#### Katonga Pos Vol. 05 Weekly Edition Newsletter



#### **HEALTH MINISTRY CRACKS DOWN ON ABSENTEEISM, LAUNCHES COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE IN KYOTERA**

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Lwengo District Passes Out 90 CHEWs to Strengthen Community **Health Services** 

Infrastructure Gets a New Life with 1 Billion UGX Boost



Wilson Kutamba Editor-in-Chief



Ambrose Musasizi Editor

#### Editor's Note

5<sup>th</sup> Edition elcome to the Post! Katonga lt's always a pleasure to bring you the latest updates from across our districts a weekly window into the progress, purpose, and passion shaping our region. Behind every headline is a community moving forward, and behind every article, a dedicated communicator momentum. capturing that

Our team of district communicators has done a tremendous job amplifying stories that matter and now, you too can add your piece to the puzzle. Because this publication is not just our sit's yours.

Every now and then, a publication evolves beyond writing and pictures. It becomes a movement. And Katonga Post has become just that a living, breathing journal of transformation.

What started as routine updates has grown into a powerful archive of possibility. From the winding roads of Lwemiyaga to the buzzing schoolyards of Masaka, we are documenting progress, preserving local triumphs, and celebrating community spirit.

In this issue, every story carries a deeper meaning:

- A rural road now links farmers to markets.
- A health worker on a bicycle

brings care directly to doorsteps.

- A new classroom means a child's dream is one step closer.
- A tablet in Kalungu opens up a world of digital opportunity.

This is no longer just about sharing information it's about catalyzing impact.

So, as you flip through these pages, don't just read engage. Ask questions. Share these stories. Start new ones in your own communities. Because every conversation we spark builds a stronger, more informed Buganda.

To every stakeholder, communicator, leader, and reader thankyou. You are the reason Katonga Post continues to grow as a trusted voice and a uniting force.

Let's keep the stories flowing. Let's keep building together.

#### Happy Reading,

Wilson Kutamba Editor-in-Chief Katonga Post



- 1. Geoffrey Ntabaazi Kalangala District
- 2. Musisi Ssessanga Rakai District
- 3. Wilson Kutamba-Lyantonde District
- 4. Augustine Bukululu- Masaka District
- 5. Ssekabira Peters Lwengo

- 6. Baker Muwonge- Kalungu District
- 7. Namuddu Aminah Sembabule District
- 8. Ambrose Musasizi Kyotera District





## HEALTH MINISTRY CRACKS DOWN ON ABSENTEEISM, LAUNCHES COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE IN KYOTERA

By Ambrose Musasizi, Communication Officer, Kyotera District

YOTERA, UGANDA — The Ministry of Health has issued a strong warning to health workers in Kyotera District over a rising trend of absenteeism, which authorities describe as an "organized vice" threatening the delivery of essential medical services. The warning was delivered by Dr. Diana Atwiine, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, during the official launch of a major community health initiative on Thursday.

Dr. Atwiine, who presided over the deployment ceremony of 130 Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) on Thursday last week, said the government is losing patience with healthcare personnel who habitually neglect their duties.

"We are going to start biting all reckless workers," she warned. "There are many people out there seeking jobs. If one feels tired of serving, they had better quit before we take action. Absenteeism is unacceptable."

She announced that the Ministry would soon begin conducting unannounced inspections across the country and that any health workers found absent from their stations without valid justification would face disciplinary measures.

The newly launched CHEWs program is part of Uganda's broader effort to bolster primary healthcare services, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. The 132 CHEWs deployed in Kyotera are trained to provide basic medical services, health education, and disease prevention strategies directly at the household level.

"CHEWs are the front line of our health system," Dr. Atwiine said. "They play a vital role in linking communities with formal health facilities and ensuring that public health messages reach everyone."

Each of the workers received a bicycle to facilitate mobility within rural communities. They also received fully equipped medical kits containing essential diagnostic tools such as glucometers, blood pressure monitors, thermometers, and MUAC (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference) tapes—key tools for assessing child malnutrition.

To ensure their safety and effectiveness in the field, the CHEWs were also provided with gumboots, media jackets, and durable field bags for carrying their gear.

While welcoming the new cadre of workers, Dr. Atwiine reminded them to operate within their scope of training and not to overstep by treating serious illnesses beyond their capacity.

"If a CHEW encounters a case that requires advanced care, they must immediately refer it to the nearest health facility. This is not just about safety—it's about accountability," she emphasized.

During the event, Dr. Richard Kabanda, the Commissioner for Health Promotion and Education, called on the government to prioritize infrastructure development at key facilities in the district. He singled out Kalisizo Hospital and Kakuuto Health Centre IV, noting that both are operating under strain due to outdated and insufficient structures.

"These facilities need urgent upgrades to accommodate the growing patient numbers and to match the Ministry's broader healthcare goals," Dr. Kabanda said.

Dr. Edward Muwanga, the Acting District

Health Officer for Kyotera, echoed the need for additional support. However, he also expressed optimism that the new CHEWs would alleviate pressure on existing health staff.

Our health workers have been overwhelmed by the volume of patients," he said. "With the CHEWs now in place, we expect a significant reduction in congestion at health centers. They'll help with early detection and community-level follow-ups."

Dr. Muwanga also praised the provision of transportation and equipment, noting that past community outreach efforts were often hindered by logistical challenges.

"We have received 130 bicycles that will greatly improve our ability to reach targeted households. This is a much-needed intervention," he said.

Local leaders also voiced support for the initiative. Kyotera District Chairman Patrick Kintu Kisekulo called the program "timely and transformative," adding that it has the potential to improve health outcomes across the district.

Kyotera Woman MP, Hon. Fortunate Rose Nantongo, welcomed the Ministry's efforts but stressed the continued need for adequate medical supplies and protective equipment.

"CHEWs and other health workers cannot operate effectively without consistent access to medicine and PPE," she said. "We must ensure they are well-resourced to do their jobs thoroughly and safely."

The launch of the CHEWs program in Kyotera marks a pivotal moment

in Uganda's strategy to decentralize and strengthen its healthcare system. Deployed in August 2024 after completing a six-month intensive training program, the CHEWs are tasked with supporting family planning, supervising Village Health Teams (VHTs), leading sanitation campaigns, and promoting healthy living practices.

Health officials are optimistic that, with the right oversight and community engagement, the program will transform rural healthcare delivery and reduce the burden on regional hospitals.

However, Dr. Atwiine's stern message on absenteeism also serves as a broader reminder: effective health systems rely not only on programs and funding but on committed individuals who show up to serve their communities.

CLEAN WATER
PROJECT BRINGS HOPE
TO KABIRA VILLAGES

By Ambrose Musasizi, Communication Officer, Kyotera District

yotera, Uganda — Residents of Kyamayembe, Kidda, and Kasamba villages in Kabira Sub County, Kyotera District, are celebrating a major step forward in public health and quality of life as the government rolls out plans to construct a new clean water system to serve their communities.

The new project, valued at over UGX 150 million, is expected to provide a safe and reliable water source for more than 1,500 people. For years, the residents have depended on a single borehole and nearby ponds for their water needs—sources that are not only inadequate but also hazardous, particularly during the dry season.

Contaminated water from open ponds and poorly maintained boreholes has contributed to the spread of waterborne diseases such as typhoid, dysentery, and diarrhea in the region. Health officials say the situation has been especially dangerous for children and the elderly, who are more vulnerable to infection.

But now, change is on the horizon.

"This is a dream come true," said Joseph Kayemba, a longtime resident of Kyamayembe village.



Kyotera District officials inspecting workers at the new water project in Kyamayembe, Kabira Sub County

"We have longed for clean, safe water for our families for many years. We have seen our children fall sick too often because of unsafe drinking water. Now, we can finally hope for better health and better lives."

The water project is part of the district's broader infrastructure development strategy aimed at improving rural access to basic services. Construction is set to begin later this year following completion of environmental and technical assessments. According to district officials, the system will include a piped water scheme with protected water points strategically located to ensure accessibility across the three villages.

District Water Officer Mr. Stephen Kirumira, who has been overseeing the planning process, emphasized the importance of community involvement in maintaining the new facility.

"This project will only succeed if the community treats it as its own," he said during a recent community engagement meeting. "You must protect the water source. It is going to benefit you, your children, and the generations to come. Guard it against vandalism and ensure it is well-managed."

Mr. Kirumira also announced that a local water management committee will be established in each benefiting village. These committees will be trained to oversee water usage, ensure sanitation around the water points, and collect small maintenance fees from users to support repairs when necessary.

While the project has been warmly welcomed by the targeted communities,

it has also sparked interest from nearby villages not currently included in the plan. During a community meeting, Ms. Eva Nabasumba, the Community Development Officer of Kabira Sub County, encouraged leaders in those areas to formally express interest so that they can be considered for future projects.

"For those of you who are not residents of the villages selected in this phase, I urge you to work with your local councils to write formal requests to the district," Ms. Nabasumba said. "Once we secure additional funding, we will prioritize areas that have already shown readiness and interest."

She also advised village leaders to initiate hygiene awareness campaigns alongside the water project. "Water alone is not enough. We need to couple this development with proper sanitation practices to see real improvements in public health," she added.

This initiative is expected to not only reduce the prevalence of waterborne diseases but also improve school attendance and economic productivity in the region. Women and children, who often spend hours each day walking long distances in search of water, will now be able to focus more on education and income-generating activities.

Health officials in Kyotera District believe that the clean water system will play a vital role in lifting communities out of poverty. According to data from the Ministry of Health, access to safe water can reduce disease-related health expenditures by up to 40 percent in rural households.

## EMPOWERING COOPERATIVES AND SMES IN SEMBABULE THROUGH STRONGER GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

#### By Namuddu Aminah, Communications Officer - Sembabule District

The Micro Support Center Ltd (MSC), in collaboration with the Sembabule District Commercial Office, convened a pivotal stakeholders' meeting aimed at strengthening governance, financial management, and access to affordable loanable funds for cooperatives and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the district.

Held at Rainbow Hotel, the meeting brought together leaders from cooperative societies, SME owners, representatives from financial institutions, local government officials,

and technical experts. The goal was to address existing gaps in cooperative governance and enhance access to sustainable financing for grassroots enterprises.

Inhiskeynoteaddress, Mr. Samon Kagina, MSC Regional Manager, underscored the role of robust governance systems and transparent financial practices in fostering the growth of cooperatives.

"We want to see cooperatives and SMEs move beyond survival to sustainable growth. That can only happen when governance is sound and members are accountable," said Mr. Kagina.

Echoing this, Mr. Simon Peter Ddungu,



Ms. Nansikombi Jane a Treasurer, Sembabule SACCO addressing the meeting

Sembabule District Commercial Officer, emphasized the importance of building local enterprise capacity to effectively utilize available credit through government programs such as the Parish Development Model (PDM), Emyooga, and MSC loan schemes.

on funding opportunities due to poor record keeping, weak internal controls, and lack of viable business plans. The training is timely and will enhance their readiness to absorb and manage funds," Mr. Ddungu noted.

Participants engaged in sessions covering key topics such as internal governance, financial literacy, loan application procedures, and business development services.

The event also featured testimonials from successful cooperatives. Mr.

Tugume David, Chairperson of a local dairy cooperative from Nabitanga Village, praised the initiative for its practical impact.

"With this knowledge, we can now restructure our operations and confidently apply for affordable credit. This is a lifeline for many rural enterprises," said Mr. Tugume.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from both MSC and the Commercial Office to provide continued technical support and to facilitate connections between cooperatives and financial institutions offering affordable financing.

This initiative is part of a broader government strategy to promote inclusive economic development by empowering community-based enterprises to access credit and actively participate in national development programs.

## GOMBA DISTRICT RECEIVES TAPS AND TRAINING TO IMPROVE WATER ACCESS

By, Kimera Hannington Communications Officer – Gomba District

omba District Receives Taps and Training to Improve water Access

Gomba District, Uganda In a transformative stride toward public health and human dignity, two rural communities in Gomba District are now drawing clean, safe water from neighborhoodtaps. The commissioning of the Nakaseta Prepaid Water Tap and the Kyayi Water Supply System marks a quiet revolution in service delivery across this corner of central Uganda.

For years, residents of Nakaseta and Kyayi braved long, tiring treks to fetch

water from unsafe sources—often swamps or unprotected springs. The burden disproportionately fell on women and children, who spent hours daily collecting water, exposing their families to waterborne diseases.

That reality is quickly changing.

We no longer walk kilometers to the swamp. We have clean water near our homes now. My children are healthier," Sarah Namazzi, mother of four, Nakaseta Village

Spearheaded by Uganda's Ministry of

Water and Environment, with funding and technical support from the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UgIFT) program, the two systems bring treated, piped water directly to the heart of these rural communities.

In Nakaseta, a prepaid token-based model ensures that water is accessible, affordable, and efficiently managed. In Kyayi, newly installed communal taps now serve entire neighborhoods, transforming how families access this essential resource.

Supervised by the Gomba District Water Department and implemented by licensed contractors, both systems are fully operational and currently serve hundreds of households.

"This is not just infrastructure. It's public health. It's dignity. It's time saved for farming, learning, and living," Gomba District Official, during the handover ceremony

What truly sets these projects apart is the depth of community involvement. From site selection and trenching to awareness campaigns, residents played a critical role in shaping the final outcome. Water User Committees formed and trained by district teams now oversee the day-to-day management, maintenance, and accountability of the systems.

This strong sense of ownership is already bearing fruit. Residents report improved hygiene, reduced disease, and a stronger sense of unity.

Ino longer miss school because of water. I'm always in class on time,"

Muwanga David, student, Kyayi Village

Mothers report fewer cases of diarrhea among children. Students arrive at school on time. Households maintain cleaner surroundings. The dignity restored is palpable.

Sustainability has been built into every layer of the project. Local caretakers and tap attendants have received training in basic maintenance and financial record-keeping. The District Water Office continues to provide technical oversight, while communities contribute to operations through small user fees.

Each system is monitored using flow meters, household usage surveys, and routine reporting to both district and national authorities. Environmental safeguards, including impact assessments, were also implemented to protect the water sources for generations to come.

Though modest in scale, the water systems in Nakaseta and Kyayi are having outsized impact not just on domestic use but also for small-scale agriculture and livestock care, particularly during dry seasons.

Even challenges like rugged terrain and land negotiations were addressed early through collaboration with landowners, local leaders, and technical teams. Gomba's model is now a promising example of how infrastructure, when paired with inclusive planning and community stewardship, can deliver transformative results.

District officials express deep gratitude to all stakeholders government ministries, development partners, local councils, and above all, the residents themselves for their unwavering commitment.

## LWEMIYAGA ROAD REHABILITATION COMMISSIONED TO ENHANCE MARKET ACCESS AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS

#### By Namuddu Aminah, Communications Officer, Sembabule District

Lwemiyaga, Sembabule District — June 2025: The Government of Uganda has officially commissioned the rehabilitation of a 12.4km community access road in Lwemiyaga Sub-county. The road upgrade aims to improve rural mobility, enhance market access, and support local economic development.

The rehabilitated road stretches from Lumegere through Makukulu and Mukakoma, ending in Kayonza, serving as a critical transport corridor for farming communities. The works include grading, gravelling, installation of culverts, and drainage improvements to ensure year-round accessibility.

The commissioning ceremony took place in Lumegere village and was presided over by Sembabule District Chairperson, Nkalubo Patrick, who represented the Resident District Commissioner, Jane Francis Kagayi. It was attended by district officials, technocrats, local leaders, and community members.

"This project aligns with government efforts to modernize rural infrastructure and enhance service delivery under the Uganda Road Fund and the Parish Development Model," said Chairperson Nkalubo. He noted that the poor state of rural roads had previously driven up input costs for farmers and limited access to markets. "Roads noticeably drive up the transaction costs of agricultural produce," he remarked.

Sembabule experiences heavy agricultural traffic, with nearly 500 trucks hauling maize daily from Ntuusi and Lwemiyaga to urban hubs including Kampala, Masaka, Mpigi, Kyotera, Malaba, and Mutukula. The road upgrade is expected to reduce freight costs and



District Leaders during the commissioning of the Lumegere–Makukulu–Mukakoma– Kayonza community access road

stabilize produce prices.

Sebugwawo highlighted that improved infrastructure has spurred agro-processing across the district. "In recent years, we've seen a rise in milk coolers, maize mills, and coffee hullers. We had about 20 milk coolers—now the number has significantly grown," he said.

Local farmers and traders welcomed the development, citing reduced produce spoilage, better access to health and education services, and stronger integration into the regional economy.

According to District Engineer Stanley Konde, the road rehabilitation is funded

by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) under the National Oilseeds Project (NOSP). The UGX 1.12 billion project is being implemented by the Ministry of Local Government over eight months, contracted to Lusa Construction and Engineering Co. Ltd.

Chairperson Nkalubo called for community involvement in road maintenance through the formation of local road gangs. "Infrastructure remains key to rural transformation. With better roads, farmers gain access to markets, reduce input costs, and expand income-generating ventures," he emphasized.

## GOVERNMENT EMPOWERS LYANTONDE FARMERS WITH CHAFF CUTTERS TO COMBAT FEED SHORTAGES

By Wilson Kutamba, Communication Officer, Lyantonde District

Lyantonde District have received chaff cutters from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), marking a significant step in the government's continued efforts to enhance livestock production in Uganda's cattle corridor.

The machines, valued at UGX 60 million, were distributed across all eight lower local governments within the district. Beneficiaries were selected by local councils and approved by the district council, based on demonstrated need and a willingness to share the equipment

within their communities.

According to Mr. Kenneth Twesigomwe, the Lyantonde District Production Officer, this intervention builds on earlier government support. "This is a progressive approach. The Ministry first provided pasture seeds and five tonnes of fertilizer, and now, with the chaff cutters, farmers are better equipped to process animal feeds efficiently," he said.

To maximize the impact, the district council instructed the production department to draft agreements with each beneficiary. These agreements require recipients to allow other local farmers to access the machines, promoting a communal model of agricultural development.

Eng. Paddy Ainebyona, a Senior Agricultural Engineer who oversaw the handover, highlighted the equipment's technical capacity. "Each machine can process between 1.5 to 2 tonnes of forage per hour. This capacity is crucial for helping farmers prepare and store animal feed, especially for the dry seasons when natural pastures are scarce," he noted.

The initiative was applauded by Lyantonde District Speaker, Mr. Moses Byarugaba, who described it as a timely complement to broader government programs such as the Parish Development Model (PDM). "Forage cutters will go a long way in addressing feed shortages and boosting livestock

productivity," he said.

Mr. Ezra Bwebale, the District Secretary for Production, encouraged the beneficiaries to act as "trainers of trainees," by equipping fellow farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary to operate the machines. "This is a communal investment. You are expected to lead by example and build capacity within your communities," Bwebale emphasized.

**G**Presiding over the ceremony, District Assistant Resident Commissioner (RDC) Ms. Dorcus Akakunda called farmers to embrace collective responsibility. "Government has entrusted you with these machines not personal as property but as tools transformation. community Ensure they benefit many, not just a few," she urged.



Assitant RDC Akatukunda Dorcus and other district officials handing over 15 forage cutter to beneficiaries at Lyantonde district head quaters on June 27,2025

Representing the beneficiaries, Reverend Abel Katunguka expressed heartfelt appreciation for the government's timely support. "We've struggled with recurring dry spells that affect pasture availability. Some of us had the pasture but lacked the equipment to process it into usable

fodder. These chaff cutters are a game-changer," he said.

With improved forage processing and storage capacity, Lyantonde District anticipates significant improvements in livestock health, milk production, and household incomes.



Beneficiaries being taught by officials led by Eng Ainebyona on how to operate forage cutters on June 27, 2025

#### KALUNGU: UCC AND MINISTRY OF ICT LAUNCH TABLET DISTRIBUTION

By Baker Muwonge, Communication Officer, Kalungu District alungu District, Uganda — More than 150 households in Kalongo Village, Kalungu District received free internet-enabled tablets. The initiative is aimed at bridging the digital divide and boosting internet access in rural Uganda, this effort is part of a pilot project launched by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) in collaboration with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance.

The official launch event was held during a vibrant commissioning ceremony, presided over by Dr. Aminah Zawedde, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance. She hailed the initiative as a significant step toward achieving nationwide digital inclusion.

"This initiative is a demonstration of our commitment to ensuring that no Ugandan is left behind in the digital transformation journey," said Hajat Zawedde. "We encourage beneficiaries to use these tablets meaningfully information, explore to access international especially markets. in agriculture, and to improve their livelihoods."

Kalungu District is one of the select few piloting the initiative, which aims to place at least one internet-enabled tablet in each rural household. Key objectives include:

- ☑ Enhancing digital literacy
- online access to services
- Creating economic opportunities through internet access

Each household will also receive six months of free internet access, allowing time to integrate the technology into their daily lives. To ensure effective use, the most tech-savvy individual in each household will serve as a digital ambassador, guiding family members in responsibly and productively using the device.

"We are not just giving out tablets nwe are giving rural families a gateway to opportunity," explained Muwonge Baker, the Project Coordinator for Kalungu. "Our



Dr. Aminah Zawedde, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT, officially hands over a tablet to a beneficiary during the commissioning ceremony

goal is to empower communities with the tools and skills needed to thrive in the digital economy."

The event drew strong support from local leadership, including the Chief Administrative Officer, the District Chairperson, and the Resident District Commissioner (RDC). In their remarks, they emphasized how timely the project is, especially as digital tools become increasingly integrated into sectors like education, agriculture, commerce, and governance.

"This project lays a strong foundation for digital transformation in our district," stated the RDC. "We thank the UCC and Ministry of ICT for selecting Kalungu for this pilot. It reflects trust in the potential

of our people."

Special attention was given to schoolaged children, who are often the most tech-savvy household members. Dr. Zawedde encouraged responsible internet use, emphasizing the need to protect young users from harmful content while promoting educational and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The Kalungu pilot project will be closely monitored, with insights informing potential scale-up efforts across other rural districts in Uganda. If successful, it could become a cornerstone in the country's journey toward a digitally connected and empowered society.



"We are not just giving out tablets. We are giving rural families a gateway to opportunity," says Muwonge Baker, Project Coordinator

#### LWENGO DISTRICT PASSES OUT 90 CHEWS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

By Ssekabira Peters - Communication Officer, Lwengo



The PS MOH, Dr Diana Atwine on the left with the District LC V Chairperson Handing over certificates and Bicycles to CHEWs on 26/05/2025 at the District Headquarters

wengo, Uganda – June 26, 2025 significant step toward strengthening primary healthcare District officially delivery, Lwengo commissioned 90 Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs) colorful ceremony held at the District Headquarters. The newly trained CHEWs, who completed an intensive six-month training program, are now equipped to provide essential health services such as first aid, health education, and disease prevention within their respective communities.

The event was graced by senior government officials, local leaders, and stakeholders in the health sector. Among the key highlights was the official handover of essential working tools to the CHEWs by the Ministry of Health. These included bicycles and other medical equipment designed to support the workers in reaching remote and underserved communities.

"As we decentralize services, we must also ensure accountability," said Dr. Diana Atwine, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, during her keynote address. "Going forward, the Ministry will focus on evaluating the performance of individual health workers. Absenteeism and neglect of duty—especially organized absenteeism—must end. The government has invested in constructing staff quarters

for not only nurses and midwives but also senior officers who must be on duty 24/7 to handle emergencies."

Dr. Atwine praised the government's ongoing commitment to community-based healthcare and emphasized the critical role CHEWs will play as a bridge between health facilities and households.

Mr. Katera Emmy, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Lwengo, urged the newly deployed CHEWs to treat the government-issued tools with responsibility and care.

"These tools are not personal gifts they are government assets meant to enhance your efficiency. Handle them with care and ensure they serve their purpose," Mr. Katera emphasized.

Mr. Ssendagala John, Principal Assistant Secretary representing the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), applauded the commitment shown by the CHEWs during their training. He reassured them of the district's support through continuous oversight, mentorship, and capacity building to ensure the initiative's long-term success.

District Chairperson Mr. Kittatta Ibra also thanked the central government for its unwavering support of healthcare infrastructure development in the district. He cited the recent upgrades of Kakoma and Lwengenyi to Health Centre IIIs, as well as the provision of a modern ambulance, as transformative achievements.

With the addition of these CHEWs, we can now extend services even deeper into our communities. This is a major boost for our district," Mr. Kittatta stated.

Echoing this optimism, Dr. Kafumbe Moses, the District Health Officer, affirmed that the CHEWs are well-prepared to address critical health issues in their communities.

**ff**Their training covered homecare, hygiene based and sanitation. maternal and child health, nutrition, and early detection of communicable confident diseases. We are that they will not only meet expectations but exceed them," said Dr. Kafumbe.

Among the newly commissioned CHEWs was Nanyonga, from Ndagwe Subcounty, who expressed gratitude to the government for the opportunity and pledged to serve her community with dedication.

"With the tools we've received and the knowledge acquired during training, we are ready to serve our people," she said.

By placing healthcare providers directly in communities especially in hard-to-reach areas Lwengo District is moving closer to ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all residents.

## MASAKA UNVEILS MULTI-BILLION EDUCATION PROJECTS TO BOOST LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

By Augustine Bukululu, Communications Officer, Masaka District

studying environment, we expect better performance from our pupils. Now that the infrastructure is in place, there should be no excuse for poor service delivery."

Mr. Nsambu Gerald, Masaka District Education Officer



DEO Nsambu Gerald leading team during the inspection of projects

In a bold stride towards strengthening the education sector, the Masaka District Local Government has officially commissioned a series of infrastructure projects aimed at improving the learning environment across the district. The ceremony, held at Kamuzinda Cope Primary School in Biya Village, Kamuzinda Parish, Kyanamukaaka Sub-county, marked the handover of several multibillion shilling education investments completed during the last financial year.

Presided over by district leaders and community stakeholders, the vibrant event showcased the commissioning of a brand-new six-classroom block and two five-stance lined pit latrines at Kamuzinda Cope Primary School. Constructed under a transitional grant amounting to UGX 364 million,

the facilities were funded through the Ministry of Finance with the support of the State Minister for Microfinance, Hon. Haruna Kyeyune Kasolo.

Demonstrating continued commitment to uplifting education standards in his home district, Minister Kasolo also secured additional funding for the construction of a storeyed classroom block at St. Mugaaga Kindu Secondary School—a government-aided institution within the same sub-county.

Additional commissioned projects included:

A five-stance pit latrine at St. Lawrence Kindu Primary School

Another at St. Mary's Kasozi

Renovation of four-classroom blocks at

Bugere, Lwanunda, and Kasaka primary schools

The district also received a generous allocation of school furniture. Through the School Facility Grant (SFG) and central government renovation funds, 53-seater desks were donated to Kamulegu Primary School, 50 to Mugamba, and 30 to St. Luke Bukakata.

Speaking on behalf of all beneficiary schools, Mr. Herbert Mugulama, Headteacher of Kamuzinda Cope Primary School, praised the government's transformative efforts:

"Before this intervention, we only had two classrooms partitioned into five classes. Now, with this infrastructure, we believe the civilisation of Ugandan children is being uplifted. The government has truly changed the face of our schools."

Masaka District Education Officer, Mr. Nsambu Gerald, expressed profound appreciation for the central government's commitment to educational development.

"With such an improved studying environment, we expect better performance from our pupils," Nsambu stated. "Now that the infrastructure is in place, there should be no excuse for poor service delivery. I call upon teachers to recommit themselves and prioritize their profession."

Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Janat Billy Mulindwa also commended President Yoweri Museveni's administration for prioritizing education through programs such as Universal Primary Education (UPE), Universal (USE). Secondary Education government scholarships. However, she urged parents to take greater responsibility for their children's learning.

"It is disheartening that some parents cannot provide even the most basic scholastic materials. This hinders the learners and undermines the



The only two class room block that Kamuzinda cope had before the new building

government's mission to ensure inclusive education for all Ugandans," Mulindwa warned.

She further applauded school management committees for their diligence and called on them to continue safeguarding these investments.

Mr. Peter Ssenkungu, District Councillor representing workers and Chairperson of the District Building Control Committee, lauded the quality of work delivered by the contractors, particularly Venjix Technologies Ltd—the firm behind the Kamuzinda Cope Primary School project.

"Venjix went beyond the call of duty by donating a solar-powered water system to the school. That kind of patriotism should be recognized and rewarded," Ssenkungu stated.

However, he raised critical concerns about the central government's building policies:

"We need flexibility in planning. Some areas may require taller structures or specific layouts that the current standard designs don't allow," he noted. He also called for stricter coordination between contractors and the District Building Control Committee to ensure quality assurance and compliance with local needs.

Currently, Masaka District serves over 19,921 pupils enrolled in the UPE program across 43 government primary schools, manned by only 435 teachers. At the secondary level, the district has four government-aided schools, one per sub-county.

As enrolment numbers rise. the newly completed facilities are expected to alleviate congestion, improve sanitation, and foster a more conducive learning environment. However, district officials emphasize that urgent investment in staffing is still required to meet the region's growing educational demands.



A Solar water project and a class room block at Kamuzinda Cope Primary School

## OVER 300 PUPILS ATTEND SCOUTS AND GUIDES CAMP IN LYANTONDE TO BUILD LIFE SKILLS

By Wilson Kutamba, Communication Officer, Lyantonde District

Over 300 pupils from more than 30 primary schools across Lyantonde District participated in a four-day Scouts and Guides camp held at Kasambya Primary School. The camp, which included both boys and girls involved in school-based scouting programs, focused on equipping young learners with essential life skills, leadership qualities, discipline, and patriotism.

The event was officially opened by the Regional Scouts Commissioner, Mr. Andrew Mugerwa, who emphasized the significance of scouting in a learner's development.

"Scouting is part of education that every learner should get because it imparts life skills that help one manoeuvre through life," Mr. Mugerwa said. "A scout's honour is to be trusted, and this camp is about building that trust, self-reliance, and teamwork."

Representing the Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Paul Male praised the young scouts for demonstrating critical life values during their campsite activities.



Mr Paul Male who reprsented CAO and other officials visting camps at Kasambya Primary School







"These are life principles every learner should embody," he said. "I want to urge schools not to wait for annual camps but to integrate such scouting activities into their daily co-curricular programs."

Mr. Medard Byarugaba, the Lyantonde District Education Officer, applauded the initiative and encouraged the pupils to fully embrace the experience and aim higher.

"We are hopeful that even this time we shall reach the regional, national, and international levels," Mr. Byarugaba said. "It is the youth who will raise the flag of Lyantonde and Uganda high in global forums."

District Scouts Commissioner Mr. Joseph Karungi expressed his appreciation to school head teachers and scouts focal persons for their continued support, despite limited resources.

"We appreciate the head teachers and focal persons of scouts and guides in different schools who kept the spirit of scouting alive," he said. "We look forward to sending representatives from Lyantonde to the region and beyond."

However, the camp also brought to light the persistent challenges faced by the scouts and guides movement, particularly the issue of inadequate funding. Ms. Rukia Naluwugge, the Scouts focal person in the District Education Department, appealed for greater government investment in the program.

"Government should deliberately invest in scouts and guides to enable learners to gain life skills and grow with a patriotic heart toward their country," she urged.

Scouting and guiding in Uganda, introduced in the early 20th century, have long been recognized as vital tools for youth development. Today, the movement encompasses thousands of schools and continues to inspire young people to be disciplined, civic-minded, and solution-oriented citizens. Through camps, drills, environmental initiatives, and public service, scouts and guides are trained to become future leaders who contribute meaningfully to national development.

As the camp came to a close, pupils departed with certificates, merit badges, and most importantly, strengthened values of self-reliance, loyalty, and service — true reflections of the Scouting Promise. The event reaffirmed the tremendous potential of Uganda's youth when given the opportunity to grow, learn, and lead.



Rakai District councilors during a recent sitting at the district headquarters

#### RAKAI DISTRICT COUNCIL APPROVES UGX 170 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY ROAD WORKS

By Musisi Ssessanga – Communications Officer, Rakai District

Rakai District Council has approved UGX 170 million for emergency road repairs in Kiziba and Mweruka Town Councils. The resolution was passed during the final council session of the 2024/2025 financial year, held on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at the district headquarters.

The emergency funding, provided by the Ministry of Works and

Transport, allocates UGX 120 million to Kiziba Town Council and UGX 50 million to Mweruka Town Council. Presenting the Finance, Planning, and Administration Committee report, committee chairperson Mr. Isaac Byamugisha stressed the urgency of the intervention.

"These are among the seven newly established town councils in Rakai. They require timely physical planning and infrastructural support," Mr. Byamugisha stated.

In addition to the emergency allocation, the district received UGX 426.8 million in the fourth quarter from the Uganda Road Fund and the Ministry of Works. The funds were distributed as follows: UGX 127.4 million for district roads, UGX 49.4 million for Rakai Town Council, and UGX 250 million for general road maintenance.

During the session, Mr. Jawadu Ntanda Baagalaaliwo, Chairperson of the Education and Sports Standing reported notable Committee, achievementsinschoolinfrastructure. Construction and commissioning were successfully completed at six primary schools: Kisaayi, Kirangira, Kannyogoga, Nsozibbiri, Kayonza, and Kiwummulo-Kooki.

Additionally, schools such as Kabaale–Makondo, Muleebi, and Rwensinga received new desks to improve classroom conditions.

Mr. Ntanda also celebrated Rakai's outstanding performance at the recently concluded Kids' Athletics Competition in Kabale District, where the district won two gold medals and one silver, despite operating under limited funding.

However, he expressed concern over 11 schools that did not receive their Universal Primary Education (UPE) capitation grants this term. He urged the education department and the Chief Administrative Officer to urgently investigate and address the issue.

Mr. Ntanda also raised alarms over rising cases of misconduct among secondary school students during sports events, citing a viral social media video as a worrying example. He called on the education department to reinforce Ministry of Education guidelines on discipline during co-curricular activities.

The council also addressed a growing social issue in Kizungu, Buyamba Trading Centre, where teenage commercial sex work is reportedly on the rise. Mr. Isaac Kukkiriza, councillor for the area, attributed the problem to the relocation of the police post from Buyamba to Ddwaniro Subcounty, about 10 kilometers away.

He recommended upgrading Buyamba to a Town Board to enhance administrative oversight and law enforcement. In response, the council passed a resolution mandating immediate intervention by the Chief Administrative Officer and the District Labour Officer.

In his closing remarks, District Speaker Mr. Charles Sseggiriinya commended the council for its unity and resilience amid ongoing challenges. He urged councillors to maintain focus on service delivery and avoid divisive political rhetoric.

Let's behave honourably and avoid the politics of mudslinging, as seen in some areas. Unity has brought us this far," he concluded.

#### RAKAI RESIDENTS URGED TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT PROJECTS

By Musisi Ssessanga – Communication Officer, Rakai District



Rakai district officials wave to residents at Kirangira PS in Kasankala Sub County

AKAI, UGANDA - The Deputy Resident District Commissioner (DRDC) of Rakai, Mr. Mwanje Eddy, has called on residents to take full ownership and responsibility government-funded for projects implemented in their communities. His remarks came during commissioning of several infrastructure developments funded under the School Facilities Grant (SFG) and the Discretionary Development Equalization Grant (DDEG).

While speaking at the commissioning

of four completed projectsincluding classroom blocks at Kisaayi, Kiwummulo, and Kirangira primary schools, as well as a five-stance pit latrine at Kanyogoga Primary School Mr. Mwanje emphasized the importance of community stewardship.

"These projects belong to you because you are the direct beneficiaries," Mr. Mwanje told local residents. "You must protect them from misuse and mismanagement to ensure they serve their intended purpose."

The total cost of the completed projects stood at UGX 322 million. Mr. Mwanje applauded the contractors for delivering quality work and the district leadership for transparent and effective use of the funds. He challenged teachers and learners to utilize the new facilities fully, warning that with improved infrastructure, poor academic performance would no longer be excusable.

He also highlighted the Parish Development Model (PDM) as a key government initiative to uplift communities out of poverty. He revealed that the government is considering doubling the PDM funds per parish from UGX 100 million to UGX 200 million depending on the proper utilization of the current allocations. He pledged intensified monitoring of PDM projects to ensure accountability and impact.

On civic matters, Mr. Mwanje urged residents to renew their national identity cards in preparation for upcoming elections and cautioned against using them as collateral with moneylenders. "Don't mortgage your voice and future. Elect responsible leaders who can deliver." he said.

In a broader call to action, the DRDC encouraged parents to keep their children in school and shun harmful beliefs such as witchcraft. "Stop thinking that success is linked to witchcraft. That mindset reflects underdevelopment," he said, also noting low male participation in community decision-making forums.

The commissioning ceremony was attended by Mr. Ssebalinde Umar, the District Vice Chairperson, who urged education stakeholders to fulfill their roles. LC V Secretary for Education, Mrs. Mirian Ssekandi Ssonko, called on women to lead in ensuring their children's educational needs are met. "Let us provide lunch, uniforms, and instructional materials, and talk to our husbands to support education," she said.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Muhangi Bernard urged communities to guard against defilement and ensure a safe learning environment.

Parents welcomed the developments, with Mr. Rushanda Jackson, chairperson of the School Management Committee at Kiwummulo Primary School, praising the new classroom blocks for boosting both space and morale.

Despite the progress, residents highlighted remaining challenges such as the need for classroom furniture, staff housing, and water harvesting systems. In Kamununku Village, locals raised concerns about deteriorating road conditions and appealed to district leaders not to tamper with their main access road unless prepared to apply murram.

As government investment in rural infrastructure continues, officials insist that long-term success will depend on active local participation and responsible stewardship.



#### **#CITIZEN UPDATE**



The polling period for Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Councils including Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Representatives:

#### 12th January 2026 -9th February 2026

Paul Bukenya -Media and Public relations, **Electoral Commission** 



## Public Officers & Political Activity

#### Restrictions for Traditional Leaders

- Cultural leaders must avoid political party involvement.
- They cannot join or promote political parties.







They must preserve neutrality

@ They cannot

on party

matters.







### Public Officers & Political Activity



#### Restrictions for Public Officers

- Public officers cannot engage in political party activities while in office.
- be founders. promoters, or members of political parties.
- @ They cannot hold office in a political party.







### WATER, SANITATION & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

At a Glance

#### **Local Government Contributions**



- 2,564 taps, 709 deep boreholes, 128 springs, 109 rainwater tanks, 79 production wells built.
- 1,333 boreholes & 28 piped systems have been rehabilitated.
- Over 1.1 million people benefited from restored or new water sources.









### WATER, SANITATION & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

At a Glance

#### Solar-Powered Water Systems



- 259 solar-powered & gravity flow systems have been completed.
- 42 large solar-powered systems are under construction in districts including Yumbe, Kasese, Kakumiro, Kisoro, Buvuma, and others.









### WATER, SANITATION & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

At a Glance

#### **District Water Projects**



- Construction ongoing in 26 districts
- Solar package installations ongoing in areas like Kasawo, Bukumi, and Busaale









### WATER, SANITATION & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

At a Glance

#### **Urban & Town Water Supply**



- Piped water supply construction ongoing in 32 towns e.g. Kamuli, Ishaka, Kiboga, Rukungiri, Obongi.
- New piped systems are starting in Rubanda, Kabale, Alebtong, Nakasongola, Kamuli.











## ROADMAP FOR ELECTIONS FOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) COMMITTEES



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# Reviving the Roads: Kalangala's Infrastructure Gets a New Life with 1 Billion UGX Boost

By: Geoffrey Ntabaazi, Communications Officer, Kalangala District



or decades, the state of road infrastructure in many local governments, including Kalangala District, has been a source of frustration. Impassable roads, poorly maintained access routes, and sluggish responses to community needs were the norm. The Works Department, then considered a dormant unit, lacked visibility, energy, and resources to

turn the tide.

### Today, the narrative is changing.

With an annual conditional grant of 1 Billion Uganda Shillings from the Government of Uganda, every district now has a lifeline to transform its road infrastructure and Kalangala is taking full advantage of it.

Two week back, the District Roads



Committee, under the leadership of Hon. Kabuusu Moses, held its Fourth Quarter Meetingtoassessprogressandstrategize for the coming financial year. Present were key district leaders including Hon. Nakimuli Helen, The Woman Member of Parliament Kalangala District Hon. Mukasa Julius Opondo (Secretary for the committee) and Member of Parliament Bujumba County, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Hon Fred Badda, District Internal Security Officer (DISO) Mr. Kawesi, the Chief Administrative (CAO) Officer Mr. Ssemwogerere Fredrick, and the District Engineering Team. Their unified presence signaled one thing: road development is no longer a forgotten agenda.

As part of their commitment to transparency and accountability, the committee undertook a field tour of ongoing road construction projects top among them, the Kaazi–Malanga road, which has now become a beacon of progress for the district. Residents could not hide their joy as they lined the newly

graded sections to cheer on the team. "We used to be cut off during rainy seasons," said an elderly woman from Malanga. "Now we can reach markets and health centers without fear of crocodiles and dangerous snakes. Thanks to the Government and the District"

#### From Dormancy to Delivery

Just two years ago, the District Works Department was viewed by many as inactive and underperforming. Projects stalled, machines lay idle, and community trust was low. But with renewed government funding and a reinvigorated District Roads Committee, the department has undergone a silent revolution.

Under the supervision of the current leadership, strategic plans have been implemented, machinery has been repaired and deployed, and staff morale has been boosted. The department is no longer waiting for problems to be reported—it is proactively identifying

and addressing road challenges across sub-counties.

### Community Engagement and Accountability

What sets this current phase apart is the deliberate involvement of local communities in project monitoring. The Roads Committee, aware that development must reflect people's needs, continues to seek feedback through community meetings, site visits, and stakeholder engagements. This hands-on leadership style has corruption helped reduce risks. increase transparency, and restore trust in the district's ability to deliver on its mandate.

#### A Word from the Chairperson

Speaking after the site visit, Hon. Kabuusu Moses emphasized that the roads agenda is not just about grading surfaces, but about opening economic opportunities, improving access to healthcare and education, and strengthening social cohesion.

"We are grateful to the Government of Uganda for the consistent support," he said. "But more importantly, we are committed to using every shilling responsibly. Kalangala deserves working roads, and we are on course to make that a reality."

#### **Looking Ahead**

With more roads earmarked for rehabilitation in the next financial year, including feeder roads in Bufumira, Bujumba, and Kyamuswa sub-counties, the future of Kalangala's road network looks promising. The 1 Billion UGX may not be a silver bullet, but in the hands of a focused committee and an energized department, it's already making an impact that can be felt in every part of the island district just take a look and the before (when the community was cut off) and after (when the road was under co

#### SEMBABULE DISTRICT'S ROAD WORKS BOOST CONNECTIVITY AND LOCAL ECONOMY

By Namuddu Aminah, Communications Officer, Sembabule District

ugusuulu Sub-county, Sembabule District, Uganda June 26, 2025:

A team from the Sembabule District Works Committee has conducted an extensive field monitoring exercise to assess the ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance of over 170 kilometers of access roads across Lugusuulu Sub-county. The road projects, funded

under the UGX 1 billion Force Account Programme, aim to reduce road construction costs by utilizing districtowned equipment and technical personnel.

Key road routes under rehabilitation include Kyabi–Kyabalesa–Lwekishugi and Kanjunju–Karushonshomezi, which are vital links for farmers.



traders, and service providers across the region.

The monitoring team was led by Works Committee members Najjuma Aminah (Chairperson), Hon. Ssenkusu Gerald, Hon. Kalema Willy, and Hon. Mubezi Fred, accompanied by District Engineer Konde Stanley and Officer Communications Namuddu Aminah.

During the visits, the delegation inspected multiple road segments undergoing grading, spot gravelling, compaction, and drainage improvement.

We are impressed by the level of progress, but our priority remains the durability of these roads,"

said Hon. Najjuma Aminah. "Our farmers, school children, and health workers

Hon. Ssenkusu Gerald emphasized the importance of long-term road maintenance:

"Rehabilitation alone is not enough. must develop a sustainable maintenance strategy to avoid future deterioration."

District Engineer Konde Stanley reported that the Force Account approach has saved the district significant funds while enhancing efficiency.

"Using our district equipment, we have managed to open and rehabilitate over 170 kilometers of road on a limited budget. Works on Kyabalesa, Lwekishugi, and Karushonshomezi roads are nearly 80% complete," he said.

"We've installed culverts, stabilized swampy sections, and improved road surfaces. These corridors now allow smoother travel, reduce vehicle breakdowns, and improve access to markets and social services."

Communications Officer Namuddu Aminah highlighted the district's commitment to transparency and public engagement:

"We've kept the public informed through local radio programs and continuous dialogue with community leaders. Our goal is to ensure transparency, accountability, and community ownership at every stage."

Namuddu also noted an uptick in agricultural and commercial activity as a result of improved road access.

"More traders can now reach rural communities, and farmers are transporting produce more efficiently. It's already sparking economic growth."

Local residents are experiencing tangible benefits from the road rehabilitation. Namubiru Rose, a farmer from Lugusuulu, shared her experience:

GFor the first time in years, I can take my coffee to buyers without paying high transport fees. This is a real boost for us."

The Works Committee pledged continued oversight of road projects under the Force Account Programme and announced plans to establish a structured maintenance schedule, supported by community road gangs and routine equipment servicing.

The UGX 1 billion Force Account investment in road rehabilitation is already transforming Lugusuulu Subcounty unlocking trade, enhancing service delivery, and affirming the government's commitment to rural infrastructure development.

The success of the Kyabi– Kyabalesa–Lwekishugi and Kanjunju– Karushonshomezi roads stands as a testament to the power of localized, cost-effective solutions backed by strong leadership and active community participation.



Works Committee and District Engineer during monitoring and supervision









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