Katonga Post

District Communicators' Newsletter

"Your Trusted monthly Source from South & Central Buganda"



Feature Story

MASAKA CITY'S SHS 32BN WASTE PROJECT SEEKS TO TURN RUBBISH INTO WEALTH

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Editor's Note

Welcome to the October edition of Katonga Post.

This issue asks a simple question: what do public programmes change for people on the ground? In Masaka City, a Shs32bn project aims to turn rubbish into resources, while new roads, lights and clinics will be judged by how long they last. Lyantonde shows what accountable revenue collection can achieve, with local revenue nearly tripling.

Other stories look at care and protection. Bukomansimbi is tackling feeding problems that threaten children with disabilities and training para-social workers for child protection. Kalangala brings services closer to island residents, from procurement reform to civil marriage.

Livelihoods feature strongly. In Kyotera, fishermen and leaders debate how to protect the lake and the jobs it sustains. In Gomba and Sembabule, fertiliser and beekeeping inputs are reaching farmers, and Sembabule warns of the cost of a prolonged dry spell. Newly elected leaders in Gomba and Masaka are also beginning their terms.

Each story ends on the same point: success is measured by what residents experience, not by what is announced.

We invite District Communication Officers, institutions and partners to share timely, accurate and people-centred stories. Your evidence makes Katonga Post a stronger record of our region's journey.

Enjoy the issue.

Thank You

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MASAKA CITY'S SHS 32BN WASTE PROJECT SEEKS TO TURN RUBBISH INTO WEALTH

By Augustine Bukululu, Communications Officer Masaka City



Ian King, the UNDP deputy Resident Representative in Uganda while addressing members at the launch

Masaka City spends up to 46% of its council operational budget on waste management, yet it collects and transports only about 60% of the rubbish its residents generate, according to Town Clerk Hajji Authman Ssebadduka. The rest stays in neighbourhoods or is dumped in drainage channels, wetlands and road reserves, threatening public health and the environment.

A new project worth $8m (about Shs32bn) aims to close that gap and turn part of the waste into something useful. Launched on 8 October 2026 at the Mayor's Chamber, it is supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through cooperation between the governments of Uganda and Italy.

At its centre is the Bulando dumping site, which will be developed into a modern waste management facility. The plan is to sort plastics, paper, metals and glass for recycling, process organic waste into compost and safely dispose of what cannot be recovered. The project will also supply three waste compactors, eight tricycles and two skip loaders. The launch was followed by a visit to the site.

Since Masaka became a city in July 2020, rapid urbanisation and population growth have increased pressure on its waste systems. The city has an estimated population of more than 300,000 across

its two divisions, Kimanya-Kabonera and Nyendo-Mukungwe.

Mr Ssebadduka attributed the collection shortfall to too few collection vehicles, high maintenance costs and inadequate infrastructure, including the absence of formal sorting and recycling facilities. The city maintains daily sweeping and collection in central business areas and has placed skips at public spaces, including the central and Nyendo markets, but he said these remain inadequate.

Mayor Florence Namayanja described the initiative as more than an infrastructure investment, calling it a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting recycling and composting, and protecting public health. She urged political leaders, technical staff and residents to work together for it to succeed.

Mr Ian King, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Uganda, said the project is anchored in a memorandum of understanding signed in December 2023 between Italy's Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment. He said it gives Masaka a chance to become a pioneer of the circular economy in Uganda, with compost supporting farmers, recyclable materials returning to productive value chains and new openings for entrepreneurs and businesses.

How well the facility works will depend heavily on households. Dr Felix Twinomucunguzi, an Assistant Commissioner at the Ministry of Water and Environment who represented the Permanent Secretary, urged residents, businesses and institutions to separate their waste at source.

"Every time you segregate your waste, you are solving more than half of the problem," he said, adding that residents should change how they see rubbish: "Trash is not trash, but simply a resource put in the wrong place."

Oversight has been promised from two directions. Deputy Resident City Commissioner Teopista Mbabazi Mugera said her office will supervise implementation, while Ms Mary Nakandi, a resident and member of the City Development Forum, said the forum will monitor the project to promote transparency and accountability.

The real test will come after the launch: whether the investment delivers cleaner neighbourhoods and better public health, and whether the city can keep the new equipment and facility running once the project is complete.



Hajj Ssebadduka Authman while planting a memorial tree at Bulando landfill

BUKOMANSIMBI: NEW PROJECT TARGETS FEEDING PROBLEMS THAT THREATEN CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

By Ssali Mike, Communication officer- Bukomansimbi

For some children with disabilities, feeding itself can be a life-threatening problem. A new partnership between Bukomansimbi District Local Government and Katalemwa Cheshire Home for Rehabilitation Services aims to reduce preventable deaths from nutrition and feeding difficulties among children with disabilities aged up to 17.

The Feeding to Save Lives (FSL) Project was launched at an inception meeting that brought together district leaders, technical officers and Katalemwa representatives. Katalemwa, which operates in 17 districts across Uganda, says the project will work through improved access to nutrition support, appropriate feeding interventions, caregiver education and stronger referral systems.

After the meeting, the District Health Officer and team, Katalemwa representatives, the District Chairperson, the District Speaker and the Secretary for Social Services visited Butenga Health Centre IV. There they met health workers, children with disabilities and their parents to discuss what stands in the way of care, including access to treatment and feeding support.

Two parents, Joel Musasizi and Harriet Nagayi, addressed the gathering and welcomed the effort to improve support for their children.

Katalemwa Executive Director Winnie



Asst RDC Sula Mutebi is seated in the center, flanked by District Chairman Bulegeya Julius on his right and Deputy CAO Busobozi Ivan on his left

Matoovu said the partnership is meant to strengthen existing health structures and encourage parents to seek care for their children. She called for support for community day-care facilities and for mobilising parents and caregivers to bring children for assessment and treatment.

She also urged families not to hide children with disabilities, but to seek the professional care and support available through health facilities and community programmes.

District Chairperson Julius Bulegeya pledged the district's commitment to ensuring the children receive the care they need. He commended the district's health staff and called for closer coordination between political leaders, health workers, development partners and communities so that vulnerable groups are not left behind.

The discussions at Butenga stressed early intervention, continuous medical care and community involvement. The project's success will depend on whether it reaches the children who need it most, including those still kept at home, out of sight of the health system.

BUKOMANSIMBI TRAINS 15 PARA-SOCIAL WORKERS TO STRENGTHEN CHILD PROTECTION

By Ssali Mike, Communication Officer- Bukomansimbi



District Community Development Officer (DCD) Njuba Charles, Probation Officers , Community Development Officers (CDOs), and Para-Social Workers pose for a group photo after training in child protection

Fifteen para-social workers from Kitanda and Bigasa sub-counties in Bukomansimbi District have completed a three-week training programme aimed at strengthening child protection and addressing child labour and exploitation in coffee-growing communities.

The training was organised under a ChildFund-supported programme implemented in partnership with Kyagalanyi and other stakeholders to establish a child-rights monitoring and remediation system in the coffee supply chain. It was conducted under the theme, "Safe Communities, Thriving Children, Thriving Coffee Farms."

The graduates are expected to identify vulnerable children, monitor protection concerns, connect families to support services and follow up on referrals. Their responsibilities will also include identifying children who are out of school, assessing family welfare, conducting household visits and mobilising communities against child labour and child marriage.

Participants were guided on safeguarding principles, including confidentiality, informed consent, non-discrimination, accountability and the need to avoid causing harm while handling children's cases.

ChildFund Project Coordinator Herbert Kulaffa urged the district to support the newly trained workers so they can apply their skills in the communities. He also noted that tablets had been provided to community development officers and probation officers to improve child protection information management.

Bukomansimbi District Community Development Officer Charles Njuba emphasised coordination, proper recordkeeping and confidentiality, urging the graduates to report cases through official channels.

The training was facilitated by Maria, a probation officer from Lwengo, and Ssemwogerere Hakim, a probation officer from Bukomansimbi. Community development officers Janet Nasaka of Kitanda and Resty Babirye of Bigasa also participated.

Speaking on behalf of the trainees, chairperson Kisennyi Abus thanked ChildFund and the district for the training and called for the programme to be extended to reach more community members.

The programme covers Bukomansimbi, Kalungu and Gomba districts. Its effectiveness will depend on continued support, timely referrals and the graduates' ability to turn their training into practical protection for vulnerable children.



GOMBA: COUNCILLORS INDUCTED ON BUDGETING, OVERSIGHT AND PDM AT START OF NEW TERM

By Kimera Hannington, Communication Officer- Gomba

Gomba's councillors will help decide how district resources are planned, budgeted and monitored during their new term. Before taking on that work, they spent nearly two weeks learning how the system they now oversee is meant to function.

The Ministry of Local Government conducted the induction from 6 to 17 October 2026 at Kabulasoke Core Primary Teachers' College and Ssaza Hall in Kanoni. It brought together district and sub-county councillors with representatives of the Resident District Commissioner's office, the District Service Commission, the Public Accounts Committee, the District Land Board and the District Technical Team.

The modules covered decentralisation, council rules of procedure, leadership, communication, human resource management, planning and budgeting, economic development and the Parish Development Model (PDM). The aim was to prepare councillors to take part in council business, oversight, planning and decision-making alongside the district's technical staff.

For residents, the sessions on planning, budgeting and PDM have the most direct bearing on daily life. They focused on the role local leaders play in supporting programmes intended to raise household incomes and improve livelihoods.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Donath Eswilu, said the training had come at the right time, as councillors begin a new term, and would help shape how they perform their roles. He urged them to follow the programme closely so that the correct rules of procedure



The Ministry of Local Government team and district stakeholders pose for a group photo following the induction meeting

are observed in council sittings.

Mr Christopher Magezi, who represented the Ministry, encouraged councillors to keep time, stay attentive and gain the knowledge and skills they need to serve their communities during their term.

The District Chairperson, Mr George Abigaba, thanked participants for attending in large numbers, which he described as a sign of commitment to their responsibilities. He also asked the Ministry team to convey local leaders' request for an increase in their allowances.

The induction is expected to strengthen working relations between the district's political and technical leadership. Whether it does will show in the months ahead: in how council sittings are run, how budgets are scrutinised and how closely councillors follow programmes such as PDM in their communities.

GOMBA DISTRICT RECEIVES 1,200 BAGS OF O.N.E. FERTILIZER TO BOOST COFFEE PRODUCTION

By Kimera Hannington | Communications Officer – Gomba District

Gomba District has received 1,200 bags of Organic New Earth (O.N.E.) fertilizer, each weighing 50 kilogrammes, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) to support local farmers, boost coffee production, improve livelihoods and enhance household incomes.

The delivery which happened on 19th October 2026 at the district headquarters Tondola , totalling 60,000 kilogrammes of fertilizer, is intended to strengthen agricultural production and support farming communities across the district. The intervention places emphasis on coffee production, an important income-generating activity for many households, and is expected to help farmers improve productivity through better crop management.

The initiative also reflects the importance of government support in strengthening agriculture and improving the welfare of rural communities. For farmers to benefit fully, the availability of agricultural inputs needs to be accompanied by proper use, technical guidance and effective coordination among the relevant stakeholders.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Eswilu Donath welcomed the fertilizer delivery, describing it as an opportunity to strengthen agricultural production and improve the livelihoods of farming households in Gomba.

In his remarks, the CAO emphasised the need to ensure that government support translates into tangible benefits for the intended beneficiaries. He called for responsible management of the agricultural inputs and coordination between district technical officers and other stakeholders to support the intervention's objectives.

He also encouraged farmers to make productive use of the support and embrace good agricultural practices

that can help improve crop performance and household earnings. The district administration's role, he noted in the proposed summary, includes supporting effective implementation and ensuring that agricultural interventions contribute to local development.

Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Katende Ronald also welcomed the delivery, highlighting accountability and proper management as important elements in the implementation of government-supported programmes.

In his remarks, the RDC stressed the need for transparency in handling agricultural inputs and ensuring that they reach their intended beneficiaries. He encouraged the relevant officials and stakeholders to work together to ensure that the intervention achieves its purpose of supporting farmers and improving agricultural productivity.

LCV Chairperson Abigaba George welcomed the support, noting that agriculture remains central to the livelihoods of many households in Gomba District.

In his remarks, the district chairperson emphasised the importance of supporting farmers to improve production, strengthen household incomes and contribute to the district's economic development. He encouraged continued cooperation between government and local leadership in addressing farmers' needs and promoting better agricultural performance.

He further highlighted the potential for improved coffee production to create better economic opportunities for farming households, particularly when farmers apply appropriate practices and manage their farms effectively.

District Production Officer (DPO) Kiddu Ben emphasised the importance of proper fertilizer use and sound agronomic practices in achieving better agricultural results.

In his remarks, the DPO encouraged farmers to seek guidance from agricultural extension workers and follow recommended practices for applying and managing agricultural inputs. He noted that the benefits of fertilizer depend not only on its availability but also on its correct use, good crop management and continued technical support.

Farmers' cooperation with extension personnel will therefore be important in helping them make informed decisions and improve the management of their coffee gardens.

The delivery of 1,200 bags of O.N.E. fertilizer marks a significant intervention in Gomba District's efforts to support local agriculture, particularly coffee production. Through collaboration among MAAIF, district leadership, technical officers and farmers, the initiative aims to improve productivity, strengthen livelihoods and enhance household incomes.

The district's focus remains on ensuring that agricultural support delivers practical benefits to farmers and contributes to sustainable community development.



District officials pose for a photo with MAAIF Team while receiving the fertilizers



The district stakeholders and MAAIF Team during a dialogue in the CAO office

GOMBA HEADTEACHERS RECEIVE REFRESHER TRAINING ON TELA ATTENDANCE SYSTEM

By Kimera Hannington, Communications Officer – Gomba District



Ministry of Education team takes the headteachers through the TELA system at Kanoni UMEA Primary School.

The Ministry of Education and Sports has conducted a refresher training for primary and secondary school headteachers in Gomba District on the Teacher Effectiveness and Learner Attendance (TELA) system, aimed at strengthening attendance monitoring, accountability and education service delivery.

The training, held on 7th October 2026 at Kanoni UMEA Primary School, focused on reinforcing headteachers' understanding of the digital attendance system and the importance of accurately recording and submitting attendance information. The exercise intended to help schools comply with attendance-reporting requirements associated with school facilitation grants while improving the management of education services across the district.

Addressing participants, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Eswilu Donath emphasised the need to strengthen attendance monitoring and ensure that schools use the TELA system as required. He underscored the responsibility of school leaders in promoting accurate and timely reporting to support accountability and effective administration of education services.

The District Education Officer, Kalyango Godfrey, also highlighted the critical role of headteachers in ensuring that attendance information is consistently

captured and submitted through the system. He emphasised that effective use of TELA enables schools to monitor attendance, maintain reliable records and meet the reporting requirements associated with school facilitation grants.

The Teacher Effectiveness and Learner Attendance system is a digital platform designed to improve the monitoring of teacher and headteacher attendance in public schools. It uses smartphone technology and facial recognition to record attendance, reducing reliance on traditional manual registers and providing digital records that can support verification and administrative follow-up.

Under the system, headteachers use designated smartphones to register confirmed teachers and capture the required biometric information, including facial features and fingerprints where supported. School timetables are also uploaded to facilitate the monitoring of scheduled lessons. Teachers use the system to record their arrival and departure, while headteachers monitor attendance and update relevant information as required.

The system supports time-on-task monitoring by helping education authorities track attendance patterns and assess compliance with school schedules. It also generates digital attendance reports that can guide district, municipal and national education officials in identifying attendance-related concerns and undertaking appropriate follow-up actions.

By improving the availability of accurate attendance information, TELA is intended to strengthen accountability, minimise opportunities for manipulating manual attendance records and support data-driven decision-making in the education sector.

The refresher training provided headteachers with an opportunity to renew their understanding of the system and clarify attendance-recording and reporting procedures. Schools were encouraged to prioritise regular attendance entry and timely submission of reports to support compliance with established requirements and improve the reliability of education data.

The training forms part of ongoing efforts to strengthen education management in Gomba District through the adoption of digital systems, improved supervision and accountable service delivery. Effective implementation of TELA is expected to support school leaders and education officials in monitoring attendance, identifying gaps and promoting a more responsive education system across the district.

GOMBA: NEW AREA LAND COMMITTEES INDUCTED ON LAND LAWS AS DISPUTES REMAIN SENSITIVE

By Kimera Hannington, Communications Officer – Gomba District

Newly nominated area land committees in Gomba District have been taken through the laws that govern land, as district leaders warned that communities continue to face delicate and sensitive land issues.

The induction, organised by the District Lands Office, was held on 28 October 2026 at the district headquarters. It brought together committee members from all seven sub-counties and two town councils.

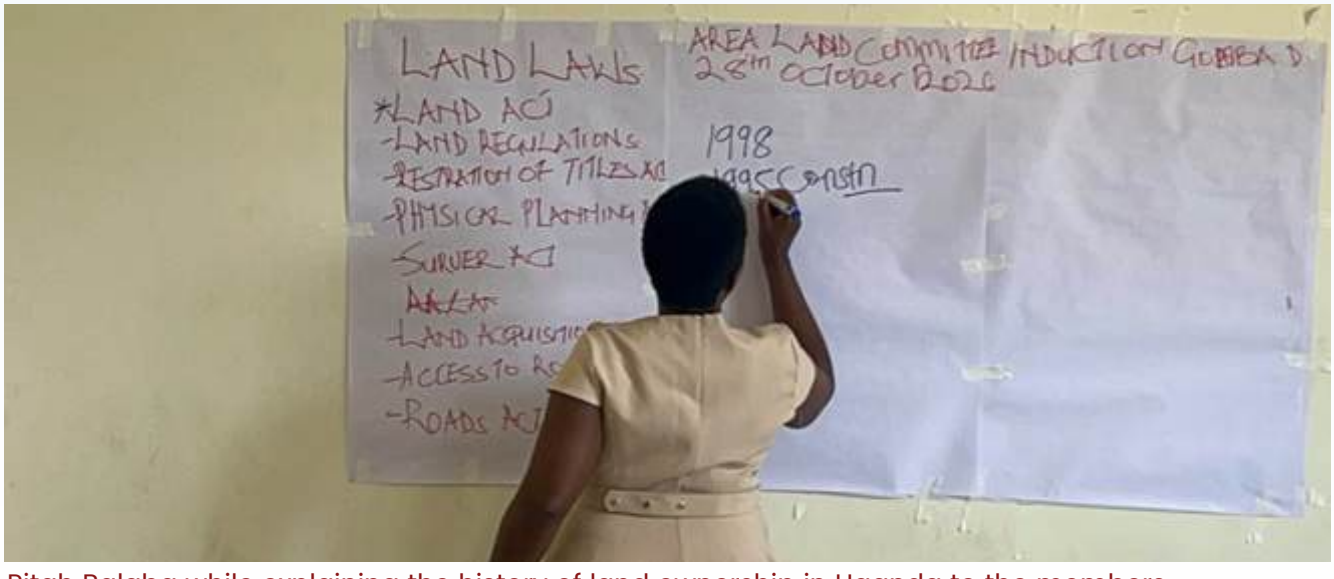
Participants were taken through the Land Act and land regulations, the Registration of Titles Act, physical planning, the Survey Act, land acquisition, access to roads and the Roads Act.

Senior Lands Officer Ritah Balaba, who led the sessions, said committee members need to understand the different laws guiding land matters so that they can serve their communities and handle land issues within the legal framework.

Ben Mulala, representing the LCV Chairperson, urged members to take the lessons seriously. Land matters, he said, require vigilance and a clear understanding of the law, and committees must handle concerns responsibly and follow established procedures.

Chief Administrative Officer Donath Eswilu congratulated the members on their nomination and urged them to seek guidance whenever they meet challenges. He called on technical officers to remain available for consultation, and encouraged committees to make full use of them so that all their work stays within the law.

For residents, the committees are a first point of contact on land matters close to home. How well they apply what they learnt will shape how fairly and lawfully those matters are handled in Gomba's communities.



Ritah Balaba while explaining the history of land ownership in Uganda to the members

GOMBA: UCSATP INPUT DISTRIBUTION AND NEW VEHICLE DONATION BOOST AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

By Kimera Hannington, Communications Officer – Gomba District

Farmers under the Beneficial Insects Value Chain in Gomba District have received agricultural inputs aimed at strengthening beekeeping and improving household livelihoods under the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP).

The distribution was conducted on 6th October 2026 at the District Headquarters in Tondola, Kanoni Town Council, and Kyayi Sub-county. The beneficiaries included farmers from Gomba Kiguddewani 2025–2026, Maddu Town Council, and Obusingye Amaani Bee Group in Kyayi Sub-county.

The inputs supplied by Farm Bees (U) Limited included KTB bee hives, sieves, smokers, honey buckets, bee suits, gumboots, gloves and other equipment required to support modern beekeeping. The inputs are intended to enable farmers establish productive apiaries, increase honey production and improve the quality and value of their products.

The intervention is supported through a cost-sharing arrangement in which government contributes 80 percent and the farmer 20 percent.

Speaking during the distribution, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Katende Ronald appreciated the government's support and urged farmers to ensure that the hives are properly colonised. He encouraged beneficiaries to move beyond selling honey in jerrycans and embrace value addition, proper packaging and marketing to increase household incomes.

Representing the Field Project team,



Beneficiaries look on as demonstration of the protective gears are being worn.

Namboowa Sharon, commended the Beneficial Insects Value Chain leadership for the progress made despite network challenges. She thanked farmers for meeting their 20 percent contribution and encouraged them to make proper use of the inputs. She also called for continued technical follow-up to ensure successful colonisation of the KTB hives.

Under the same UCSATP project, MAAIF donated a brand-new Hilux vehicle to Gomba District to support monitoring and supervision of project activities. The vehicle was handed over to the district at Kyegonza Ssaza hall and is expected to strengthen field follow-up, technical support to farmers and monitoring of project interventions across the district.

The district technical team represented by the district Production Officer Kiddu Ben expressed their appreciation to MAAIF for the donation noting that it will play a very key milestone in supporting supervision of the beneficiaries more so the hard to reach areas.

The beneficiaries expressed appreciation to government for fulfilling its commitment, noting that the inputs give them an opportunity to increase honey production and improve their livelihoods through beekeeping.



The district production team looks on as District Production Officer Kiddu Ben receives the paperwork and keys to a vehicle donated by MAAIF under the UCSATP Project at Kyegonza Hall, Ssaza.

KALANGALA: PPDA TESTS WHETHER PROCUREMENT TRAINING IS PAYING OFF IN ISLAND DISTRICT

By Ntabaazi Geoffrey Nsumba, Communication Officer – Kalangala District

In a district spread across 84 islands, a delayed contract can mean medicines arriving late at a health centre or a building project running over budget. That is why Kalangala District Local Government's part in a national procurement assessment matters to more people than those in the district offices.

Kalangala was one of the entities chosen for the National Assessment on the Impact of Procurement Training. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) ran the exercise between 21 September and 8 October 2026. It looked at whether PPDA training over the 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years has improved officers' knowledge, how they apply procurement rules and how their institutions perform.

The district put forward all 19 officers PPDA asked for. They included heads of department, members of the Contracts Committee and staff of the Procurement and Disposal Unit (PDU).

In a statement on behalf of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Principal Assistant Secretary, Mr Christopher Ssebuuma, said: "Procurement in an island district with 84 islands is complex and expensive. We have invested in training our staff, and this assessment will help us know if that training has translated into efficient and effective service delivery for our people."

In a separate statement, Mr Samson Owundo, head of the PDU, said PPDA training had already helped the unit cut delays in procurement planning and improve compliance. The bigger problem, he said, is the market: few



Participants in the PPDA procurement training impact assessment, 28 September 2026.

suppliers are willing to go to the islands.

PPDA also used the assessment to explain two new reforms that may help. The first is PPDA Guideline No. 1 of 2026 on Procurement of Aggregated Requirements, which covers combining similar needs into larger purchases. The second is a circular from the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury on the gap between a project's estimated cost at feasibility stage and its estimated cost when procurement begins.

"The new Guideline on Aggregated Requirements is very timely for us," Mr Owundo said in the statement. "By aggregating our fuel, stationery and servicing requirements, we will reduce costs, reduce administrative work and attract more competent providers. The new Circular on project costing will also help us minimise variations and audit queries."

In its letter to the district dated 10 September 2026, signed by Ms Mercy Kyoshabire on behalf of the Executive Director, PPDA said the assessment would support the strengthening of procurement and disposal capacity and performance. It added that the engagement would be an opportunity to clarify reforms first presented at an online session.

For people in Bubeke, Bufumira, Kyamuswa, Mazinga and the other island communities, the real test is practical. They need public money to reach them as goods, works and services that arrive on time and at a fair price. PPDA's findings, once published, should show how far training has moved Kalangala towards that.



Officials from PPDA and Kalangala District's Procurement and Disposal Unit after the session on 28 September 2026.

KALANGALA: COUPLE'S CIVIL WEDDING SHOWS DISTRICT SERVICES ARE CLOSER THAN MANY THINK

By Ntabaazi Geoffrey Nsumba, Communications Officer, Kalangala District

Julie, a health worker, and Godfrey, who works for Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS), wanted to make their union official, and they could do so without leaving the district. On 28 September 2026 they were married in a civil ceremony conducted through the office of Kalangala's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Mr Richard Sebandeke.

In Uganda, CAOs are gazetted as Registrars of Marriages for districts outside Kampala. This makes civil marriage a service available at district level.

"We are very happy that we were able to have our marriage conducted here," Julie said. "The process was clear, and we were guided on what we needed to do."

Godfrey said the day had challenged a common belief. "Sometimes people think that to access important services they have to travel far, but our experience showed us that some of these services are available right here. We encourage other couples to seek information and use the service."

In Kalangala, that point carries weight. Travel between the islands and the mainland can be difficult, and the district itself recognises the problems that water transport causes for access to services across its islands.

The CAO said residents should not hold



Julie and Godfrey exchange rings during their civil marriage ceremony in Kalangala

back from asking the district for services it is legally required to provide. "People should not look at the district offices as places that are only for government officials. These are their offices," he said. "Whether someone needs information, registration, social support or another service within our mandate, they should come and seek guidance."

He encouraged couples who meet the requirements for civil marriage to get the correct information and use the official process.

Mr Willy Nkumbi, the district Probation and Social Welfare Officer, said marriage is also about family welfare. His office deals with family misunderstandings, child maintenance, custody and other concerns affecting women, children and families. He said its role goes beyond responding to problems.

"We also have a role in creating awareness about responsible family life, the rights of children and the welfare of families. When people understand their responsibilities, it helps to strengthen the community," he said.

He urged residents to seek help early. "If you have a question or a family-related concern, do not wait until the situation becomes serious. Come and talk to the responsible office so that you can be guided."

For Julie and Godfrey, the ceremony was a personal milestone. For the district, it was a chance to make a wider point. Services from registration to family support are available within Kalangala, and residents should come forward and use them.

KYOTERA: KASENSERO FISHERMEN OPPOSE 66-BOAT LIMIT AND DEMAND STRONGER LAKE PATROLS

By Ambrose Musasizi, Communication officer- Kyotera

"We don't know any other job apart from fishing," said John Kayumba, a boat owner at Kasensero landing site in Kyotera District. "We should therefore be given a right atmosphere that will favour us to stay and work on the lake."

Mr Kayumba was speaking during a visit by the State Minister for Fisheries, Robert Migadde, who met fishermen and local leaders at the landing site on Lake Victoria. The fishermen asked the government for more security personnel and patrol boats, and for some fishing restrictions to be eased so they can earn a living while protecting fish stocks.

Mr Kayumba opposed a proposed limit of 66 boats per landing site. He said he owns more than 20 boats and employs more than 200 people, and that cutting the number of boats without considering the livelihoods attached to them could leave many without work. He said fishermen were ready to comply with regulations and instructions from security and fisheries authorities, provided they could keep working under clear and reasonable conditions.

Kyotera District Woman Member of Parliament Rose Fortunate Nantongo asked the government to consider the size and economic importance of each

landing site before imposing uniform limits. Kasensero, which she put at more than 15,000 residents, should be treated differently from smaller sites, she said.

The fishermen thanked the Uganda People's Defence Forces for protecting them against illegal fishing and insecurity, but said patrols need more manpower, fuel and reliable speedboats. Fisherman Peter Kaali said patrol teams must be able to respond quickly when fishermen face threats from suspected pirates or illegal operators.

Ms Nantongo urged security forces to step up operations against pirates accused of attacking Ugandan fishermen, stealing boat engines and fish, sometimes with loss of life. Some attacks, she said, are allegedly carried out by people crossing from Tanzania, and she called for closer cooperation between security agencies on both sides of the border.

Mr Migadde, who is also Member of Parliament for Buvuma Islands County, said the government would work towards clear guidelines that regulate fishing while allowing compliant fishermen to keep operating. He warned against destructive methods that catch immature fish, saying they reduce the number of fish that survive to breed and undermine the industry's future.

Local leaders also raised the state of basic services. Joseph Besige, the councillor for the landing site, said rising water levels had submerged the existing toilet, and that building a new latrine was difficult for the same reason. He asked the government to provide suitable sanitation facilities and improve public health services. Leaders also called for better access to schools for the growing population.

For Kasensero, the challenge is to protect the lake's fish without cutting off the livelihoods of the thousands of people who depend on it.



Minister Migadde interacts with fishermen at Kasensero landing site

KYOTERA: TOWN COUNCILS TOLD TO SET UP PLANNING COMMITTEES TO CURB WETLAND ENCROACHMENT

By Ambrose Musasizi, Communications Officer, Kyotera District Local Government

Wetland encroachment has already been identified in some of Kyotera District's town councils, according to District Environment Officer Gaddafi Ssekajugo. Officials say every town council needs a working Physical Planning Committee and Building Control Committee if growing urban centres are to avoid unplanned settlements, poor drainage and unsafe buildings.

The committees assess applications to build and ensure that developments comply with approved physical development plans, environmental requirements and the law. The Town Clerk is expected to chair the Physical Planning Committee, and town councils should designate an officer to receive and process development applications.

Mr Ssekajugo urged local leaders and technical officers to stop further encroachment on wetlands and deal with unlawful developments in line with the law. He said environmental considerations must be part of planning before any development goes ahead, and that projects such as fuel stations, factories and hotels may require an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, depending on their nature and location. He also stressed protecting water bodies through legally required buffer zones.

Lands Officer Tom Matovu cautioned officers against approving developments on land under ownership dispute,



Officers during one of the meetings at Kyotera Town Council

warning that such approvals could fuel conflict and complicate future planning.

"Make sure you involve local leaders because they, in most cases, know the land issues in their areas and can help in resolving them," he said.

Ms Olivia Nakaliiri said the committees are responsible for addressing illegal developments through the enforcement measures provided by law.

Assistant District Health Officer Harriet Nakafeero asked town councils to put public health at the centre of planning and building control. "You should ensure that there is drainage for stormwater and wastewater, proper management of liquid and solid waste, and adequate lighting and ventilation," she said. She added that buildings should meet health and safety standards, with occupation permits issued where required before premises are used.

The committees' work is set out in the Physical Planning Act, 2010, as amended, and the Building Control Act, 2013, while the National Environment Act, 2019, governs environmental assessment and the protection of sensitive areas.

Officials also urged town clerks to fill the staffing gaps that affect their stations. Without people to run them, they said, the committees cannot deliver the planned, safer and cleaner towns that Kyotera's residents need.



Officers pause for a photo after the meeting

LWENGO: NEW MOTORCYCLE TO HELP NDAGWE VETERINARY OFFICER REACH FARMERS

By Ssekabira Peter, Communication Officer- Lwengo District

Livestock farmers in Ndagwe Sub-county should find it easier to get veterinary help after Lwengo District Local Government handed a new motorcycle to the sub-county's Veterinary Officer, Dr Badru Luboobi.

The motorcycle, procured at a cost of UGX 14 million with support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), is meant to help the officer visit farmers, give technical advice, monitor farming activities and support government programmes in the production sector.

Limited transport has often kept extension workers in Lwengo from making regular field visits. District Production Officer Allen Nandawula Matovu said transport has been a major challenge to delivering extension services. The motorcycle, she said, would enable officers to reach farmers in their communities, carry out field assessments, organise farmer training and monitor agricultural projects more regularly.

Resident District Commissioner Emmy Kateera Turyabagyenyi, who handed over the motorcycle, called on the Chief Administrative Officer, political leaders and heads of department to make sure it is properly used, maintained and monitored. Government assets, he reminded staff, are meant for official duties, not personal interests.



RDC Emmy Kateera Turyabagyenyi hands over the newly procured motorcycle to Dr. Luboobi Badru, the Veterinary Officer for Ndagwe Subcounty

Chief Administrative Officer Beatrice Katusabe said the administration would support technical teams to ensure the motorcycle is used effectively and maintained according to government procedures.

District Chairperson Abasi Kizito urged Dr Luboobi to take good care of it and service it regularly so that it can keep supporting veterinary services.

LYANTONDE: LOCAL REVENUE NEARLY TRIPLES TO UGX 744M AS DIGITAL COLLECTION TAKES HOLD

By Wilson Kutamba, Communication Officer- Lyantonde

Lyantonde District collected UGX 744 million in local revenue in the 2025/26 financial year, up from UGX 260 million the year before, according to District Revenue Officer Moses Assimwe. The increase of UGX 484 million, about 186%, has earned the district second place nationally in local revenue administration and management from the Local Government Finance Commission (LGFC).

For residents, more locally raised money means more room to fund services the district chooses for itself, from agricultural extension to health, education and road maintenance, rather than depending almost entirely on transfers from the central government.

From cash in hand to a digital system

Mr Assimwe credited the switch from manual collection to the Integrated Revenue Administration System (IRAS), stronger supervision and the enforcement of IRAS across lower local governments. The electronic system supports assessment, billing, payment, monitoring and reporting of revenue, and reduces the handling of physical cash.

Under manual collection, he said, revenue was often spent at the point of collection before it was properly accounted for. IRAS has improved recording, tracking and reconciliation, making it easier to monitor each revenue source.

"The introduction of IRAS, together with the formation and formalisation of the district revenue committee, was the magic bullet that enabled Lyantonde to emerge second-best local government in the whole country," Mr Assimwe said.

Paul Kyateeka Male, chairperson of the District Revenue Collection Committee, said the district had struggled because lower local governments were still collecting manually. "Once they embraced IRAS, our revenue nearly tripled," he said.

Next targets

Mr Assimwe said the district is now identifying, registering and formalising taxable properties to improve property-related revenue, and is seeking approval of a local revenue charging policy to give a clearer basis for assessing and collecting revenue. He expects these measures to help Lyantonde exceed its 2026/27 target.

Chief Administrative Officer Peter N. Ruhweeza set a longer-term goal: locally

generated revenue that can finance at least 50% of the district's budget. Chief Finance Officer Edward Nabende said stronger local revenue would let the district pay for more of its own development priorities.

Collecting is only half the test

LGFC Vice Chairperson Mariam Nalubega said a Commission survey found wide differences in how local governments collect, manage and use local revenue. Some collect well, she said, but weaknesses in spending undermine the benefit to citizens.

District Chairperson Moses Ali Ssemanda said sustaining the gains will require taxpayer sensitisation, effective supervision, accurate records and transparent use of the money collected. "We are now focusing on an even greater ambition: becoming Uganda's best-performing local government in revenue administration while building a stronger and more financially self-reliant district," he said.

For Lyantonde's residents, the measure of success will be what the extra UGX 484 million buys.

MASAKA: CITY AUTHORITIES PRESS CONTRACTOR TO SPEED UP SHS 2BN NYENDO SEED SCHOOL

By Augustine Bukululu, Communication Officer- Masaka



The inspection team at Nyendo-Mukungwe seed school

Children in Nyendo-Mukungwe Division are due to get a new government secondary school by March 2027. With works running behind pace, Masaka City leaders and Ministry of Education and Sports engineers have warned the contractor against further delays.

The Shs2 billion-plus Nyendo-Mukungwe Seed Secondary School is under construction in Bugyanjeru Cell, Nyendo Ward. Funded by the Government of Uganda in partnership with the World Bank, the project began in June 2026. Masaka City currently has eight government-aided secondary schools, and the new school is expected to ease pressure on them and bring affordable secondary education closer to families in the division.

City leaders inspected the works and held a site meeting with the contractor, NAD Business Solution Limited, and ministry engineers to assess progress and agree on measures to keep the project on schedule.

The engineers raised concerns over the pace of work and urged the contractor to speed up to recover time lost in the early stages. They also advised close attention to drainage, given the site's topography, and called for trees and greenery to be planted.

Town Clerk Authman Ssebadduka directed the contractor to install clear project signage and safety warning notices immediately. To tighten supervision, he said city leaders and technical officers will hold monthly progress reviews at the site to measure performance against agreed targets.

Resident City Commissioner Ahmed Washaki reminded the contractor that the school must be delivered within the contract period. He urged the firm to hire local residents as casual labourers and to buy materials such as sand and aggregates locally where possible.

"When the local community directly participates in and benefits economically from a project of this magnitude, they naturally develop a strong sense of pride and stewardship over the infrastructure brought to their area," Mr Washaki said.

One problem has already emerged. Project Lead Engineer Rebecca Nakiyinji reported minor encroachments near the school boundary that could disrupt works if left unresolved. Mr Ssebadduka said the city would act through the Division Town Clerk and the City Land Surveyor to resolve the matter promptly.

Nyendo-Mukungwe Division Mayor Ronald Kassekende thanked former council leaders and community members who donated the land for the school. He also urged the Ministry of Education and other agencies to cut the administrative bottlenecks that can slow centrally funded projects.

With five months left before the scheduled completion date, the monthly site reviews will show whether the contractor can make up lost time.



MASAKA: NEW DISTRICT BOSS PLEDGES TO TACKLE CORRUPTION AND ABSENTEEISM

By Brian Mugenyi- Guest Writer

Masaka District's new LCV Chairperson, John Kakande, has set a standard residents can measure him against: no corruption during his tenure, and public servants, from health workers to agricultural extension officers, present at their workplaces and doing their jobs.

"No corruption in my tenure," Kakande said, adding that health workers, extension workers and other public servants should fulfil their responsibilities and that accountability should apply across the institutions responsible for service delivery.

For residents, those pledges go to the heart of everyday services: whether a health centre is staffed when a patient arrives, and whether farmers receive the extension advice meant for them.

Kakande, who won the LCV chairperson election on the National Resistance Movement (NRM) ticket, comes to the office after about 25 years in teaching and professional work. He hails from Kamuzinda Village and is married to Betty Nansamba, with whom he has children.

"I studied at Molly and Paul, St Mugaga and later Kyambogo University. I am currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Public Administration at Kampala



John Kakande, Masaka District LCV boss

University," he said.

Teamwork sits at the centre of his approach. He says he wants to strengthen cooperation between elected leaders and technical staff, and between the offices of the Resident District Commissioner, the district chairperson and the Chief Administrative Officer.

"I have been promoting the interests of the people, bringing them together and strengthening cooperation between the political and technical wings through teamwork to make Masaka District great and improve its performance," he said.

He credited decentralisation with bringing responsibility closer to communities. "In Masaka District, we work as a technical team, together with leadership from the political wing," he said.

Outside office, Kakande is a farmer and investor. "I rear pigs and poultry, and I also grow coffee. I am an investor with at least 30 workers," he said. He describes himself as a mindset-change tutor promoting agricultural transformation and says he is a trainer at the National Farmers Leadership Centre. He also says he has refurbished Kitofaali Playground at a cost of at least Shs30 million and built a school.

Kakande raised concern about land grabbing and forest degradation in the district. He pointed to Lake Nabugabo, Lake Mbirizi, Lake Victoria and the district's landing sites, along with fertile soils and access to water and electricity, as resources that could support livelihoods if well managed.

His priorities of teamwork, education, agricultural transformation and accountability are clear. Their success will be measured by what residents experience in their schools, health facilities, roads and communities over the course of his term.

MASAKA: NEW ROADS, LIGHTS AND CLINICS ARRIVE

By Brian Mugenyi- Guest Writer

When Sharif Lubega, a resident of Bwala Village, needed a blood test, he went to Kitabaazi Health Centre III in Masaka City and paid nothing. "I came here for blood testing and received the service free of charge. Many people are benefiting from this facility," he said.

Sixty-four years after independence, experiences like his are the clearest test of whether public investment in Masaka is reaching people. Across the city and the surrounding area, roads are being upgraded, streetlights installed, a health centre expanded and a secondary school is growing.

A health centre with growing demand

Kitabaazi was upgraded from Health Centre II to Health Centre III in May 2025. The works, contracted at about Shs1.32 billion excluding VAT, were funded by the Government through the Ministry of Health with support from the International Development Association. Arch Design Limited supervised the project and Prizma Limited carried it out.

The facility has 25 beds covering maternity, children's care, labour and

special care for premature babies. It has nine health workers, including midwives, laboratory assistants, nursing assistants and clinical officers, alongside support staff.

Its Officer-in-Charge, Bobic Kiweewa, says that is not enough. "We need more clinical officers and support staff because the number of people seeking services continues growing," he said.

Nursing Officer Ritah Kabasita sees the upgrade as a gain for staff as well as patients. "Government investment in healthcare infrastructure has enabled health workers to serve communities better while building their careers," she said.

Nyendo-Mukungwe Deputy Town Clerk Ibrahim Mutebi made the economic case. "Healthcare is not only about treating sickness. It is an investment in productivity," he said.

That investment pays off only when the building is matched by people, medicines and working equipment. A new maternity ward serves mothers only when a midwife is on duty and supplies are on the shelf.

Roads and streetlights

For many residents, roads are the most visible measure of change. They determine how traders move goods, how children reach school and how patients reach health facilities. In Masaka City, works have targeted routes including Broad Way Road, which runs about 7.2 kilometres from Nyendo Roundabout towards Kijjabwemi, the 1.4-kilometre Nyendo–Kitovu Cathedral Road section, Villa Road, Kigamba, Somero and Kooki Street.

City officials also cite the installation of more than 1,000 solar streetlights, which can make streets and public spaces safer to use after dark.

Residents will judge both by how long they last: whether drainage works, whether roads stay passable through the rains and whether the lights stay on long after installation.

A school that keeps growing

At Bukakata Seed Secondary School, the challenge is growth. The school opened in 2012 with 12 students and now has more than 450 learners. It stands on about six acres of land provided by the Masaka Catholic Diocese, and its construction is estimated to have cost Shs3.5 billion. It has since been connected to electricity.

The school aims to accommodate up to 1,000 learners. Reaching that number without lowering quality will require classrooms, qualified teachers, learning materials and sanitation facilities to keep pace.

What residents can measure

Under decentralisation, local governments are responsible for planning and delivering many of these services. Their success depends on adequate funding, competent technical staff, transparent procurement and public accountability, and on residents reporting broken infrastructure and taking part in local planning.

For the people of Masaka, progress will not be measured by how much has been spent. It will be measured by whether the road remains usable, the streetlight stays on, the health worker is available and the child receives a quality education.

SEMBABULE FARMERS WARNED AGAINST SELLING UCSATP FERTILIZERS

By Namuddu Aminah, Communications Officer, Sembabule District

Sembabule, 06 October 2026 — Farmers in Kikoma, Mabindo Sub County, Sembabule District have received NPK 25-5-5, Weed-Off fertilizers and Taplins under the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP) to boost agricultural production and improve household livelihoods.

The distribution was witnessed by DCAO Kizza Richard, DPO Byarugaba Simon, District Agricultural Officer Jemba Robert, Agricultural Officer Mutaya Evalist and Senior Agricultural Officer Muhoozi Godfrey, alongside local leaders and farmers.

The Mabindo Sub County SAS Akankwasa Andrew warned beneficiaries against selling the inputs, urging them to use them correctly in their gardens.

"As soon as you receive these fertilizers, use them correctly and do not sell them. If you are found selling them, you will be punished," the SAS warned.

DCAO Kizza Richard called upon farmers to embrace Government programmes and make proper use of the support provided.



DCAO Kizza Richard launching the distribution of fertizers to farmers at Kikoma in Mabindo Sub County

"Always participate in all Government programmes because they come with a purpose to change your ways of living. Use these inputs with an aim of improving your production and livelihoods," Kizza said.

District Agricultural Officer Jemba Robert apologized for the delayed distribution, attributing it to seasonal changes and the prolonged dry season.

"I apologize for the delay in receiving the fertilizers. The seasonal changes, especially the dry season, affected the timing of the distribution," Jemba explained.

LCII Chairperson Mwesigwa John appreciated Government for selecting Sembabule among the districts benefiting from UCSATP and urged farmers to use the inputs for their intended purpose.

The district agricultural team encouraged beneficiaries to follow guidance from extension workers on the proper application of the fertilizers to improve crop yields and household incomes.



DPO (middle) Byarugaba Simon, Agricultural Officer Mutaya Evalist and Senior Agricultural Officer Jemba Robert alongside the NPK 25-5-5 fertilizers at Kikoma parish.

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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