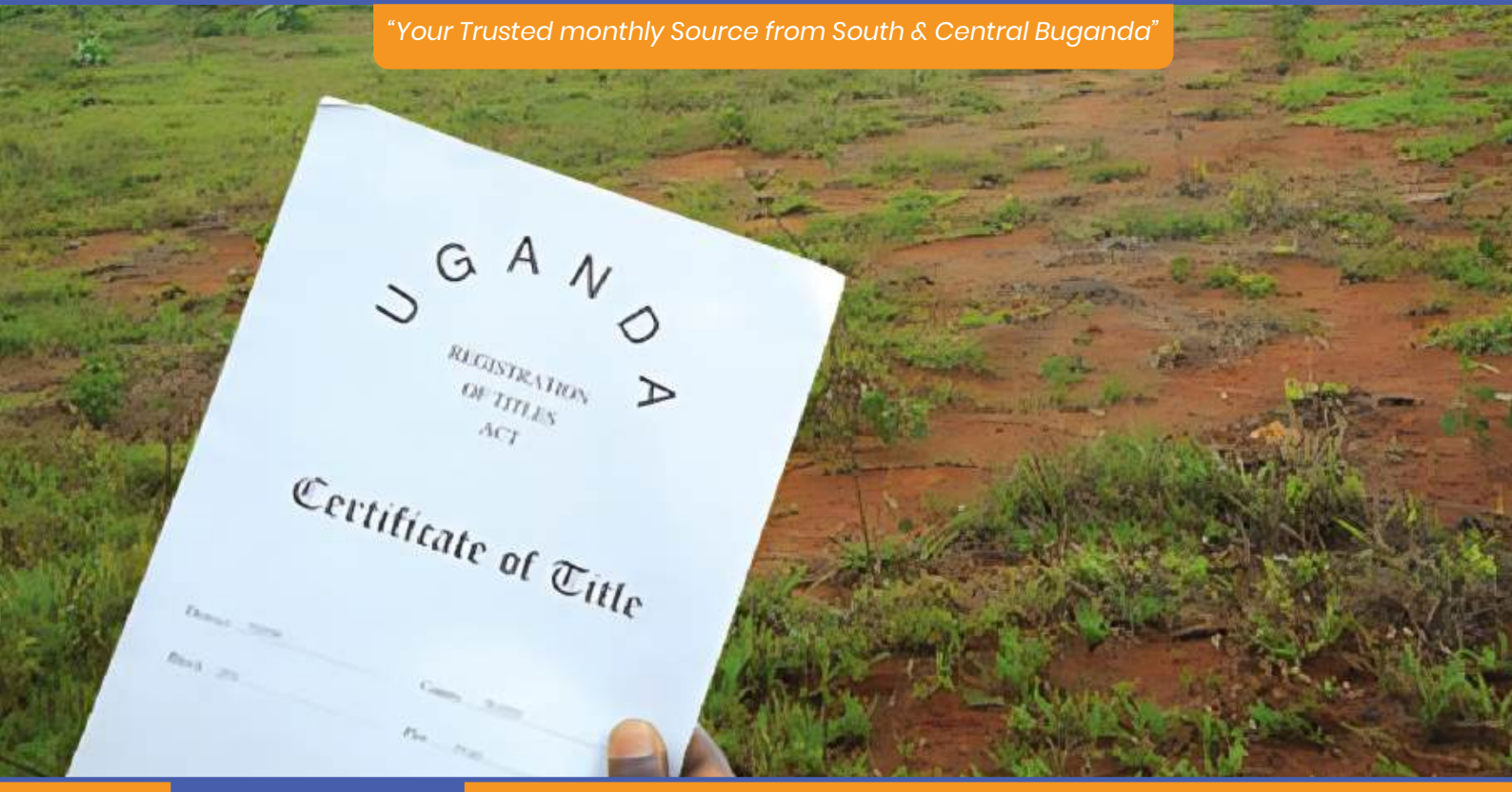
Katonga Post

District Communicators' Newsletter

"Your Trusted monthly Source from South & Central Buganda"



Feature Story

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Editor

Editor's Note

Welcome to the September edition of The Katonga Post.

This issue looks beyond official events and announcements to examine what development means for people in their schools, communities and homes. Across the region, our stories highlight efforts to strengthen education, improve public services, secure land rights, expand opportunities for persons with disabilities and nurture young talent.

From Kyotera's push for stronger school leadership and inclusive education to Butambala's rollout of systematic land documentation, a common message emerges: development is ultimately measured by whether public programmes translate into meaningful change in people's lives.

We also highlight the role of coordination and accountability in public service delivery, as Kyotera takes on the responsibility of being a model district. At the same time, stories on Deaf inclusion and school sports remind us that development must create opportunities for every learner and every citizen.

We invite District Communication Officers, government institutions, community leaders, development partners and other stakeholders to share timely, accurate and people-centred stories with us. Your experiences and evidence help make The Katonga Post a stronger record of the region's development journey.

Enjoy the issue.

Wilson Kutamba
Editor-in-Chief

Thank You

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BUTAMBALA: LAND TITLING PROJECT TARGETS 500 CUSTOMARY LANDHOLDERS

By Nalubwama Mariam, Communication Officer – Butambala District



For families living with uncertainty over ownership of their land, proper documentation can mean more than a piece of paper. It can provide greater security, help prevent disputes and give households confidence to invest in the land they depend on.

This is the expectation behind the rollout of the Local Economic Competitiveness Project under Systematic Land Adjudication and Certification (LECP/SLAAC) in Butambala District, where the first phase is targeting 500 people in Ngando Sub-County.

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development introduced the programme to support people who lack proper documentation for their land and to contribute to reducing land-related disputes.

At a district meeting on 9 September 2026, project officials trained members of the Area Land Committee, District Land Board, Physical Planning Committee, councillors and other technical stakeholders on implementation.

Jerinah Kyomukama, Principal Land Officer who represented the project team leader, said beneficiaries would not be charged for the land titling process beyond the statutory taxes prescribed by the Ministry, which she put at UGX 70,000. She warned implementers against demanding additional money from applicants.

The programme comes as Butambala continues to grapple with land disputes and insecurity. District leaders said some residents live with the fear of losing land through eviction, making documentation

an important part of strengthening land security.

District Chairperson Murishid Kangave and Chief Administrative Officer Muwonge Abdulnoor Mbaagwa welcomed the programme, saying it could provide relief to communities affected by uncertainty over land ownership.

Resident District Commissioner Moses Ddumba linked land conflicts to delays in development and called for consideration of other categories of land. He particularly urged the Ministry to consider Mailo land, citing concerns affecting bibanja holders.

That limitation is already generating debate within the district. The current programme is specifically designed for customary land, meaning people occupying government land and Mailo land will not benefit from this phase. Participants, led by Butambala Project Coordinator Mubiru Farooq, appealed for the programme to eventually cover other categories of land as well.

Kyomukama also urged local actors to address land-related challenges within communities where possible instead of immediately resorting to court, so that disputes do not undermine implementation.

With the first 500 beneficiaries targeted in Ngando, the project will provide an early test of whether systematic land documentation can translate into greater security for customary landholders—and whether lessons from the rollout can inform efforts to address wider land challenges in Butambala.

GOMBA AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION PROMOTES INNOVATION AND MARKET ACCESS

By Kimera Hannington, Communications Officer – Gomba District



An exhibition of different agro-processing machines being viewed by students

Gomba District has concluded its 2026 Agricultural Exhibition, held from September 15 to 17 at Gomba Ssaza in partnership with Gomba District Local Government.

The three-day exhibition brought together farmers, agricultural stakeholders, innovators, traders and service providers to promote improved production, innovation, value addition and market access.

District Production Officer Kiddu Ben urged farmers to treat agriculture as a business by improving productivity, adopting appropriate technologies and strengthening partnerships with extension workers, private-sector actors and other value-chain stakeholders.

He encouraged farmers to look beyond production and focus on the quality, value and marketability of their produce.

District Entomology Officer Nabulya Getrude sensitised farmers on beneficial insects, highlighting their role in pollination, natural pest control and environmental conservation. She also encouraged farmers interested in insect rearing to seek guidance from extension officers.

Meanwhile, District Agricultural Officer Sebabi William emphasised value addition, quality standards and post-harvest handling. He encouraged farmers to explore processing, proper packaging and collective marketing while producing according to market demand.

The exhibition also featured practical demonstrations of agricultural technologies and solutions aimed at improving productivity, processing and sustainable farming. Farmers had opportunities to exchange experiences, learn from one another and establish links with service providers and potential markets.

The event highlighted the importance of collaboration between Gomba Ssaza and the District Local Government in creating opportunities for farmers to access agricultural knowledge, innovation, technologies and markets.

The district now hopes farmers will translate the knowledge and partnerships gained during the exhibition into practical action to build more productive, sustainable and resilient agricultural value chains.



Farmers listening as extension work discusses coffee diseases and mitigations.


District entomology officer Nabulya getrude teaches students about beneficial insects

BISHOP URGES KYOTERA CIVIL SERVANTS TO UPHOLD INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE

By Ambrose Musasizi, Communications Officer, Kyotera District

The Bishop of West Buganda Diocese, the Rt Rev Gaster Nsereko, has urged civil servants in Kyotera District to uphold transparency, honesty, competence and a strong sense of responsibility as they execute their duties to the public.

Bishop Nsereko made the call on September 1, 2026, when he visited Kyotera District headquarters and led a prayer service attended by district officials and other civil servants.

He challenged public officers to regard their positions as a responsibility to the community rather than an opportunity for personal gain, saying both the Church and government have a common duty of serving the people.

"The Church and you people in service play the same role; we serve the community. Let us endeavour to do what the community expects from us," Bishop Nsereko said during his sermon.

He urged civil servants to work with citizens in a spirit of cooperation, humility and respect, saying effective service delivery requires public officers to understand and respond to the needs of the communities they serve.

The bishop also encouraged the officers to allow Christian values to guide their conduct, particularly when making decisions that directly affect the lives of members of the public.

He emphasised the importance of honesty and transparency in public



The Bishop (center) poses for a photo with other district officials

service, urging civil servants to remain accountable for their actions and to avoid practices that could undermine public trust in government institutions.

"Serve with a Godly heart and remember that the people you serve are the reason you are in those offices," he told the officials.

Before the prayer service, Bishop Nsereko toured various offices in the district administration block, where he interacted with staff and prayed for individual officers.

The visit provided an opportunity for the bishop to encourage employees to remain committed to their responsibilities while seeking spiritual guidance in their daily work.

The district Chief Finance Officer, CPA Robert Kyambadde, pledged the district's support for initiatives aimed at strengthening the relationship between the Church and civil servants.

Mr Kyambadde said prayers and spiritual guidance could help boost the morale of employees and provide them with encouragement as they deal with the demands of public service.

He said the district would explore the introduction of regular Church services for staff, with a proposal for services to be held at least once every fortnight.

"We believe that prayer and words of encouragement from the clergy can give our staff morale and strengthen them as they carry out their responsibilities," Mr Kyambadde said.

The proposed services are expected to provide civil servants with an opportunity to reflect on their responsibilities, seek spiritual guidance and encourage one another in serving the community.

The bishop's visit comes at a time when public institutions continue to emphasise accountability, ethical conduct and improved service delivery as key components of effective local governance.

Bishop Nsereko encouraged the officers to recognise that every interaction with a citizen contributes to the public's perception of government.

He therefore called for professionalism, competence and fairness in dealing with members of the public, regardless of their social or economic status.

He also urged civil servants to work together across departments, saying cooperation among government employees is essential if communities are to receive quality services.

The prayer service concluded with a call for district employees to combine professional competence with integrity and compassion as they serve the people of Kyotera.

The bishop's message left the officers with a reminder that public service is not only an administrative responsibility but also a commitment to improving the welfare of the communities they serve.

A NEW BEGINNING FOR MOTHERS AT KIRUMBA

By Ambrose Musasizi, Communications Officer, Kyotera District

For mothers in Kirumba and surrounding communities, childbirth is expected to become a safer and more dignified experience following the completion of a new maternity ward at Kirumba Health Centre III in Kyotera District.

For years, the health centre received expectant mothers in a facility whose maternity space could no longer match the growing demand for services. Health workers had limited space in which to attend to mothers, while the facility had only one delivery bed.

The situation has now changed.

A Shs551 million maternity ward has been constructed at the health centre, providing a more spacious environment for mothers, health workers and newborns. The project is expected to bring essential maternity services closer to communities and reduce the challenges mothers faced when seeking safe delivery services.

The facility was commissioned on Friday in a ceremony that brought together district leaders, health workers,



District officials, while at the function recently

development partners, local leaders and members of the community.

The project is a result of a partnership between Kyotera District Local Government, Babies and Mothers Alive (BAMA) and Kirumba Sub-county, while the Rotary Club of Muyenga Breeze supplied equipment worth Shs148 million.

For BAMA Board Chairperson Vincent Mayiga, the decision to support the project was driven by a simple observation: mothers were coming to Kirumba for maternity care, but the health centre did not have enough space or facilities to serve them comfortably.

"Mothers were coming here for maternity care, but the space was inadequate for health workers to serve them effectively. That justification drove the board to support this investment," Mr Mayiga said.

The new maternity ward is expected to give mothers a safer environment in which to deliver while also improving the ability of health workers to respond to emergencies.

A facility built around mothers

Kyotera District Health Officer Dr Edward Muwanga said the completion of the maternity ward marked another step in the district's efforts to improve maternal and newborn health services.

He said the district would ensure that the facility operates around the clock so that mothers can access services whenever they need them.

"As the head of the health department in the district, I pledge to ensure that a 24-hour service, seven days a week, is guaranteed to all mothers who access this maternity ward," Dr Muwanga said.

He added that health workers would be trained and supported to use the modern equipment installed at the facility and to respond appropriately to complicated deliveries and emergencies involving newborns.

Kirumba is also part of a broader investment in maternity services in the district. Dr Muwanga noted that maternity facilities had also been improved at Nangoma Health Centre III and Nsumba Health Centre III.

The aim is to ensure that mothers do not have to travel unnecessarily long distances to access essential maternal health services.

From infrastructure to saving lives

The new facility comes at a time when Uganda has made progress in reducing maternal and child deaths, but health authorities continue to face challenges in preventing deaths that can occur during pregnancy, childbirth and shortly after delivery.

Ministry of Health figures show that Uganda's maternal mortality ratio declined from 336 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2016 to 189 in 2022. Infant mortality declined from 43 deaths per 1,000 live births to 36 over the same period, while neonatal mortality reduced from 27 to 22 deaths per 1,000 live births.

However, complications such as severe bleeding after childbirth, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and complications arising from abortion remain major concerns.

The Director General of Health Services, Dr Charles Olaro, therefore urged health workers at Kirumba to ensure that the new facility translates into better care and improved outcomes for mothers and babies.

In a message delivered by Dr Richard Kabanda, the Commissioner for Health



Peter Sasira (center) the District Chairperson and members of his executive speaking to attendees at the commissioning of the maternity ward

Education and Promotion at the Ministry of Health, Dr Olaro emphasised that infrastructure alone cannot save lives unless it is matched with responsive and committed health workers.

"A unit cannot help mothers if workers are not responsive. Take extra care of them and manage cases of postpartum haemorrhage, eclampsia and neonatal complications to ensure that no life is lost," Dr Olaro said.

His message placed the spotlight on the people who will ultimately determine whether the new investment achieves its purpose.

The staffing question

As Kyotera expands health infrastructure, district leaders say the availability of health workers remains critical.

Chief Administrative Officer Muhammad Nfitumukiza said staffing shortages continued to affect service delivery in some health facilities and appealed for additional wage funding to enable the district to fill critical vacancies.

"As government intensifies efforts to improve infrastructure, our staff are doing whatever they can, but in some instances staffing gaps affect service delivery. We pray that the ministry investigates this matter and allocates more funds to enable the district to recruit for critical positions," Mr Nfitumukiza said.

Dr Kabanda said the government was also considering changes to the way

health workers in hospitals and Health Centre IVs are recruited, with a proposal to centralise the process currently at an advanced stage.

He said the proposed arrangement was intended to improve deployment, address absenteeism and ensure that health workers serve in areas where they are most needed.

A community investment

The Rotary Club of Muyenga Breeze President, Joseph Gavin Wanume, said the equipment supplied to Kirumba was intended to help prevent mothers from arriving at health facilities only to discover that essential equipment was unavailable.

He said the investment should remain dedicated to maternal and newborn services and cautioned against removing equipment from the maternity unit.

For the people of Kirumba and surrounding communities, however, the new ward represents more than a new building.

It represents the hope that a mother arriving at the health centre in labour will find space, skilled health workers and the equipment needed to give her and her baby the best possible chance of a safe delivery.

For district health authorities, the next chapter is therefore clear: keep the ward functional, ensure it has adequate staff and equipment, maintain the facility and make sure that every mother who walks through its doors receives timely and respectful care.

The new maternity ward has opened its doors. The challenge now is to ensure that every mother and newborn who comes through them benefits from the investment.

GOMBA DISTRICT COUNCIL HOLDS 29TH MEETING TO STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE DELIVERY

By Kimera Hannington, Communications Officer – Gomba District



Chairperson LCV George Abigaba delivers his speech

Gomba District Local Government has held the 29th Meeting of the 3rd Sitting of the 1st Session of the 4th District Council.

The meeting, which occurred on Thursday, 10 September 2026, at the District Headquarters, convened by the Office of the District Speaker, brought together the District Chairperson, Resident District Commissioner (RDC), councillors, District Executive, Chief Administrative Officer and other district stakeholders to discuss leadership, planning, budgeting and service delivery.

LCV Chairperson Abigaba George thanked councillors for their confidence in electing the Council Executive and urged the newly constituted leadership to work together to fulfil its responsibilities. He emphasised unity, cooperation and constructive engagement in addressing the needs of Gomba residents.

RDC Katende Ronald called for closer collaboration between political and technical leaders to advance the district's development agenda. He urged leaders to ensure that Council discussions and decisions translate into improved services and tangible benefits for communities.

Representing the Chief Administrative Officer, Kizito Martin presented the current district budget execution to Council, outlining expenditure and priority projects for the financial year. Councillors subsequently engaged on planning, resource allocation, accountability and issues affecting their respective communities.

The meeting marked another step in strengthening the leadership and oversight of the 4th District Council. Leaders reaffirmed the importance of collaboration among elected representatives, the RDC and technical staff in implementing approved plans, budgets and Council resolutions to improve service delivery across Gomba.



The Resident District Commissioner Katende Ronald speaking to the council.

GOMBA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR STRONGER ASSESSMENT AND TEACHER ACCOUNTABILITY

By Kimera Hannington, Communications Officer – Gomba District

The Gomba District Education Department has called on primary school headteachers to strengthen learner assessment and teacher accountability as schools begin the Third Term of the 2026 academic year.

The call was made on September 10, 2026, during the Beginning-of-Term Three Primary Headteachers' Meeting held at Kanoni UMEA Primary School. The meeting brought together headteachers from across the district to discuss key education service delivery standards aimed at improving teaching and learning.

Organised by the Gomba District Education Department, the meeting focused on strengthening school leadership, improving learner assessment and ensuring compliance with established standards for effective education service delivery.

District Education Officer Kalyango Godfrey, who led the sensitisation, urged headteachers to adopt the new assessment practices and ensure that learners are properly assessed throughout the term.

He emphasised that assessment information should be used to monitor learners' progress, identify learning gaps and provide timely interventions for pupils who require additional support.

Kalyango also stressed the importance of teacher attendance and accountability, calling on teachers to report to school consistently and fulfil their professional responsibilities. He noted that regular teacher attendance is essential to



The District Education Officer Kalyango Godfrey, explaining the assessment model to the teachers

ensuring learners receive adequate instructional time.

The department further emphasised the central role of headteachers in supervising teaching and learning, monitoring staff performance and ensuring that education standards are implemented effectively at school level.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for headteachers to receive guidance, share experiences and align their schools with the district's education priorities for the Third Term.

The Gomba District Education Department said it will continue engaging school leaders as part of efforts to strengthen accountability, improve learning environments and promote better education outcomes across the district.

GOMBA UCSATP STAKEHOLDERS STRENGTHEN BENEFICIARY REPORTING AND PROJECT SAFEGUARDS

By Kimera Hannington, Communications Officer – Gomba District

Stakeholders implementing the Uganda Climate Smart Agriculture Transformation Project (UCSATP) in Gomba District have called for stronger beneficiary reporting, monitoring, and environmental and social safeguards to improve the delivery and impact of the project.

The stakeholders made the call during a review meeting held on 1 September 2026 at Gomba District Headquarters, where they assessed progress, identified implementation gaps and set priorities for the continued delivery of UCSATP interventions in the district.

To date, 43 groups have benefited from UCSATP interventions in Gomba, including 42 coffee groups serving more than 1,000 farmers. The groups have received UGX 909 million in Government of Uganda funding, supplemented by UGX 229 million in contributions from farmers.

An additional entomology group has also benefited from the project.

Addressing the meeting, Gomba District Production Officer (DPO) Kiddu Ben commended the stakeholders for their work but urged them to strengthen documentation and follow-up of project beneficiaries.

He emphasized the importance of ensuring that every farmer or beneficiary receiving project inputs is properly recorded and monitored.

According to Kiddu, comprehensive beneficiary records will enable the district to track how inputs are being used and assess the impact of the support provided to farming communities.

The DPO also called for greater attention to environmental and social safeguards throughout project implementation.

He stressed the need for effective systems to identify, document, and resolve grievances arising during implementation, ensuring that



The District Production Officer, Kiddu Ben, briefs project stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards.

concerns from beneficiaries and other stakeholders are addressed in a timely and transparent manner.

The meeting brought together representatives from different departments of Gomba District Local Government, providing a platform to strengthen coordination and improve collaboration in implementing UCSATP activities.

UCSATP continues to support farmers through climate-smart agricultural practices, with a focus on strengthening agricultural value chains, improving productivity and building resilience among farming communities.

In Gomba, the support for coffee groups is particularly significant given the large number of farmers benefiting from interventions aimed at improving agricultural production and livelihoods.

The district stakeholders' commitment to improved reporting, beneficiary monitoring, safeguards, and grievance management is expected to strengthen accountability and help ensure that project resources reach their intended beneficiaries.

As implementation continues, district authorities and project stakeholders are expected to maintain close coordination to ensure that UCSATP interventions remain aligned with Gomba District's agricultural priorities while contributing to more productive, sustainable, and climate-resilient farming communities.

KALANGALA: FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT TO STRONGER LOCAL GOVERNANCE

By Ntabaazi Geoffrey Nsumba, Communication Officer – Kalangala District

What began as an effort to address waste management in Kalangala has evolved into a wider partnership focused on strengthening local government systems, revenue mobilisation, economic development and citizen participation.

For more than a decade, Kalangala District has worked with Dutch local-government actors, including the municipality of De Ronde Venen and the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), to address development challenges and strengthen the district's capacity to deliver services.

One of the partnership's earliest interventions focused on waste management in Kalangala Town, where limited waste collection had created environmental and public-health concerns. Support for equipment, waste collection and capacity building helped the town move towards more organised waste management, including garbage banks and organised landfill arrangements.

The experience demonstrated how practical local-government cooperation could produce visible improvements while laying the foundation for a broader focus on institutional capacity and local ownership.

Over time, VNG-supported interventions expanded to include own-source



The VNG Kalangala Focal Point Person David and VNG Engagement Officer James with the Senior Community Development Officer Jude Musaazi in a Kalangala TC Community Baraza Supported by VNG International.

revenue mobilisation, local economic development, leadership, planning and citizen participation.

One notable area has been revenue mobilisation, where the introduction of digitised own-source revenue collection is reported to have contributed to an increase in revenue from Shs500 million to Shs900 million over a three-year period.

Chief Administrative Officer Richard Ssebandeke said the lasting value of external support lies in strengthening systems that the district can continue using after individual projects end.

"The important thing is that support should strengthen the capacity of the district. The systems, knowledge and practices introduced must become part of our normal way of working."

This approach is central to the Sustainable Development through Improved Local Governance (SDLG) programme, launched in Uganda in 2022 with support from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In Kalangala, the programme has focused on local revenue mobilisation, economic development, leadership, governance and community participation.

VNG Focal Point Person David Kiwanuka said the emphasis has been on strengthening existing district systems rather than creating dependence.

The partnership has also supported local economic development, including an orientation in 2023 on Uganda's National Strategy for Local Economic Development that brought together government, private-sector and civil-society stakeholders.

Other areas of support include a functional Local Economic Development and Investment Committee, operationalisation of the Tourism Master Plan, capacity building for political leaders, public-private partnerships and community barazas.

As the current SDLG programme approaches its conclusion in 2026, the central question for Kalangala is whether the systems, skills and partnerships developed will continue to function beyond external support.



The Deputy RDC Mr. Ssebunya Hennry taking lead in the same Baraza.

KALANGALA UNITES STAKEHOLDERS TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH RESPONSE FOR HIV/AIDS AND MEASLES-RUBELLA

By Ntabaazi Geoffrey Nsumba, Communications Officer, Kalangala District

Kalangala District is strengthening coordination among political leaders, health authorities, civil society, development partners and communities to tackle HIV/AIDS and ensure eligible children across the islands are reached during the Measles-Rubella Follow-up Mass Vaccination Campaign coming soon.

Kalangala's unique geography, fishing communities, population mobility and difficult access to some islands make coordinated health action essential.

On HIV, Dr Maureen Kwikiriza of the Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) presented the national HIV mainstreaming framework and called for stronger action at local-government level.

Dr Kwikiriza emphasised that HIV prevention cannot be left to the health sector alone, urging government institutions and development partners to play their part in reducing vulnerability, expanding prevention services and supporting people living with HIV.

The District Chairperson is expected to provide political leadership and community mobilisation, while the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) will support coordination and accountability among government departments, civil society and partners.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) has a key role in ensuring HIV mainstreaming is incorporated into district planning through functional HIV committees, focal



The political leaders, technical leaders, health authorities, civil society, development partners. Standing in the middle from the left in a blue suit is the RDC, followed by the PAS and Chairperson LCV in a brown dress after the two blended meetings.

persons, workplace policies, reporting and compliance with the 0.1 percent HIV mainstreaming allocation under budget code 000013.

The District Health Officer (DHO) provides technical leadership for HIV prevention and treatment services, including testing, condom programming, PrEP and PEP, PMTCT, voluntary medical male circumcision and referrals.

Civil society organisations, including TASO, KAFOPHAN, KADINGO, MADDO, BIDA, Hope for Hopeless, Uganda Red Cross, OJR Hope Foundation and Maria Theresa Foundation Kalangala, are expected to strengthen community mobilisation, psychosocial support, adherence, stigma reduction and referrals.

Meanwhile, the district is preparing for the Measles-Rubella Follow-up Mass Vaccination Campaign, with a coordination meeting held at Kalangala District Headquarters on Buggala Island planning for a launch on 25th September 2026 combined with sensitisation for the National Cleaning Days. (NCDs)

The meeting was chaired by RDC Hon. Fred Badda, and attended by CAO's, representative Principal Assistant Secretary Mr. Sebuuma Charistopher, LCV Chairperson Ms. Agnes Lunkuse, the Deputy RDC, the District Health Team lead by the DHO, Heads of Departments and implementing partners.

The campaign will target eligible children aged nine months to under five years, with the district aiming to reach children across all 84 islands.

The CAO's representative called for intensified mobilisation, timely communication and accurate identification of target populations on each island, while urging stakeholders to address challenges such as water transport and hard-to-reach landing sites.

"Accountability starts now. This is part of the preparatory and planning meeting. Let's ensure that all activities are implemented and all expected submissions are made on time."

The LCV Chairperson pledged political mobilisation through LC1, LC2 and LC3 structures, while the RDC's office assured stakeholders of security and mobilisation support.

Across both initiatives, district leaders emphasised teamwork, accountability and community participation as essential to delivering health services in Kalangala.

For a district spread across numerous islands, the message is clear: strong coordination and locally led action are critical to preventing new HIV infections and ensuring every eligible child is reached with life-saving vaccination.

KAMPALA UNIVERSITY'S MASAKA CAMPUS FOCUSES ON SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITY

By Brian Mugenyi, Guest Writer

Kampala University's Masaka Campus is positioning itself as a regional centre for accessible, skills-oriented higher education, serving thousands of students through full-time and in-service programmes.

Established in 2002 in New Kkumbu along the Masaka-Kyotera Road, the campus currently has 2,556 students, including 1,080 full-time learners and 1,476 in-service students. Many in-service students attend weekend classes while continuing to work.

During a recent visit, Vice-Chancellor Professor Badru Dungu Kateregga challenged students to use their education to create opportunities rather than rely solely on formal employment.

"You are trained to create opportunities."

The message reflects the university's emphasis on Competence-Based Education and Training (CBET), which focuses on practical coursework, projects, internships, practicum and continuous assessment.

In journalism classes, lecturer Wilson Kutamba engages students with the changing media environment, where smartphones, social media and artificial intelligence are transforming content production and distribution. Meanwhile, Microeconomics lecturer Hamida Naluyima uses questions about needs, wants, scarcity and choice to connect economic theory with everyday life.

Campus Director Ibrahim Ssengendo and Campus Administrator Adaun Daniel oversee academic and administrative operations, including registration, examinations, records and student services.

Student Harriet Nakachwa, who began with a diploma in Social Work and Social Administration in 2024 and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree, said affordable and manageable fees, regular lectures and timely release of marks have supported her studies.

Kampala University also participates in the Higher Education Students Financing Scheme administered by the Ministry of Education and Sports, providing an additional avenue for eligible students seeking financial support.

The university held its 23rd graduation ceremony on April 23, 2026, graduating 3,514 students across degree, diploma and certificate programmes. It said graduates received academic transcripts on the same day, a measure intended to reduce delays when seeking employment or further education.

The institution also conducted its February-May 2026 end-of-semester examinations from May 17 to June 7 across its five campuses: Ggaba Main, Luweero, Jinja, Masaka and Mutundwe.

For Masaka Campus, however, growth is accompanied by the challenge of maintaining academic quality, effective assessment and reliable student support as enrolment expands.

With students also participating in guild elections and cultural associations, the campus provides opportunities for leadership, interaction and civic engagement beyond classroom learning.

Ultimately, the campus's impact will be measured not only by enrolment and graduation figures, but by what graduates do after leaving university — whether they secure employment, create enterprises, conduct research, improve services or contribute to their communities.

For the students attending classes each weekend, the campus remains a place where education is expected to become more than a certificate: knowledge, competence and practical skills that can translate into opportunity.

KYOTERA: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM, THE BATTLE FOR BETTER PLE RESULTS

By Ambrose Musasizi, Communications Officer, Kyotera District Local Government



The Deputy RDC Mathias Kagugube speaking to Headteachers during a recent meeting

When Primary Leaving Examination results are eventually released, they will appear as grades and figures. But in Kyotera District, education leaders say those results are shaped long before pupils enter the examination room.

For some learners, the challenge begins at home. Some arrive at school late after doing household chores, while others attend classes without food and struggle to concentrate. In some schools, teachers are stretched by large enrolments, while those serving hard-to-reach communities face transport and accommodation challenges.

These concerns emerged during a September 10, 2026 meeting between

Kyotera District education leaders and headteachers as schools prepared learners for the November Primary Leaving Examinations.

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Mathias Kagugube Mulindwa challenged headteachers to use the third term to strengthen supervision, ensure teacher availability and give candidates the support they need.

One of the clearest challenges is staffing.

At Kilembwe Primary School, Headteacher Joseph Kikulwe said nearly 300 pupils are being served by only five teachers. He said the imbalance makes it difficult for teachers to give individual attention to learners, particularly when one teacher is absent.

The challenge is more pronounced in hard-to-reach areas such as Minziiro, where headteachers reported difficulties attracting and retaining teachers because of long distances, unreliable transport and inadequate accommodation.

But the pressures on learning do not end at the school gate.

Headteachers said some pupils arrive late after helping with domestic chores, while hunger affects concentration and can contribute to absenteeism. They called on parents to recognise education as a shared responsibility and create conditions that enable children to attend school regularly and ready to learn.

Despite these challenges, Kyotera has demonstrated that its learners can compete at a high level. District Sports Officer John Ssebuuma reported that the district's teams finished second among 157 districts at the national ball games competitions held in Masindi.

Kagugube challenged schools to bring the same determination seen on the sports field into academic work.

District Education Officer Lawrence Ssekyondwa urged headteachers to strengthen instructional leadership by regularly monitoring classroom teaching, supporting teachers and identifying learning gaps early.

District Chairperson Peter Asiimwe Saasira said the district expects schools to pursue excellence while also providing support where challenges persist.

As Kyotera approaches the November PLE, the message from the education leadership is clear: improving examination results will require more than demanding higher marks. It will require teachers who can teach, headteachers who lead, parents who support learning and communities that create an environment in which children can thrive.

LWENGO FARMER TURNS PDM SUPPORT INTO PROFITABLE PIGGERY

By Ssekabira Peters, Communication Officer- Lwengo District



A photo of some of kityamuwesi's Pigs as at 11/08/2025

For Kityamuwesi John, a farmer in Kyengeza Village, Lwengo Ward, a UGX 1 million investment under the Parish Development Model (PDM) has provided the capital he needed to expand his piggery and begin building additional sources of income.

Kityamuwesi was already keeping a few pigs on a small scale before receiving the PDM support. Although he had basic structures in place, limited capital prevented him from expanding the enterprise.

When he received the UGX 1 million, he invested UGX 800,000 in two high-yielding pigs, buying each at UGX 400,000, and used the remaining UGX 200,000 to purchase feeds.

The investment soon began generating returns.

The two pigs produced 24 piglets, 16 of which Kityamuwesi later sold at UGX 100,000 each, earning UGX 1.6 million. He retained the remaining eight piglets for fattening and breeding, allowing him to continue growing his herd.

"I bought two high-breed pigs at UGX 400,000 each. I used the remaining UGX 200,000 to purchase quality feeds to ensure the pigs grow well," he says.

Encouraged by the returns, Kityamuwesi has continued reinvesting in his piggery. He has also started growing coffee, using income generated from the enterprise to diversify his household's sources of income.

"Through the profits from piggery, I

have now started planting coffee as an additional source of income," he says.

Kityamuwesi, however, says pig farming still comes with significant challenges. The high cost of quality feeds affects farmers' ability to maintain healthy and fast-growing animals, while African swine fever remains a major threat to piggery enterprises.

"Swine fever is a big fear for us farmers. It can destroy your entire investment in a matter of days," he says.

He is calling for continued extension support, including farmer training on disease prevention and access to affordable feeds.

For Kityamuwesi, the experience demonstrates the importance of putting productive capital into an enterprise and reinvesting the returns.

"I call upon my fellow Ugandans to embrace the Parish Development Model. If we work hard and use the support well, we can uplift our standards of living and meet our basic needs," he says.

His experience offers one example of how targeted investment in livestock can help rural households build income-generating enterprises, diversify their livelihoods and gradually expand their economic activities.

LWENGO FARMERS TURN TO LOCAL FEED PRODUCTION TO CUT FISH FARMING COSTS

By Ssekabira Peters, Communication Officer – Lwengo District

Fish farmers in Lwengo District are being equipped with skills to produce their own feeds from locally available materials, an initiative aimed at lowering production costs and making aquaculture a more profitable source of income for households.

The district Production Department, through its Fisheries Sector, recently trained small- and medium-scale fish farmers and aquaculture youth groups in Nkunyu Parish on simple methods of formulating affordable, nutrient-rich feeds.

The intervention responds to the high cost of commercial feeds, which fisheries officials say can account for more than half of the total cost of fish production.

Fisheries Officer Nabanja Resty said the growing number of farmers establishing fish ponds has created a need for production methods that are affordable and sustainable.

"One of the biggest challenges fish farmers face is the high cost of commercial feeds," Nabanja said, adding that locally formulated feeds can be made using ingredients readily available within communities.

She encouraged farmers to adopt the practice to reduce expenditure and improve the profitability of their enterprises.

Assistant Fisheries Officer Nakuya Angella demonstrated the feed formulation process during the training, giving farmers practical skills they can apply in their own ponds.



Assistant Fisheries Officer Nakuya Angella demonstrates how to formulate fish feeds using locally available materials during a training session for farmers in Nkunyu Parish

For farmers such as Nabaka Madina of Nkunyu Village, the training offers a practical response to one of the biggest challenges facing her enterprise.

"The feeds available on the market are too expensive for farmers like us," she said. "Learning how to make our own feed using affordable ingredients is a huge relief."

Nabaka appealed for more training in pond management, disease control and post-harvest handling to help farmers improve their skills and productivity.

District Production Officer Nandawula Allen urged more households, particularly youth and women, to consider fish farming as an investment, citing sustained demand for fish in local and regional markets.

She said fisheries extension workers are available to support farmers through the different stages of production, from pond preparation to harvesting.

The district also plans to strengthen farmers' access to markets as aquaculture expands, ensuring increased production is matched with reliable buyers.

With farmers gaining skills in feed production alongside technical support from extension workers, Lwengo District hopes to build a stronger aquaculture sector that contributes to household incomes, food security and employment.

MASAKA CITY LEADERS INSPECT PROJECTS, BOUNDARIES IN FAMILIARISATION TOUR

By Augustine Bukululu, Communications Officer- Masaka City

Masaka City political leaders and technical staff have embarked on a familiarisation and monitoring exercise aimed at acquainting newly elected councillors with the city's boundaries, ongoing projects and service delivery challenges.

The exercise, held on September 16, was led by Masaka City Mayor Florence Namayanja and Speaker of the City Council Mawanda Achiles, alongside the technical team headed by Town Clerk Hajj Authman Ssebadduka.

Mawanda said the exercise was important for the new council, particularly because some areas previously under Masaka District were annexed to the city.

"As the new council begins its term, it is important for councillors to understand the boundaries of the city, know the projects being implemented and appreciate the challenges faced by residents. This will enable us to effectively perform our oversight role and ensure accountability to the people we represent," he said.



Inspectation team at the site in Kitabiro where the City headquarters are being constructed

The team started the exercise at Bulando dumping site, the gazetted area where garbage collected from different parts of the city is disposed of.

During the visit, the leaders observed that some contracted garbage collection companies were not properly disposing of waste, resulting in disorganised littering within the site.

The mayor directed the relevant technical officers to ensure that garbage collectors follow proper disposal procedures and urged the physical planning department to immediately open up and clearly mark the boundaries of the dumping site to prevent encroachment.

The team also inspected Njumaga Bridge in Nyendo-Mukungwe Division, which connects Masaka City to Masaka District through Buwunga Sub-county.

They later visited Kyenvubu Swamp, another area linking the city to neighbouring Kyotera District, where the leaders inspected access routes and areas bordering the city.

Namayanja said improving access roads is among the priorities of her administration, noting that better roads would improve connectivity and create opportunities for residents to engage in trade and other economic activities.

She said the city needed to clearly open and secure its boundaries to prevent disputes and encroachment, particularly in areas bordering Masaka, Lwengo and Kyotera districts.

The team also inspected several ongoing projects and facilities, including Kako Water Reservoir, Nyendo-Mukungwe Seed Secondary School, Tarbouk Secondary School, Kisenyi-Kyanakase Road, Nambilizi-Kitanga Road, Kyamuyimbwa Primary School and Kiyumba Health Centre IV.

At Kiyumba Health Centre IV, the only facility at the health centre IV level in the city, councillors noted the need for additional infrastructure and improvement of existing structures.

They also raised concern over the staffing levels at the facility, saying the workforce had not increased in line with the elevation of the health centre to the IV level.

The councillors, led by the Speaker, called for the necessary interventions to improve both infrastructure and staffing so that the facility can effectively serve the growing population.

The monitoring exercise ended at the ongoing construction of Masaka City headquarters in Kitabiro, where Her Worship the Mayor expressed concern over the slow pace of construction.

She urged the contractor to increase the pace of work, saying the city is currently operating from limited office space.

“Masaka City is operating with very limited office space. We therefore need the contractor to double the effort and ensure that this project is completed within the required time,” Namayanja said.

The Town Clerk Ssebadduka welcomed the monitoring exercise, saying it had come at an appropriate time, especially as he was still familiarising himself with the city after assuming office.

He said the exercise has enabled him to understand the city’s boundaries, inspect ongoing projects and identify projects that were yet to be completed and commissioned.

"From the technical point of view, i have identified a number of challenges during this exercise. And I will ensure that the necessary interventions are made so that the people of Masaka City can benefit from the services and projects being implemented," Ssebadduka said.

It should be noted that Masaka City was created in 2020 and comprises two divisions, Nyendo-Mukungwe and Kimanya-Kabonera, with 25 wards and 201 cells.

The city's vision is to become "a highly liveable, vibrant agro-economically based city with prosperous people by 2040", while its mission is to provide coordinated, acceptable, affordable and accessible wealth-enhancing services to the people for sustainable livelihoods.



Njumaga bridge that connects Masaka city to Masaka district

MINISTER NAMEERE URGES MASAKA CITY TO CHAMPION EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE DELIVERY

By Augustine Bukululu, Communications Officer, Masaka City

The Minister of State for Local Government, Hon. Justine Nameere Nsubuga as well member of parliament for Masaka City, has challenged Masaka City technical leaders to transform the city into a model of effective service delivery and accountable local governance.

Nameere made the call on September 11 during a self-assessment meeting with the Masaka City technical team at the city headquarters, where the performance of various departments was reviewed and challenges affecting service delivery to residents examined.

The minister told public servants that the changing public service environment demands a new mindset, urging them to abandon the belief that government employment guarantees them a permanent and pensionable career regardless of performance.

"The attitude of public servants thinking that they are permanent and pensionable needs to change. Things are different now in this 'Kisanja hakuna kulala,'" Nameere said.

She challenged technical officers to take greater responsibility for their respective departments, work as a team and ensure that government programmes and resources translate into tangible



Some of the technical staff who attended the meeting during the ministers engagement with the technical staff in Masaka city

benefits for residents of Masaka City.

The meeting also exposed staffing gaps that continue to affect the city's ability to deliver essential services.

The Acting Town Clerk, Ssebadduka Authman, said the city is facing critical recruitment gaps, particularly in physical planning at division level and in the production department.

He said the shortage of personnel is affecting the city's capacity to effectively execute its mandate and respond to the growing demands of residents.

The assessment also scrutinised key services, including health, environmental management, garbage collection and road maintenance.

On environmental management, Nameere called for stronger measures to improve garbage collection and disposal, saying a clean city is central to the wellbeing of residents and the image of Masaka.

She also demanded proper accountability in the utilisation of the Road Fund, urging the technical team to ensure that money allocated for road maintenance produces visible improvements on the city's roads.

The minister further directed the Production Officer to address challenges affecting the implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM).She called for closer monitoring and follow-up to ensure that the programme benefits the intended beneficiaries and contributes to improved household incomes.

Nameere said issues identified during the service delivery inspection and anti-corruption drive involving Hon. Balamu should not end up as mere entries in official reports.She stressed that every gap identified should be followed by concrete action. "The challenges identified must result in action and not

simply be captured in reports," she said.

The minister urged the technical leadership to treat the assessment as an opportunity to improve rather than merely an exercise of identifying shortcomings. She said Masaka City has the potential to demonstrate how responsive, accountable and coordinated local government leadership can improve the lives of citizens.

Nameere further challenged the city's technical officers to take ownership of their responsibilities and work together to close the identified gaps. Her message was clear: the performance of a local government should ultimately be measured not by the number of reports produced, but by the quality of services residents receive.

Minister said that she wants Masaka City to become a model of best service delivery, where government programmes, resources and policies are translated into visible improvements for the people of Masaka city to benefit.

The meeting was also attended by officers from security including the Regional police commander, Police spokesperson and division police commanders.

SEMBABULE: DEAF DAY CALLS FOR SERVICES THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE

By Namuddu Aminah, Communications Officer, Sembabule District



State Minister for Health Hajat Anifa Kawoya and MTN staff at the International DEAF Day Sembabule play ground

Sembabule District has used the national commemoration of the International Week of Deaf People to call for stronger measures to ensure Deaf people can access education, public services and economic opportunities without communication barriers.

The celebrations, held at the Sembabule District Local Government Grounds on 18 September 2026, brought together Deaf people, parents, teachers, leaders and community members under the theme "Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights: Innovations that Guarantee Access to Social Services and Empowerment."

A central message from the event was the need to move inclusion from policy commitments to practical services. Leaders called for sign-language interpreters in public institutions so that Deaf people can communicate with service providers and access government programmes on an equal basis.

The call also extended to education, where leaders urged stronger support for Deaf learners, including inclusive learning environments and greater attention to their progression through school.

Parents were encouraged to support Deaf children to remain in school and participate fully in society. The message was clear: hearing disability should not determine a child's access to education or future contribution to national development.

Education emerged as one of the most immediate areas requiring local action. Sembabule District LCV Chairperson Nkarubo Patrick was recognised for proposing land for the establishment of a secondary school for Deaf learners in the district. The proposal, if taken forward, could help address the transition challenges facing Deaf learners after primary education.

Hon. Soddo Ainne Kaguta, Member of Parliament, also encouraged persons with disabilities to participate in



(R-L) MP Nambazira Florence, MP Soddo Ainne Kaguta, RDC Jane Francis Kagayi and District Chairperson Nkarubo Patrick during the International DEAF day celebrations at Sembabule District pray ground

government programmes that can support their livelihoods. He pledged to engage SACCOs on ways of extending financial support to persons with disabilities.

Another call was for the recruitment of more Deaf teachers, with Hon. Oswaldo Dez Byuma, Member of Parliament, arguing that increasing the number of Deaf teachers could strengthen educational opportunities for Deaf learners.

The celebrations also highlighted the importance of accountability in disability programmes. Leaders called on government officials to ensure funds intended for persons with disabilities reach the intended beneficiaries, while district authorities were urged to give persons with disabilities proper consideration during budgeting.

For Sembabule, the commemoration therefore provided more than an opportunity to celebrate Deaf people. It placed practical questions of accessibility, education, public-service communication and economic empowerment at the centre of the district's development agenda.

The challenge now is to translate these commitments into services that Deaf people can experience in their schools, health facilities, public offices and communities.

SEMBABULE DISTRICT HOLDS PDM REVIEW MEETING

By Namuddu Aminah, Communications Officer, Sembabule District

Sembabule District Local Government held a Parish Development Model (PDM) review meeting at the District Headquarters to assess the progress of the programme, address challenges and strengthen implementation for improved service delivery to beneficiaries.

The meeting brought together District and Sub-County officials, Parish Chiefs and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of PDM.

The Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Kagayi Jane Francis, called upon Sub-County Chiefs and Parish Chiefs to remain transparent and accountable while handling PDM funds. She warned officials against tampering with the funds, emphasizing that misuse of public resources is a crime punishable under the law.

"I call upon all Sub-County Chiefs and Parish Chiefs to be transparent when handling PDM funds. Tampering with these funds is a crime, and whoever does it will be punished according to the law," RDC Kagayi said.

She also appreciated all officials and stakeholders who have worked hard to make the PDM programme successful in Sembabule District, encouraging them to maintain the same commitment.

The District Production Officer, Byarugaba Simon, called upon all Parish Chiefs to reflect on their performance and "repent" from any practices that may be affecting the successful implementation of PDM.

"I call upon all Parish Chiefs to repent, correct the mistakes and do the



Sembabule District Sub County Chiefs, Parish Chiefs and Production technical team during the PDM review meeting at the District headquarters.

necessary work required to ensure that PDM succeeds. We must all play our part to achieve the objectives of this programme," Byarugaba said.

The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO), Kizza Richard, addressed the congregation on the importance of performing their duties diligently, emphasizing teamwork, accountability, proper monitoring and close follow-up of PDM beneficiaries.

"For this programme to succeed, everyone must perform their responsibilities well. We need proper monitoring, accountability and teamwork so that the intended beneficiaries can benefit from PDM," Kizza said.

The PDM Focal Person, Kusaasira Ben, provided an update on the status of PDM implementation in Sembabule District. He explained that the district currently has 64 PDM SACCOs, covering 7,273 households, of which 2,014 are registered and 2,351 are beneficiaries.

Kusaasira also explained the slight changes in the registration of PDM beneficiaries under the WENDI programme, guiding officials on the new procedures to ensure that beneficiary information is properly captured and updated.

The meeting emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, accurate registration, effective monitoring and proper implementation of PDM activities to ensure that the programme contributes to household income improvement and socio-economic transformation in Sembabule District.

District leaders urged all PDM implementers to work together and put the interests of beneficiaries first to ensure that government resources achieve their intended purpose.



DCAO Kizza Richard and District Production Officer addressing the Sub County Chiefs and Parish Chiefs on PDM

SEMBABULE LAUNCHES ONLINE INITIATIVE TO BOOST DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND TALENT VISIBILITY

By Namuddu Aminah, Communications Officer, Sembabule District

Sembabule District Local Government has launched the Sembabule Online Initiative at the District Headquarters, aimed at promoting digital transformation, improving access to information and increasing the visibility of local talent, businesses and development activities.

The initiative brings together digital technology and community development with a focus on empowering residents across the district through online platforms.

Speaking during the launch, Managing Director of RAPCIO, Namyalo Florence, said the initiative will use technology to promote sports and expose local talent to wider audiences.

"RAPCIO empowers sports through technology, and through the Sembabule Online Initiative, we shall promote talent visibility. Our young people have talent, and technology gives them an opportunity to showcase it beyond Sembabule," Namyalo said.

She encouraged young people and sports enthusiasts to embrace the platform and use digital technology



DCAO Kizza Richard and District Production Officer addressing the Sub County Chiefs and Parish Chiefs on PDM

to promote their talents and create opportunities.

The Managing Director of CYBROID Technologies, Mayanja Joshua, said digital transformation is changing the way people communicate, work and conduct business.

"Technology is changing the way we do things. We need to embrace digital transformation and equip our people with the knowledge and skills required to benefit from the opportunities created by technology," Mayanja said.

Kyeyune James also encouraged the community to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the digital platform, noting that technology can help connect Sembabule to a wider audience.

The Manager of Sembabule Online Initiative, James, said the platform is intended to give Sembabule a stronger digital presence while creating a space where information, talent and local activities can be showcased.

"Sembabule Online Initiative is a platform for our people. We want to bring Sembabule closer to the digital world and ensure that our talents, businesses, activities and achievements are visible," James said.

Meanwhile, Mbabule FM Manager, Razak, appreciated the initiative and called upon everyone to embrace digital transformation.

"I appreciate this application. The world is changing at a very high speed, and everyone needs to embrace digital transformation. Because of new technologies, there will be job insecurity, so everyone should shift to digital and acquire new skills," Razak said.

He urged young people and workers to continuously learn and adapt to emerging technologies so that they can remain relevant in the changing digital environment.

Sembabule District Chief Administrative Officer, Magumba Eria, appreciated the opportunity presented by the initiative and welcomed the use of technology to strengthen communication and promote development in the district.

"We appreciate this opportunity because digital platforms can help us communicate better, showcase what Sembabule has to offer and bring information closer to our people," Magumba said.

The launch brought together district officials, technology stakeholders, media representatives, sports enthusiasts, young people and other community members.

The Sembabule Online Initiative is expected to promote local talent, particularly in sports, increase the visibility of businesses and community activities, and provide a platform for sharing information about Sembabule with audiences beyond the district.

The initiative also seeks to contribute to the district's broader goal of digital, local, social, economic and personal transformation by encouraging residents to embrace technology and participate in the digital economy.

SEMBABULE LEADERS INSPECT GOV'T PROJECTS IN NTUUSI, LWEMIYAGA

By Namuddu Aminah, Communications Officer, Sembabule District

Sembabule District has conducted a Multi-Joint Monitoring and Evaluation exercise in Ntuusi and Lwemiyaga Sub Counties to assess the implementation and impact of Government projects and programmes.

The exercise was led by RDC Jane Francis Kagayi, together with DISO Biraro Exavier, CAO Magumba Eria, District Production Officer Byarugaba Simon, District Veterinary Officer Ssali Angello, District Councillors and the technical team.

The team visited several agricultural enterprises, including Muhuku Bayinomugisa Farm at Sagazi, Ntuusi Town Council, Matooke farmer Ishabo Jackson at Nyabitanga, Kiyombo Herbert at Kitoke, who combines banana and coffee farming with Pakhongo grass for silage, and Gasuzza Andrew, a coffee farmer with about 25 acres at Tangiriza, Lwemiyaga.

RDC Jane Francis Kagayi said monitoring is important in ensuring that Government interventions produce tangible results in communities.

"We are here to see what Government programmes are doing on the ground, listen to the beneficiaries and identify areas that need improvement. Our



RDC Jane Francis Kagayi,CAO Magumba Eria and Hon Muwezi David examine silage feeds for cattle at Dr.Muhuku's farm at Sagazi Ntuusi Town Council

people must benefit from these programmes and use them to improve their livelihoods," Kagayi said.

CAO Magumba Eria emphasized the importance of joint monitoring by political leaders, technical officers and security officials.

"This exercise helps us to verify what is happening on the ground, appreciate good performance and address gaps where they exist. We must ensure that Government programmes achieve their intended objectives," Magumba said.

At Sagazi, farmer Muhuku Bayinomugisa shared his experience with the monitoring team, saying the visit gave him an opportunity to explain the progress and challenges affecting his farm.

"We appreciate the leaders for coming to see what we are doing on the ground. This kind of monitoring encourages us to continue improving our farming activities," Muhuku said.

Matooke farmer Ishabo Jackson said banana farming remains an important source of livelihood for his household.

"Matooke is helping us to earn income and support our families. We welcome the technical guidance because it helps us improve production," Ishabo said.

Farmer Kiyombo Herbert explained that integrating different enterprises has helped him make better use of his farm.

"I grow bananas and coffee, and I also grow Pakhongo grass which I use to make silage for my cows. Combining crop and livestock farming helps us to use the available resources better," Kiyombo said.

Coffee farmer Gasuzza Andrew, who has about 25 acres under coffee at Tangiriza, said continued technical support is important for sustaining coffee production.

"Coffee requires proper management if we are to get good yields. We appreciate the district team for coming to our farms and giving us guidance," Gasuzza said.

The monitoring exercise highlighted the role of agriculture, livestock and coffee production in improving household incomes and supporting socio-economic transformation in Sembabule District.



Friesian cows at Dr. Muhuku's farm at Sagazi, Ntusi Town Council being fed on silages

SEMBABULE WARNS OF FOOD INSECURITY AS DRY SPELL HITS LIVESTOCK

By Namuddu Aminah, Communications Officer, Sembabule District

Sembabule District Production Department has warned of possible food insecurity as a prolonged dry spell affects livestock and farmers increasingly replace food crops with coffee plantations.

The warning was made during a Production Review Meeting held on 23rd September 2026 at the District Headquarters, attended by Assistant RDC, Coordinator OWC,Deputy CAO, Production staff, veterinary officers and extension workers.

District Veterinary Officer Ssali Angello said the dry spell has caused shortage of pasture, animal deaths and a sharp decline in milk production.

"We have not received enough rains. We are experiencing a dry spell, and many animals are dying due to lack of pasture. Milk production has also gone very low," Ssali said.

He urged farmers to properly prepare and use silage to sustain livestock during the dry period.

Ssali also cautioned farmers against abandoning food crops for coffee, warning that this could threaten household food security.

"Food insecurity may affect our communities in the near future if everyone concentrates on coffee and abandons food crops," he cautioned.

Veterinary team praised for controlling FMD



DPO Byarugaba Simon addressing the Veterinary officers in the review meeting

Assistant RDC Brian commended DVO Ssali Angello and the veterinary team for their efforts in controlling Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in the district.

"I appreciate the work done by the Veterinary Department in curbing FMD in Sembabule. Whenever you face challenges, always approach the RDC's office so that we can see how to support you," Brian said.

PDM beneficiaries to be carefully selected

District Production Officer Byarugaba Simon urged extension workers to properly select, guide and monitor beneficiaries under the Parish Development Model (PDM).

Operation Wealth Creation Officer Rtd Carno Namanya Steven similarly called for careful beneficiary selection, regular farm visits and proper record keeping.

"Extension workers must be very observant when selecting PDM beneficiaries. Farm visits should be a routine measure, and records must be properly kept for future consultation and follow-up," Namanya said.

The meeting also addressed rabies vaccination records, livestock breeding, fisheries management, bee production and environmental protection.

DCAO Kizza Richard called for stronger coordination among production staff, veterinary officers, fisheries officers, entomology staff and extension workers to improve agricultural productivity and service delivery in Sembabule.



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