1.1 billion, with a further Shs240 million provided to well-performing SACCOs. Mr Kalyegira said Shs1.6 billion had been disbursed to members, of which Shs382.7 million had been recovered. The SACCOs had accumulated savings of Shs591.6 million and share capital of Shs6.7 million.

Strength in numbers

Mr Alero, who serves under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, was in Bunyoro on field visits to raise awareness of the role cooperatives and SACCOs play in the economy and in household livelihoods.

He said producers and business people achieve more when they organise, speak with one voice and work together to reach wider markets. Organised groups, he said, are better placed to negotiate favourable markets and earn better returns, raising their members' incomes.

He described cooperatives as central to the Government's effort to move communities into the money economy and reduce poverty, citing Emyooga, PDM, the Youth Capital Venture Fund and the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) as programmes designed to encourage people to work in groups.

Masindi District Chairperson Patrick Wobusobozi said the visit could renew hope among cooperatives in Bunyoro. He recalled that the Bunyoro Growers Union was once influential, creating jobs and contributing to the national economy, and said he hoped renewed attention would help revive such organisations.

Masindi Municipality Deputy Mayor Aisha Nakamya urged residents to embrace cooperatives and SACCOs to improve household incomes.

Principal Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Musa Kyamiza, representing the Chief Administrative Officer, said cooperatives and SACCOs perform better when their members engage in productive activities.

The figures show both progress and the work ahead. Most of Masindi's PDM money has reached beneficiaries. Whether the stronger cooperatives the Minister described take shape will depend on members turning that money into productive enterprises and repaying loans so the funds keep revolving.

KIKUUBE: Tea Farmers Receive 800 Bags Of Fertiliser To Raise Yields

By Faridah Ndagano, Communication Officer- Kikuube

Tea farmers in Kikuube District have received 800 bags of fertiliser from the district local government, an input intended to raise production and household incomes from one of the district's key cash crops.

The fertiliser was handed out at the district stores to farmers from several sub-counties, in the presence of district leaders and technical staff.

Presiding over the handover, District Vice Chairperson Vincent Alpha Opio described the fertiliser as the fulfilment of a presidential pledge and part of the Government's effort to move farmers from subsistence to commercial agriculture. He credited the district council, led by District Chairperson Paddy Kisembo, with lobbying for the support.

"This is your time to work hard and benefit from tea growing. The President has fulfilled his pledge, let us use these fertilisers well to increase production," he said.

Whether the fertiliser turns into bigger harvests will depend on how it is applied. Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Francis Kiva Abitekaniza said the district's technical team would work with farmers to ensure the fertiliser is used properly, and would provide extension services to improve yields.

Farmers who received the fertiliser thanked the Government and the district leadership, saying it would improve both the quality and the quantity of their tea.

Tea is one of the cash crops the district promotes for wealth creation and poverty reduction. The district expects the fertiliser to boost production. The real measure will be in the coming harvests and in what farmers earn from them.

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