

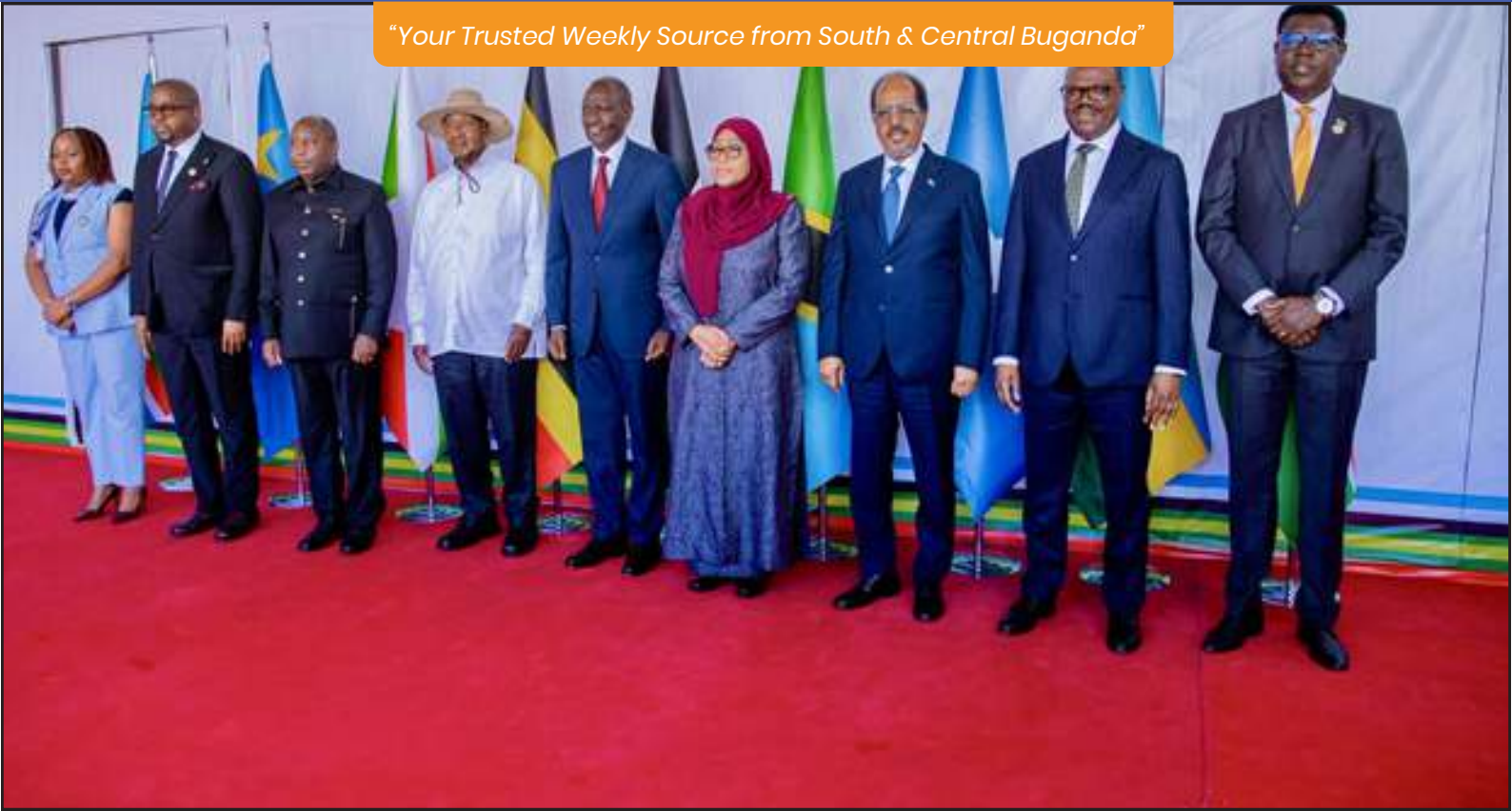
Katonga Post

District Communicators'
Newsletter

11th -18th Mar, 2025
Weekly Edition

Vol. 40

"Your Trusted Weekly Source from South & Central Buganda"



Feature Story

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI CALLS ON AFRICAN LEADERS TO STRENGTHEN UNITY AND DRIVE CONTINENTAL GROWTH AT EAC SUMMIT

Key Highlights

President Museveni Succeeds President Ruto as EAC Chair at Arusha Summit

04

Masaka District Holds PDM Refresher Training to Resolve Backlogs and Boost Program Accountability

06

Butambala Leaders Inspect Road Projects, Urge Faster Works Amid Rainy Season

09

Education, Skills Development Key to Women's Empowerment and Economic Growth, Says President Museveni

22

Kanjunju Primary School Receives Major Classroom Renovation to Boost Academic Performance

27

New Solar-Powered Water Project Set to Boost Rural Water Access in Lyantonde

38



Mariam Nalubwama
Editor



Wilson Kutamba
Editor-in-Chief



Ambrose Musasizi
Editor

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this week's edition of Katonga Post, your trusted source of community news, development updates, and voices from across the greater Katonga region.

This week we bring you important stories highlighting progress and challenges within our communities.

From ongoing government development programmes to grassroots initiatives aimed at improving livelihoods, our coverage reflects the determination of local leaders, partners, and citizens who continue to work together for a better future.

One of the key highlights in this edition focuses on infrastructure and service delivery improvements in local governments, including investments in education, water access, and environmental conservation.

Such initiatives demonstrate the growing commitment by both government and development

partners to strengthen rural transformation and improve the welfare of our people.

We also feature stories on community innovation and resilience. Across the Masaka - Mpigi regions, farmers, artisans, youth groups, and entrepreneurs are embracing new opportunities in agriculture, crafts, and eco-tourism.

Their efforts remind us that sustainable development begins at the community level, driven by creativity, hard work, and collaboration.

We encourage our readers to continue engaging with us by sharing feedback, story ideas, and perspectives on issues affecting your communities.

Thank you for your continued support and readership.

Wilson Kutamba
Editor-in-Chief

Thank You

Contributors

1. Wilson Kutamba, Communications officer- Lyantonde District
2. Ambrose Musasizi, Communications Officer – Kyotera District
3. Ssekabira Peters, Communication Officer – Lwengo District
4. Bukululu Augustine, Communication Officer -Masaka District
5. Namuddu Aminah, Communication Officer -Sembabule District
6. Geoffrey Ntabaazi Nsumba, Communication officer – Kalangala District
7. Mariam Nalubwama Communication Officer- Butamba District
8. Muwonge Baker, Communications Officer -Kalungu District
9. Cynthea Kamara – Guest Writer
10. Ariella Kantu – Guest Writer
11. Kamala Melissa – Guest Writer

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“If we fail to act decisively and without delay, we are betraying our people and undercooking the African revolution,

President Museveni

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI SUCCEEDS PRESIDENT RUTO AS EAC CHAIR AT ARUSHA SUMMIT



President William Ruto handing over the EAC tools of power to President Yoweri Museveni after being appointed by the EAC body as the body Chairman during the summit in Arusha, Tanzania on Saturday, 7th March, 2026.

By Melissa Kamara – Guest Writer

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has assumed the Chairmanship of the East African Community (EAC) Summit of Heads of State, succeeding Kenya's President William Ruto during the 25th Ordinary Summit of EAC leaders held at the Arusha International Conference Centre.

This leadership transition was formally confirmed by EAC leaders during the summit in Arusha, Tanzania on Saturday, 7th March, 2026.

Museveni takes over the rotational leadership of the regional bloc from President Ruto, who had held the position since November 2024.

The East African Community, one of Africa's most ambitious regional integration blocs, currently comprises eight partner states: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of

Congo (DRC), and Somalia.

President Museveni will serve a one-year term from March 2026 to March 2027, assuming leadership at a time when the regional body faces significant financial pressures and persistent security challenges.

The Community is currently grappling with a growing financial crisis, with arrears on statutory contributions estimated at nearly \$89 million.

Several partner states particularly DRC, Burundi, South Sudan, and Somalia have fallen behind on their financial obligations, affecting the bloc's ability to meet operational costs including staff salaries and institutional programs.

Addressing the issue, outgoing Chairperson William Ruto said EAC leaders had adopted measures aimed at strengthening financial sustainability within the Community.

“Leaders of the bloc adopted a raft of measures aimed at enhancing fairness and equity within the Community,” Ruto said.

He explained that the new approach introduces a revised contribution framework based on the economic strength of each member state, aimed at ensuring a more balanced and sustainable funding model for the regional organization.

Beyond financial challenges, regional security remains a key concern for the regional body, as the ongoing conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo continues to undermine stability and economic cooperation across the region.

EAC leaders have called for increased support from the African Union to advance mediation efforts and help restore peace in the troubled region.

Despite these challenges, the Community has recorded steady

growth in intra-regional trade.

According to President Ruto, trade among member states increased from \$33 billion in 2024, when he assumed the EAC chairmanship, to \$40.3 billion in 2025.

The rise in trade reflects growing economic integration among member states and the continued importance of the EAC in promoting regional markets and cooperation.

As the new chairperson, President Museveni will be expected to steer the regional bloc through its financial constraints, address security concerns, and accelerate economic and political integration among member states.

His leadership comes at a critical moment for the EAC as it seeks to strengthen institutions, expand trade, and deepen cooperation among its partner states.



President Yoweri Museveni showing his EAC tools of power following his appointment by the regional body during the summit in Arusha, Tanzania on Saturday, 7th March, 2026.

MASAKA DISTRICT HOLDS PDM REFRESHER TRAINING TO RESOLVE BACKLOGS AND BOOST PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY



Gorret Katono (standing in front) trainer from the ICT Ministry addressing participants at Kijjabwemi Rehabilitation Centre, on 9th March 2026.

**By Augustine Bukululu,
Communications Officer – Masaka
District**

Masaka District has intensified efforts to improve the implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) through a refresher training aimed at addressing system backlogs and enhancing accountability among program implementers.

The training was held on 9th March 2026, at Kijjabwemi Rehabilitation Centre and brought together Parish Development Committee (PDC) members, SACCO board members, parish chiefs, IT officers, pillar managers, and other key stakeholders involved in PDM activities across the district.

The meeting primarily focused on

resolving a 'system backlog,' referring to beneficiaries who had received funds but were not captured in the official digital platform used to manage the program.

During the initial PDM rollout, beneficiaries accessed funds through commercial banks after opening accounts linked to parish SACCOs. The government later introduced a digital platform, the Financial Inclusion System (FIS), which allows funds to be sent directly to beneficiaries via their mobile phones using the WENDI system.

To tackle the backlog, the Masaka District Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) requested support from the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, which deployed trainers to guide implementers at both district and

parish levels on how to properly capture beneficiaries in the digital system.

Therefreshertainingalsoemphasized the importance of encouraging beneficiaries to start repaying funds, as the grace period for repayment had already expired.

Masaka District has 18 parishes, each with a SACCO under the PDM framework. Since its inception, the district has received UGX 6.41 billion, distributed to 6,414 beneficiaries to support income-generating activities targeting vulnerable households.

Gorret Katono, leading the Ministry of ICT trainers, highlighted the simplicity and effectiveness of the Financial Inclusion System if properly managed.

She noted that backlog challenges largely stemmed from limited cooperation among some parish leaders and SACCO officials.

“The ministry remains committed to supporting local implementers in addressing technical challenges, as the Parish Development Model is a key government programme aimed at transforming grassroots livelihoods and must be prioritized,” Katono said.

Deputy CAO Richard Niyonzima explained that the refresher training was designed to address gaps highlighted in a previous Auditor General’s report, which revealed that some beneficiaries had received funds outside the official system.

“Thisengagementis meant to cleanup the system and ensure transparency in program implementation,” Niyonzima stated.

He commended members of the Parish Development Committees for their voluntary efforts in supporting the programme, noting that the initiative mainly targets vulnerable households in rural communities.

“PDM targets the poorest households,



Ssempe Badru Kikulukunyu, a SACCO leader for Mazinga Parish in Buwunga Sub County, addressing leaders about his concerns in the meeting at Kijabwemi Rehabilitation Centre, on 9th March 2026.

and when implemented properly, it can transform livelihoods across our communities,” the Deputy CAO added.

He also urged the district PDM technical team to emphasize fund recovery, noting that the PDM operates as a revolving fund intended to benefit multiple households over time.

Meanwhile, Badru Ssempea Kikulukunyu, a SACCO leader for Mazinga Parish in Buwunga Sub County, called for more regular PDC meetings to monitor SACCO performance, review challenges, and track beneficiaries who have received funds.

“The more frequently the committees meet, the easier it becomes to monitor progress and follow up with beneficiaries,” Ssempea emphasized.

However, Ssempea noted that limited funding constrains committee activities, including monitoring and supervising beneficiaries both before and after they receive the funds.

Despite the minor challenges, the

district and Ministry technical team indicated that the next step will involve field visits to directly engage beneficiaries.

The visits will focus on educating beneficiaries about repayment procedures and tracing those who have not yet complied, as officials note that many are willing to repay but lack clear guidance on how to do so.

With renewed coordination between the district, parish leaders, and the ICT Ministry and Masaka District hopes that the refresher training will improve the PDM system, strengthen transparency, and enhance the programme’s impact on household incomes.

By addressing system gaps, promoting accountability, and guiding beneficiaries on repayments, the district aims to ensure that PDM continues to uplift vulnerable households and transform livelihoods across communities.



Deputy CAO Richard Niyonzima addressing the participants during the PDM refresher training at Kijjabwemi Rehabilitation Centre, on 9th March 2026.

BUTAMBALA LEADERS INSPECT ROAD PROJECTS, URGE FASTER WORKS AMID RAINY SEASON

**By Mariam Nalubwama,
Communication officer –
Butambala District**

Butambala District leaders have conducted a field inspection of key road sections to assess ongoing maintenance works and planned improvements under the Financial Year 2025/2026 road maintenance program.

The monitoring exercise, conducted on 3rd March, 2026, brought together political and technical leaders to assess the progress of ongoing road works, identify implementation challenges, and ensure that government resources allocated for road maintenance are used effectively to improve accessibility for local communities.

The delegation was led by Butambala District Woman Member of Parliament Hon. Aisha Kabanda Nalule, District Chairperson Rashidah Namboowa, Resident District Commissioner Moses Ddumba, and Chief Administrative

Officer Abdulnoor Muwonge Mbaagwa.

Also, present were Acting District Engineer Henry Bakyayita Habib and councilors representing Budde, Ngando, and Bulo sub counties.

During the visit, the team inspected several road sections where the district had planned interventions such as grading, bush clearing, installation of culverts, gravel spot improvements, and routine road maintenance.

Area councilor Betty Nebulizer commended the district engineering department for progress already made in improving road conditions in some parts of the district.

“We appreciate the efforts made by the District Engineer, Bakyayita, whose work has helped improve the condition of many roads in our area. Farmers can now transport their agricultural produce to markets more easily,” Nebulizer stated.

CAO Mbaagwa explained that the purpose of the field visit was to strengthen accountability and ensure that road maintenance benefits communities across the district.

“Monitoring enables us to ensure that government resources are used properly and that services are delivered



Butambala District Woman MP Hon. Aisha Kabanda Nalule, with some district leaders inspecting progress on work done at Bulu Bugobango road in Bulu sub county on 3rd March 2026.

fairly to all communities,” Mbaagwa said.

“Although funding for road maintenance is limited, we encourage the engineering team to continue maintaining the roads so they remain in good condition,” he added.

The District Woman MP Hon. Kabanda urged the district engineering department to speed up the remaining road works, noting that the rainy season could slow progress if projects are not completed quickly.

“Because we are already in the rainy season, the engineering team should fast-track the remaining works so that they are completed before the end of the financial year,” she explained.

Hon. Kabanda also called

for dialogue with ginger farmers in some areas of the district, noting that certain post-harvest practices are contributing to road damage.

“We need to engage stakeholders and find solutions because some farmers wash their ginger harvest on the roads, which damages the road surfaces,” she added.

Resident District Commissioner Ddumba called on community members to support efforts to maintain the district’s road network.

“Residents should help protect these roads by creating proper drainage channels leading to their gardens, as this will prevent water from flowing onto the roads, reduce damage and maintenance costs,” Ddumba said.

Local resident Ivan Ssemanda welcomed the leaders' visit but appealed for additional funding to improve more roads in the district.

"We appreciate the leaders for coming to inspect the roads, but many roads still need attention. For example, Nakijju Road is currently in a very poor condition," Ssemanda mentioned.

He also urged the district's Woman MP to lobby for more funds from government to improve roads across the district.

Responding to concerns raised during the visit, Acting District Engineer Bakayita assured residents that the district engineering

department will continue prioritizing road maintenance to improve accessibility across Butambala.

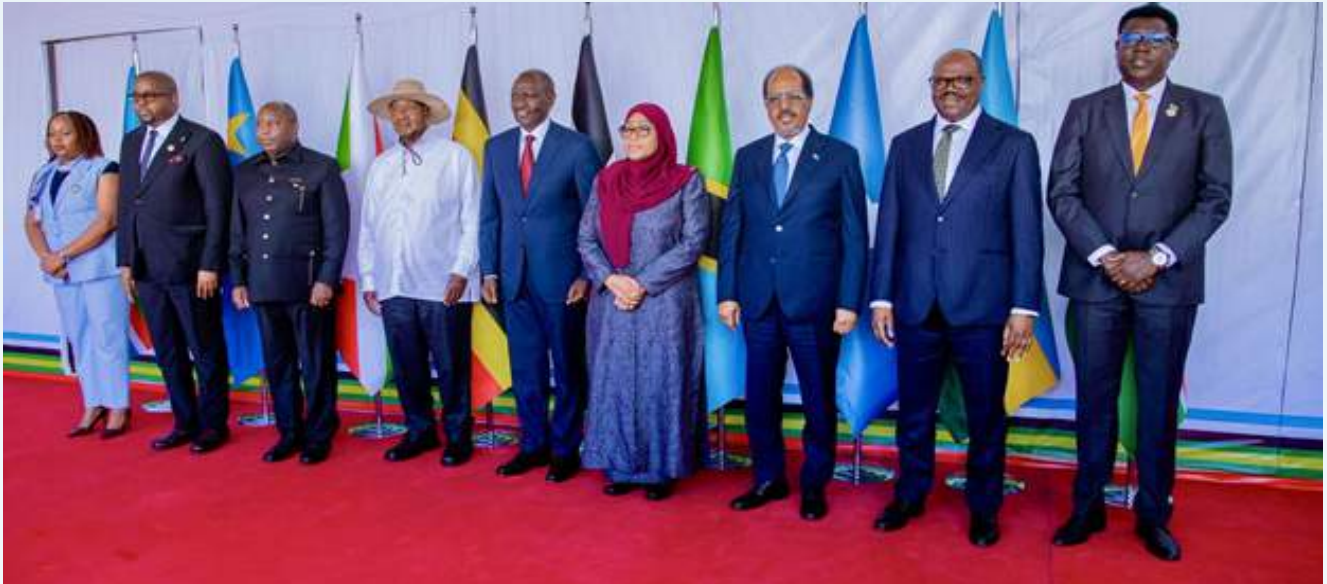
"We will continue strengthening efforts to maintain and improve district roads to ensure they remain accessible to farmers, traders, and other road users," he said.

This monitoring exercise forms part of ongoing efforts by district leaders to strengthen service delivery, promote transparency in the use of public resources, and improve road infrastructure to support economic activity across Butambala District.



Butambala District Woman MP Hon. Aisha Kabanda Nalule, with some district leaders inspecting progress on work done at Kasansala road in Ngando sub county on 3rd March 2026.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI CALLS ON AFRICAN LEADERS TO STRENGTHEN UNITY AND DRIVE CONTINENTAL GROWTH AT EAC SUMMIT



President Museveni poses for a photo with fellow African leaders after being elected chairperson of the East African Community (EAC) in Arusha, Tanzania, on 7th March 2026.

By Cynthea Kamara – Guest Writer

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has warned African leaders against ‘mis-cooking the African revolution,’ calling for decisive economic and political integration to safeguard the continent’s prosperity and strategic security.

These remarks came on 7th March 2026, following President Museveni’s election as chairperson of the East African Community (EAC) at its 25th Ordinary Meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, where he warned that Africa risks undermining its own progress if regional integration efforts are delayed or poorly managed.

“Thank you for electing me as chair of the EAC Authority for the coming year; at this crucial moment in history, I must warn against *okukonesa* (kufubya)

the danger of mis-cooking Africa’s revolution,” the President said.

He used a Runyankore metaphor, describing *okukonesa* as undercooking food by not applying enough heat, warning that, like underdone food that must be discarded, Africa could face serious setbacks if its revolution is mishandled.

Uganda’s President warned that similar mistakes had historically weakened African societies, making them vulnerable to colonization; in that by 1900, nearly the entire continent had been colonized, with the notable exception of Ethiopia, which famously defeated Italian forces at the Battle of Adowa in 1896.

President Museveni emphasized that Africa’s long-term prosperity depends

on creating larger integrated markets and stronger political alliances.

“Modern economics show that wealth comes from producing and selling what you can offer. But to succeed, you need buyers and the more buyers you have, the more prosperous you become,” he explained.

The President argued that economic integration within East Africa and across the continent is essential to creating reliable markets.

“If we fail to act decisively and without delay, we are betraying our people and undercooking the African revolution,” the President warned.

He also highlighted the importance of political integration in enhancing Africa’s security and global influence.

“Strategic security can only come through political integration, including the creation of regional federations where possible,” the President said.

President Museveni highlighted Africa’s untapped economic potential, noting that its GDP of USD 3.6 trillion lags far behind major global economies such as the USA at USD 31.82 trillion, China at USD 20.65 trillion, and India at USD 4.18 trillion.

He emphasized that large domestic markets have enabled countries like China and India to attract investment and expand economically.

“Although foreign markets are important, our domestic market remains the most dependable and it is guaranteed,” Museveni stated.

President Museveni called on Africa’s youth to embrace the ideals of the

Pan-African movement and return to Uhuru na Umoja which means freedom and unity.

He warned that failure to achieve unity would perpetuate economic stagnation and fuel youth migration.

“Why are African youth dying in the Mediterranean trying to reach Europe? It is the narrowness of Africa’s economy, which fails to create sufficient jobs,” the President mentioned.

Museveni concluded by calling on African leaders and citizens to reaffirm their commitment to unity and continental cooperation.

“Africa is still here. We may have missed some opportunities, but we can still catch up. God bless Africa,” the President concluded.

The EAC, which currently includes Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Somalia, is pursuing deeper regional integration through a customs union, a common market, and the long-term goal of a political federation.

By strengthening regional markets, promoting political unity, and empowering the youth, Africa can reverse lost opportunities, reduce economic inequalities, and emerge as a formidable global player, therefore President Museveni’s call serving as a reminder that the continent’s immense potential depends on the commitment of its leaders and citizens to cooperation, integration, and shared prosperity.

GOVERNMENT EXPANDS SECONDARY EDUCATION TO BUBEKE ISLAND WITH NEW SEED SCHOOL IN KALANGALA DISTRICT



An official from ALPS Construction Company briefing the Kalangala District leadership and a delegation from the Ministry of Education and Sports at the Bubeke Island Seed School construction site in Bubeke Sub-county on 26th February 2026.

**By Geoffrey Ntabaazi Nsumba,
Communication Officer – Kalangala
District**

Kalangala District celebrates a breakthrough in education as the government launches construction of a new Seed Secondary School on Bubeke Island, bringing quality learning closer to island communities.

The ceremony, held on 26th February 2026, in Bubeke sub county under the Government of Uganda's Seed School Policy, was led by the Office of the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), represented by Deputy RDC Henry Ssebunya and Assistant RDC Henry Lubulwa.

The initiative forms part of the Presidential plan to establish a secondary school in every sub-county, bringing education closer to children in rural and remote areas.

With Bubeke now covered, Kalangala District with its six sub-counties and one Town Council has only Mazinga Sub County yet to receive a Seed School.

The new school, valued at UGX 3.4 billion, will be constructed by ALPS Construction Company and is expected to be completed within ten months. The contractor assured stakeholders of delivering quality, timely, and cost-effective work.

During the ceremony, Deputy RDC

Ssebunya urged the contractor to maintain high standards:

“We urge the contractor to take every necessary step to ensure all work is done perfectly because this school is not just a building, it is a promise of opportunity for the children of Kalangala,” Ssebunya stated.

Key stakeholders at the ceremony highlighted the significance of the government’s investment.

Grace Kansiime, Special Presidential Assistant on Special Duties from the Ministry of Education, highlighted that the initiative brings secondary schools closer to island communities, advancing the President’s vision of equitable access to education and removing barriers that have long hindered island children from pursuing their dreams.

“This project brings education closer to every child, realizing the President’s vision of equal access and opening doors that were once out of reach for island students,” Kansiime said.

District Engineer Eng. Yiga Francis highlighted that the government’s commitment to building educational infrastructure demonstrates a clear focus on prioritizing learning, and that the new school will serve as a symbol of progress for Bubeke and surrounding communities.

“Investing in education infrastructure shows the government’s dedication to learning. This school will be a shining example of progress for Bubeke and its neighboring communities,” Eng. Yiga Francis explained.

Additionally, the district Chief

Administrative Officer, Richard Sebandeke, emphasized the central role of education in development, noting that the new Seed School brings Kalangala closer to universal access and guarantees that every child has an opportunity to learn.

“This Seed School brings Kalangala closer to universal education, giving every child the chance to learn and succeed,” the CAO mentioned.

Meanwhile, the Community Development Officer representative Willy Nkumbi Willy noted that the relief and hope the school brings to local families.

“Parents will no longer have to send their children far away for secondary education as this school will strengthen families and communities while nurturing future leaders,” the CDO pointed out.

Once completed, the Bubeke Seed School will bring 90% of Kalangala’s sub-counties and its Town Council under the Seed School initiative. The expansion is expected to improve literacy rates, reduce dropout levels, and enhance educational outcomes across the district.

This project shows government’s commitment to equitable education access and reflects a long-term investment in the future of Uganda’s youth, particularly in marginalized island communities.

ANTHRAX OUTBREAK IN LYANTONDE PERSISTS AS CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL PRACTICES HINDER CONTROL EFFORTS

**By Wilson Kutamba,
Communication
Officer – Lyantonde
District**

Efforts to contain the ongoing anthrax outbreak in Lyantonde District are facing major challenges as cultural beliefs and traditional practices continue to hinder public health interventions, authorities have revealed.

The outbreak, which began in January 2026, has so far resulted in six human deaths and 137 livestock fatalities, with Kasagama Sub County remaining the most affected area.

District officials say resistance from some community members to recommended disease-control measures such as burning or burying infected animal carcasses and seeking prompt medical treatment is contributing to the continued spread of the deadly zoonotic disease.

Anthrax, caused by

the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*, spreads through contact with infected animals or their products, including meat and hides. The spores can survive in soil for decades, making containment particularly challenging once an outbreak occurs.

According to the 2nd March 2026 district situation report, authorities have recorded five confirmed human cases and 12 suspected cases, alongside three confirmed and three probable deaths.

Currently, five patients are admitted at health facilities, while 12 others are receiving home-based care.

On the animal side, 137 livestock deaths have been reported, including five laboratory-confirmed anthrax cases through PCR testing and 10 probable cases confirmed by microscopy.

In his latest report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Lyantonde District Veterinary Officer Dr. Ronald Bameka highlighted cultural beliefs as a major obstacle in controlling the outbreak.

“We have managed to bury 12 carcasses in different areas, but the process has been difficult because some cultural beliefs discourage proper disposal, and in some cases, communities have even unearthed buried remains, increasing the risk of further infections,” he explained.

Dr. Bameka also urged farmers to take greater responsibility for vaccinating their animals.

“The 10,000 vaccine doses supplied are like a drop in the ocean,” he said. “We encourage farmers to work with sub-county veterinary officers to procure

additional vaccines available on the market,” he added.

However, Dr. Bameka welcomed the government’s recent vaccine support, noting that increased vaccination coverage will help reduce infections and protect both animals and communities.

The vaccination campaign is still far below the required coverage level.

Lyantonde District has an estimated 120,000 cattle, 60,000 goats and sheep, and 10,000 pigs at risk.

So far, only 16,500 animals have been vaccinated, including 13,000 cattle and 3,500 goats and sheep, using 10,000 government-supplied doses and 5,000 doses purchased by farmers.

Authorities have rolled out several measures to contain the outbreak, including convening district task force meetings, conducting community sensitization campaigns across four sub-counties, raising public awareness through radio programs,

closing five unhygienic butcheries, and enforcing a ban on the trade of dead animal carcasses.

Dr. Bameka said the district is receiving support from partners including the Masaka Regional Emergency Operations Centre, MAAIF/NADDEC, the Ministry of Health, FHI, FAO, and the Uganda Red Cross.

However, response teams still face significant challenges, including high costs of laboratory sampling and carcass disposal, shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) and limited funding for field response teams.

The District Health Officer (DHO), Dr. Moses Nkanika, said most human infections are linked to contact with animals that died suddenly.

“The victims are believed to have handled animals that died unexpectedly,” Dr. Nkanika stated.

He noted that low risk perception and beliefs associating the disease with witchcraft have discouraged some

residents from seeking timely medical care.

“Most cases can be successfully treated at our health facilities when patients report early. Delayed treatment greatly increases the risk of death,” he warned.

The DHO also warned residents against consuming uninspected meat and praised the coordinated response among stakeholders, adding that by mid-February four deaths had been recorded while two patients were undergoing treatment at Kasagama Health Centre III.

Additionally, the Lyantonde Resident District Commissioner (RDC) David Asaba Nkojo has urged residents to cooperate with authorities and adhere to public health guidelines to control the outbreak.

He emphasized the need for strict enforcement against the handling, slaughter, or consumption of animals that die under suspicious circumstances.

Meanwhile, District LC5 Chairperson Fred Muhangi called

for stronger law enforcement and community education to address beliefs that discourage proper carcass disposal and vaccination.

Authorities are now calling for more vaccine supplies, training of specialized burial teams, and expanded partner support to strengthen veterinary services.

As Lyantonde District grapples with the anthrax outbreak, officials stress that

overcoming cultural misconceptions such as beliefs linking anthrax to witchcraft or reliance on herbal remedies and strengthening community cooperation are critical to controlling the disease.

With increased vaccination coverage, proper carcass disposal, early medical intervention, and continued support from partners, authorities remain committed to safeguarding both

human and animal health.

District leaders urge residents to adhere to public health guidelines, emphasizing that collective action, awareness, and timely interventions are key to preventing further loss of life and livestock, and ensuring long-term resilience against future outbreaks.



A Veterinary officer vaccinating cows in Kasagama recently in March 2026.



A photo of a Veterinary officer administering a vaccine to a goat in Kasagama sub county recently.

BUTAMBALA TEACHERS RAISE CONCERNS OVER CHALLENGES AFFECTING PUPILS' PERFORMANCE AND TEACHER WELFARE

By Mariam Nalubwama, Communication officer - Butambala District

Teachers from several primary schools in Butambala District have raised concerns over challenges affecting pupils' academic performance during a consultative meeting with district leaders held at Gombe UMEA Primary School.

The meeting held on 7th March 2026, brought together educators from Budde UMEA, Gombe UMEA, Kayenje C/U, Butawuka UMEA, Bugobango UMEA, and other schools.

District officials in attendance included Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Hajji Abdulnoor Muwonge Mbaagwa, Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Hajji Moses Ddumba, District Education Officer (DEO) John Ssebakumba, District Inspector of Schools Abdul Matovu,

Education Officer for Counselling and Guidance Paul Lule, and Education Officer for Special Needs James Etiang.

During the meeting, teachers were given an opportunity to freely express the challenges they face in their profession and the factors affecting pupils' academic performance in the district.

Teachers cited multiple factors negatively affecting pupils' academic performance.

Among the challenges raised were poor relationships between parents and teachers, lack of scholastic materials, pupil absenteeism, poor school infrastructure such as classrooms and toilets, and inadequate welfare support for teachers.

Others highlighted the strain caused by multiple loans taken by teachers, noting that

the resulting stress negatively impacts their professional performance.

Teachers further expressed concerns over delayed promotions, with some reporting that they have served for over 20 years without advancement.

They also raised concerns about instances of discrimination and disrespect from certain headteachers.

Several teachers requested anonymity while sharing these concerns, emphasizing the need for systemic solutions to improve both teaching conditions and student performance.

Addressing the teachers, CAO Hajji Muwonge Abdulnoor Mbaagwa called for professionalism, positive attitudes, and a change in mindset among educators.

"Teachers must be smart in front of their



The District Inspector of Schools Abdul Matovu, addressing teachers during their consultative meeting at Gombe UMEA Primary School on 7th March 2026.

pupils and carry respect for themselves while also giving it to others,” he said.

The CAO urged teachers to embrace government initiatives designed to enhance service delivery, including the Terra system for monitoring and management.

“Government has introduced systems such as the Terra system to strengthen monitoring and service delivery. Teachers should embrace such initiatives,” he noted.

Hajji Mbaagwa reassured teachers of the government’s commitment to improving their welfare,

including timely salary payments and future increments, while clarifying that promotions will be phased rather than immediate.

“Your salaries will continue to come on time, and with time there will be increments. Promotions will come, but not everyone will be promoted at the same time. I urge you to remain patient and avoid early retirement,” he explained.

RDC Hajji Ddumba thanked the teachers for raising their concerns, including those affecting pupils’ academic performance, and encouraged them

to continue speaking openly without fear of victimization, noting that honest feedback is essential for stakeholders to address and resolve these issues effectively.

He also advised educators to avoid being overly harsh on pupils and encouraged the formation of a Teachers’ SACCO to reduce reliance on multiple loans.

“Teachers should feel safe to express their concerns. Forming a SACCO can help manage loans responsibly and reduce stress,” Ddumba advised.

Meanwhile, District Education Officer

S s e b a k u m b a emphasized the importance of proper lesson planning and professional conduct.

“Teachers must always prepare their lesson plans on time because proper planning is key to improving pupils’ performance,” the DEO stated.

He also addressed d i s c r i m i n a t i o n , reminding teachers that they serve one nation and must avoid racism or bias in the workplace.

“You are all government workers serving one nation. There should be no racism or discrimination among

teachers,” Ssebakumba emphasized.

The engagement concluded with district leaders promising to address the challenges raised by teachers, while encouraging continued dedication to improving the quality of education in Butambala District.

This consultative meeting showed the district leadership’s commitment to addressing challenges affecting both teachers and pupils.

By listening to educators’ concerns, promoting professionalism, and supporting initiatives such as lesson planning,

teacher welfare, and SACCO formation, district officials aim to create a more conducive learning environment.

The engagement reaffirmed the importance of collaboration between teachers, parents, and district stakeholders to enhance academic p e r f o r m a n c e , improve teaching conditions, and ensure equitable educational opportunities across Butambala District.



A photo of some of the teachers present during their consultative meeting at Gombe UMEA Primary School on 7th March 2026.



EDUCATION, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT KEY TO WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, SAYS PRESIDENT MUSEVENI

Vice President Jessica Alupo during International Women's Day celebrations on 8th March 2026 at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds.

**By Ariella Kantu –
Guest Writer**

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has highlighted that investing in the education and skills development of girls is vital for empowering women and shaping a prosperous, equitable Ugandan society.

Speaking during International Women's Day celebrations on 8th March 2026 at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, his remarks were delivered by Vice President Jessica Alupo as the President attended regional meetings in Arusha, where he was recently elected Chairperson

of the East African Community (EAC).

The ceremony was attended by Chief Justice Flavio Zedler, Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja, Third Deputy Prime Minister Lukia Nakadema, and members of parliament, diplomats, and other dignitaries.

During the event, 34 Ugandans were awarded national medals in recognition of their contributions to the country's development.

The celebrations were held under the theme: "Scaling up investments to accelerate access to justice for all women

and girls in Uganda.

President Museveni highlighted government reforms since 1986 that expanded access to education, particularly for girls, through initiatives such as Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE).

"Providing access to primary and secondary education for all was a key step in empowering the girl child as education ensures no one can be suppressed. That was the start of our reforms," the President said.

He noted that when the



National Resistance Movement (NRM) assumed power, women despite making up more than half of Uganda's population were largely marginalized.

"In 1986, women made up over half of Uganda's 14 million population, yet their potential was largely untapped. Despite being central to the subsistence economy and providing at least half the labour for cash crops, they faced limited education, few opportunities, chronic health challenges, and early mortality," he added.

President Museveni explained that free education particularly

benefited girls, many of whom had previously been denied schooling as families' prioritized boys.

He emphasized the ripple effects of educated mothers on family health, nutrition, and child welfare.

"It is a mother's level of education that determines whether she seeks antenatal care, ensures skilled birth attendance, practices proper nutrition and hygiene, and vaccinates her children, therefore educating and equipping the girl child empowers not only women but society as a whole," President Museveni stated.

The President highlighted government policies promoting women in leadership, including affirmative action in education and politics.

"For university entry, girls are awarded 1.5 bonus points, are eligible to stand for any elective office and also compete for additional reserved seats," Museveni explained.

"This approach has increased women's representation in public offices, where they have demonstrated strong leadership and effective management," he added.

He further noted efforts to strengthen laws

protecting women from violence and harmful cultural practices, including rape, defilement, female genital mutilation, and early marriage, alongside poverty alleviation initiatives.

President Museveni emphasized that when households overcome poverty through sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, services, and ICT, it becomes easier to address women's challenges, and families are better able to educate all their children, noting that infrastructure alone is not enough without active participation in wealth creation.

"When families rise out of poverty through agriculture, manufacturing, services, and ICT, it becomes easier to tackle the challenges women face. Infrastructure

is important, but true development comes when people actively create wealth," the President noted.

Meanwhile, Vice President Alupo congratulated Ugandans for participating in recent general elections and praised citizens for supporting NRM leadership.

She also launched several key policy frameworks, including the Second National Action Plan against Gender-Based Violence (2026–2031), the Uganda Gender and Equality Climate Strategy (2026–2031), and the National Strategy to End Female Genital Mutilation (2026–2031).

Betty Amongi, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, noted International Women's Day as a moment to reflect on

progress and remaining challenges in gender equality.

"We celebrate the courage of ordinary women who tirelessly feed and educate their children, anchoring Uganda as a society. The government remains committed to poverty elimination and women's economic empowerment," she said.

State Minister for Gender and Culture, Peace Mutuuzo, acknowledged gains in women's leadership while warning that gender-based violence remains high, affecting over 50 percent of women.

As the nation reflects on both achievements and challenges, leaders reaffirmed that investing in women is investing in the future of Uganda.

KALANGALA DISTRICT LAUNCHES SKILLS PROGRAM TRAINING TO EMPOWER TEENAGE MOTHERS ECONOMICALLY



The 74 trainees, accompanied by their parents, district officials, and development partners, pose for a group photo before being dispatched to various training centers in Greater Masaka on 18th February 2026.

**By Geoffrey Ntabaazi Nsumba,
Communication Officer – Kalangala
District**

Kalangala District has launched a transformative skilling program to equip teenage mothers and young women with practical vocational skills, opening pathways to economic independence and community development.

The program, flagged off by RDC Fred Badda, on 18th February 2026, seeks to train 74 young women under the Heroes for Gender Transformative Action Programme, offering them an avenue to personal growth and social empowerment.

The selected trainees were taken to the Mammies Training, Lukaya Polytechnique, ST. Agnes Kiteledde in

Kyotera.

Addressing participants during the flag-off, RDC Badda emphasized the long-term benefits of the program.

“This skilling program is a sustainable way of improving the lives of these girls, their babies, and their families. We are hopeful that when they return, they will bring positive change to their communities,” he said.

Godfrey Mukasa, representing the Chief Administrative Officer, described the program as extraordinary in Kalangala and encouraged the young mothers to take full advantage of the training.

He urged them to embrace their role as future trainers, teaching others in their communities the skills they acquire.

“This is a unique opportunity for Kalangala. Learn these skills thoroughly and return as trainers to uplift others in your communities,” Mukasa stated.

Immaculate Akello, a Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Officer at MIFUMI Kalangala, highlighted the program’s social impact.

“Many of these girls had given up due to early pregnancies. We hope to see them return as role models, inspiring other young girls to stay in school and avoid early pregnancies,” she noted.

Meanwhile, Willy Nkumbi, the District Senior Probation and Social Affairs Officer, explained that the skills training will empower the young women to move past their challenges and concentrate on rebuilding their lives.

“This training gives you a chance to leave behind past hardships and focus on creating a brighter future for themselves,” the District Senior Probation and Social Affairs Officer emphasized.

Funded by the Netherlands and Iceland Embassies and implemented by MIFUMI, AMREF Health Africa, and Cordaid, the program targets vulnerable girls and women, particularly teenage mothers, offering them tools to build sustainable livelihoods and economic independence through skills training like hairdressing, tailoring, computer studies, and plumbing.

Since inception, the program has benefited 450 girls and women, providing them with vocational skills

and financial literacy support.

To ensure sustainability, stakeholders recommend the following below to sustain the program’s success.

They emphasized the need for continued support from the government and development partners, as well as integrating skilling initiatives into district development plans.

The stakeholders also highlighted the importance of establishing advice centers and safe spaces for survivors of gender-based violence, alongside effective community engagement and sensitization on the value of girls’ education and economic empowerment.

The Heroes for Gender Transformative Action Programme represents a significant investment in the future of Kalangala’s young women. By equipping teenage mothers and vulnerable girls with practical skills, the district is not only empowering individuals but also strengthening families and communities.

With sustained support from government, development partners, and the wider community, the program is set to create lasting social and economic impact, transforming lives and fostering inclusive development across Kalangala District.

KANJUNJU PRIMARY SCHOOL RECEIVES MAJOR CLASSROOM RENOVATION TO BOOST ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE



Ssemababule District leaders and the School Management Committee of Kanjunju Primary School pose in front of the renovated four classroom block on 3rd March 2026.

**By Namuddu Aminah,
Communication Officer –
Ssemababule District**

Sembabule District leaders have officially launched the renovation of four classrooms at Kanjunju Primary School in Lugushuru Sub County, a project aimed at improving learning conditions and boosting academic performance for pupils.

The ceremony held on 3rd March 2026 was presided over by Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Jane Francis Kagayi and attended by Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Richard Kizza, Superintendent of Works Eng. Denis Ssekitoleko, District Education Officer Kigwe Muhammed, Sub County Chief Pamela Kyobutungi, Senior Labour Officer Annet Natukunda, and other district officials.

During the event, Deputy CAO Kizza Richard urged the school administration, teachers, and the community to ensure proper use and maintenance of the renovated classrooms.

“Government is investing resources to improve education infrastructure, and it is the responsibility of the school administration, teachers, and parents to ensure these facilities are well maintained so that they benefit many generations of learners,” he said.

The deputy CAO further encouraged parents to actively support the school in order to improve academic standards.

“Education is a shared responsibility and the government has provided these classrooms, so I urge parents



Sub County Chief Pamela Kyobutungi socializing with some of the pupils of Kanjunju PS during the launch of their four classroom block on 3rd March 2026.

to actively support the school and encourage their children to stay in school,” he added.

Eng. Ssekitoaleko, the Superintendent of Works, revealed that the renovation project cost UGX 89 million.

He also pledged support in securing land ownership for the school to prevent future land disputes.

“A total of eighty-nine million shillings has been allocated to renovate these four classrooms and enhance the learning environment for the pupils,” Eng. Ssekitoaleko stated.

“We will also liaise with the District Education Officer to survey the school land, enabling the school to secure a land title and prevent future conflicts,” he added.

Head teacher Nicholas Kamugisha expressed gratitude to the government and reported that the school currently has 186 pupils.

“We appreciate the NRM Government for providing support to the education

sector because the renovated classrooms will greatly improve learning conditions for our 186 pupils,” he noted.

Parents and community leaders welcomed the development. Allen Otamwine, a parent, expressed optimism about the impact of the renovation.

“We are very happy to see the Government renovating our children’s school. This will encourage pupils to attend school regularly,” he pointed out.

School Management Committee Chairperson George Kagainah thanked the government but highlighted sanitation concerns.

“We appreciate the renovated classrooms; however, our pit latrine is almost full and may pose a danger to pupils, so we request Government assistance to address this issue,” he mentioned.

Sub County Chief Kyobutungi

applauded the Government's initiative and called on parents to complement the efforts.

"The NRM Government has done a great job, as pupils previously had to travel long distances for education. I urge parents to support the school and not leave everything to Government," she noted.

RDC Kagayi Jane Francis emphasized the role of parents in the holistic development of their children.

"Parents must ensure that children are well-fed so that they can concentrate in class and achieve good academic results," she emphasized.

The renovation of the four classrooms at Kanjunju Primary School marks

a significant step by government towards improving education infrastructure in Lugushuru Sub County.

While the upgraded facilities promise a better learning environment, stakeholders agree that the active participation of parents, teachers, and the community will be vital in maintaining the classrooms and ensuring that pupils fully benefit from the government's investment.

Together, these efforts are expected to boost academic performance and strengthen access to quality education for the school's 186 pupils.



Eng. Ssekitoleko Denis addressing district leaders during the Launch of the four classroom block at Kanjunju PS in Sembabule district on 3rd March 2026.

KYOTERA LEADERS PRAISE RDC MUGUME, DEMANDS ACTION ON PENDING COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS



The RDC, Apollo Mugume addressing councilors during the council meeting at the district headquarters in Ssettuba Ssemakula Hall on 26th February 2026.

**By Ambrose Musasizi,
Communications Officer – Kyotera
District**

Leaders in Kyotera District have commended the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Apollo Mugume, for what they described as his strong commitment to protecting vulnerable residents from illegal evictions by alleged land grabbers.

These remarks were made during a district council sitting held on Thursday, 26th February 2026, at the district headquarters in Ssettuba Ssemakula Hall, where councilors, technical officers, and district leaders gathered to discuss governance and service delivery issues.

Joseph Kagame, the councilor representing Kalisizo Sub County, applauded Mugume for intervening

in several cases where residents across different sub-counties were reportedly being evicted from their land.

The RDC has been a strong pillar for underprivileged communities. His timely interventions have protected residents from unfair evictions and restored hope to many families,” Kagame said.

Kagame noted that such efforts demonstrate leadership that prioritizes justice and the welfare of ordinary citizens, especially those who may lack the resources to defend their land rights.

In response, RDC Mugume thanked the council for recognizing his work, describing the appreciation as a sign of political maturity among the district’s leaders.

“If councilors appreciate my work

even those from opposition parties; it shows political maturity and a shared commitment to serve our people. Together, you are helping unite the district,” Mugume stated.

He reaffirmed his commitment to protecting lawful landowners and ensuring that government programs benefit all residents without discrimination.

“As leaders, our duty is to safeguard the rights of our people, and when we work together beyond political differences, we strengthen service delivery and build trust in government,” the RDC added.

Despite the commendations, the council session was also marked by strong calls for accountability, with several leaders expressing frustration over the failure to implement resolutions passed in earlier meetings.

Tony Kalyango, the councilor representing Lwankoni Sub County, warned that convening new council sessions while previous decisions remain unimplemented undermines the authority of the district council.

“It is unlawful to convene another council sitting when resolutions from previous meetings have not been implemented, because doing so undermines the authority of the council, which is the supreme organ of the district,” Kalyango emphasized.

He mentioned that council resolutions are not mere suggestions but binding directives meant to improve service delivery and

respond to community concerns.

“We were elected to represent the people. If our resolutions are ignored, then we are failing the citizens who entrusted us with leadership,” Kalyango added.

The Speaker of the District Council, Francis Xavier Lubinga, who chaired the meeting, echoed the concerns raised by councilors and called for greater accountability from technical officers responsible for implementing council decisions.

“The council and its resolutions must be respected, noting that these leaders were elected by the people who expect improved services, and it is their responsibility to ensure that what is agreed upon results in tangible outcomes for the communities,” he noted.

Lubinga also emphasized that effective governance depends on close cooperation between political leaders and the technical staff, urging implementing departments to treat council resolutions with urgency.

“For governance to work, political and technical teams must act together. Every council decision must be turned into action immediately,” he concluded.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment by councilors to closely track the implementation of pending resolutions to ensure accountability within the district administration.

Leaders agreed that effective implementation of council decisions

is essential for maintaining the credibility of the council and delivering meaningful development to the people of Kyotera.

The Speaker later adjourned the sitting until 10th March, with councilors sending a clear message that future discussions must build on progress not unresolved directives.

As the district prepares for its next council session, leaders emphasized that resolutions passed in the council chamber must translate into real action on the ground that benefits the people of Kyotera District.

KALUNGU DISTRICT LAUNCHES NEW CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TO BOOST EDUCATION

**By Muwonge Baker,
Communications
Officer – Kalungu
District**

Kalungu District has taken a major step toward improving education infrastructure with the official launch of two classroom construction projects at Bwesa COPE Primary School in Lwabenge Sub County and Kapeere Memorial School in Lukaya Town Council.

The launch events, held on 5th March 2026, aim to improve the teaching and learning environment for both

pupils and staff through the construction of two-classroom blocks and administrative offices at each school.

These projects were officiated by a joint district team representing both leadership and technical arms, including Principal Assistant Secretary Francis Matovu (representing the CAO), District Chairperson Ahmed Nyombi Mukiibi, RDC Seifu Katabaazi, Eng. Marleek Ssebugwawo (Works Department), District Education Officer Moses Isabirye, School Inspector Frank

Ssenyonga, and IT/Communications Officer Baker Muwonge.

Area district councilors and local leaders also joined the events, mobilizing community members to witness the milestone launches.

At Bwesa COPE Primary School, the construction contract was awarded to DAAC Builders and Construction Limited at a contract sum of UGX 86,891,470, while the Kapeere Memorial School project was awarded to JAHE Building Contractors Limited at UGX 86,824,400.

Both contractors

pledged to complete the works according to approved Bills of Quantities (BOQs), within the stipulated timelines, and to maintain high construction standards.

Addressing the gatherings, Matovu, representing the CAO, emphasized the importance of community participation in safeguarding public investments.

“Government continues to invest in improving our children’s learning environment, and I urge school management committees, parents, and surrounding communities to actively collaborate with the district technical team to monitor these projects, ensuring challenges are identified and addressed early, because education is a shared responsibility that requires the participation of parents, teachers, and learners alike,” Matovu said.

District Chairperson Nyombi commended the Government for prioritizing education infrastructure and urged stakeholders to remain vigilant throughout the

construction period.

“These projects demonstrate government’s continued commitment to improving education facilities in our district,” Nyombi stated.

“I also thank the Government for allocating these funds and urge all stakeholders, especially parents and school leaders, to regularly monitor the works so that any inconsistencies can be detected early and corrected,” he added.

RDC Katabaazi applauded the Government for the financial support but reminded stakeholders of the importance of legal compliance and safety standards.

“While we appreciate the Government’s funding for these projects, we must ensure all schools comply with legal and safety standards, as the tragic loss of a pupil in a private school reminds us that safety and legitimacy must never be compromised,” the RDC cautioned.

The district’s technical team also guided

community members on the implementation process with Eng. Ssebugwawo explaining the technical aspects of the BOQs to ensure transparency and understanding.

“The BOQs outline the standards, materials, and specifications required for these projects, so our role as the technical team is to monitor the works continuously and ensure contractors deliver quality structures that provide value for money for the Government and the people of Kalungu,” he explained.

District Education Officer Isabirye highlighted the broader impact of the infrastructure projects on improving access to quality education.

“With these improved facilities, I encourage parents to enroll more children in our government schools,” the DEO mentioned.

“Government is playing its role by improving infrastructure and academic standards, but parents must also support their children and actively participate in their education

journey,” he added.

The launches were met with excitement by parents, teachers, School Management Committees, and pupils at both schools.

Cultural and entertainment performances by pupils showed the enthusiasm and hope these projects have sparked in the communities.

Speaking on behalf of parents, Peter Kisaalu of Lwabenge expressed gratitude to the Government and pledged community support for the projects.

“On behalf of parents, I thank the Government for this important investment. We commit to closely monitor the

progress and provide timely feedback to the engineers,”

“I also urge fellow parents to support our children with scholastic materials and guidance,” he added.

The successful launch of these classroom construction projects reflects Kalungu District’s continued commitment to strengthening education infrastructure and promoting accountability in public service delivery.

Once completed, the new classrooms and offices are expected to ease congestion, improve teaching conditions, and create a conducive learning environment for pupils.

Through collaborative monitoring between district authorities, school leadership, and the local community, the projects are set to deliver lasting value and advance the district’s goal of providing accessible, high-quality education for all.



Kalungu District officials and the technical team officially launching the construction of a two-classroom block with an office at Kapeere Memorial School in Lukaya on 5th March 2026.

LWENGO DISTRICT ROLLS OUT KEY ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECTS TO BOOST CONNECTIVITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

By Ssekabira Peters, Communication Officer – Lwengo District

Lwengo District has taken a major step to improve rural connectivity and spur economic growth with the official launch of road rehabilitation works on various key community roads.

The initiative, held on 9th March 2026, aimed at enhancing transport infrastructure and easing the movement of people and goods.

It was presided over by the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) alongside district leaders and local residents.

The project is part of the district's broader strategy to rehabilitate and maintain vital transport links that connect rural communities to markets, schools, health centers, and other essential services, addressing long-standing challenges where poor road conditions have hindered the transport of agricultural produce and limited access to social services across the district.

Among the roads slated for rehabilitation are the Bwingana–Kawule–Kagaga road, spanning approximately 10 kilometres in Malongo Sub County, and the Bukumbula–Kanku Road, measuring about 8.5 kilometres in Kiseka Sub County.

The Bwingana–Kawule–Kagaga road has been allocated over UGX 84 million, while the Bukumbula–Kanku project is funded with approximately UGX 52 million.

During the launch, District Engineer Robert Kaweesi urged the community to safeguard construction materials, warning that theft or misuse could delay the rehabilitation process, increase project costs, and emphasized that their active involvement is key to the successful completion of the works.

He urged community members to avoid activities that could damage the roads, such as allowing water to erode the surfaces, emphasizing that proper maintenance and responsible use are essential to keeping the roads in good condition for years to come.

“Let us all take responsibility for our roads; prevent erosion, maintain them properly, and they will serve our communities for years,” the district engineer stated.

Kaweesi also highlighted that the projects would provide employment opportunities, as the district plans to recruit casual laborers from the surrounding communities.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Alex Nyende assured the community

that the central government provided the funds for the road rehabilitation specifically to enhance the district's road network and improve service delivery.

Nyende encouraged residents to make proper use of the rehabilitated roads, noting that better transport links would facilitate movement of agricultural produce to markets, improve access to schools and health facilities, and enhance trade within and beyond the district.

"These rehabilitated roads will ease the movement of produce, improve access to schools and health services, and open up trade within and beyond the district. I urge everyone to use them responsibly," the Deputy CAO said.

He also emphasized that the government remains committed to investing in rural infrastructure to enhance livelihoods and improve the well-being of local communities.

RDC Emmy Kateera lauded the government and district leadership for prioritizing rural road development, emphasizing that infrastructure improvements are essential for accelerating local development and reducing poverty.

He urged residents to actively support and protect the ongoing works, adding that the success of the project depends on strong cooperation between government officials and the local community,

The RDC also tasked the elected road user committees with closely monitoring the progress of the

rehabilitation works and reporting any suspicious activities, emphasizing that community oversight is vital for ensuring transparency and accountability in the implementation of government-funded projects.

"I urge residents to remain vigilant and protect all construction materials and equipment from theft or vandalism, as safeguarding these resources is crucial for the success of the project," the RDC noted.

Residents welcomed the initiative with optimism. Ben Mukasa, a resident of Dongwa Village in Kiseka Sub County, thanked President H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for fulfilling his promise of improving rural roads.

He urged fellow community members to actively participate in 'Bulungi Bwansi' – the spirit of voluntary work, to maintain the roads after completion and prevent damage to road reserves and drainage channels, emphasizing that proper maintenance will extend the lifespan of the rehabilitated roads and ensure communities fully benefit from the government's investment.

"The success and longevity of these roads depend on our collective effort. I call on all residents to volunteer, maintain the roads, and protect drainage channels so the community can fully benefit from this project," Mukasa emphasized.

The road rehabilitation works are expected to commence immediately, with authorities calling on all residents to cooperate fully with technical teams to ensure timely and successful completion.

With the launch of these key road rehabilitation projects, Lwengo District is taking a decisive step toward improving rural infrastructure, boosting local trade, and enhancing access to essential services.

By combining government

investment, technical expertise, and active community participation, the district aims to ensure that these roads not only improve connectivity but also create lasting economic and social benefits for residents.



RDC Emmy Kateera, accompanied by other district officials, launching the rehabilitation of the Bwingana-Kawule-Kagaga Road in Malongo Sub county on 9th March 2026.

NEW SOLAR-POWERED WATER PROJECT SET TO BOOST RURAL WATER ACCESS IN LYANTONDE



Lyantonde district leaders and Ministry of Water officials at the construction site for the Katovu-Kyemamba Solar-Powered Water Supply System at Katovu Hill, on 6th March 2026.

**By Wilson Kutamba,
Communication Officer
- Lyantonde District**

Residents of Lyantonde District are set to benefit from improved access to clean and reliable water following the official handover of the construction site for the Katovu-Kyemamba Solar-Powered Water Supply System (SPWSS) to Indian engineering firm Shakti Pumps.

The site was handed over on 6th March, 2026, at Katovu Hill, where the main facility will be installed, marking the start of construction works on the key rural water infrastructure

project.

It attracted several leaders and stakeholders, including representatives from Lyantonde and Lwengo districts, Lyantonde Woman MP-elect Doreen Katushabe Birungi, officials from NWSC, representatives from Shakti Pumps, and Ministry of Water and Environment staff led by Project Manager Eng. David Bateganya.

This initiative is being implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in collaboration with Lyantonde District Local Government and the National Water and

Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) as part of efforts to expand access to safe water in underserved rural communities.

The Katovu-Kyemamba system forms part of a broader \$35 million (approximately UGX 130 billion) government project funded through the Ministry of Water and Environment with support from the India Export-Import (EXIM) Bank.

The programme, titled 'Supply and Installation of Solar-Powered Water Supply Systems in Rural Areas with Coverage Below 50%,' has already rolled out 52 solar-powered water systems

across 23 districts nationwide.

In southwestern Uganda, the project targets Kisoro, Rubanda, and Lyantonde districts to address persistent water shortages and improve access to clean water.

The Katovu–Kyemamba solar water system will feature a solar-powered pumping booster station at Katovu with a pumping capacity of 4.9 cubic meters per hour at a head of 124 meters.

This facility will operate using 16 solar panels, each rated at 335 watts, and will include approximately 800 meters of transmission pipelines supplying water to a 65-cubic-metre reservoir tank.

From the reservoir, a distribution network covering more than 75 kilometers will deliver water to surrounding communities.

Additional pipeline extensions will be undertaken by Lyantonde District Local Government and NWSC to serve residents in Katovu, Mpumudde, and Kicwamba, covering roughly 70 kilometres of

pipeline in total.

Once completed, the project is expected to significantly improve water access for communities that have long relied on distant or unsafe water sources.

Lyantonde District Chairperson Fred Muhangi welcomed the development, expressing optimism that the long-standing water challenges facing the district will soon be addressed.

“I will leave office in May with peace of mind knowing that our people will soon have reliable access to clean water,” he said.

The Resident District Commissioner (RDC) David Asaba Nkojo described the project as a major step toward resolving chronic water shortages in the district.

Similarly, Lyantonde Chief Administrative Officer Peter Ruhweza emphasized that the project will transform livelihoods by reducing the time spent fetching water particularly for women and children while supporting public health and local economic activities.

“Access to clean and reliable water is key to development. This project will save time for families, improve sanitation, and create opportunities for economic growth in the district,” Ruhweza stated.

Shakti Pumps, an experienced Indian company currently implementing similar solar water schemes in several Ugandan districts, including Kakumiro, is expected to complete the project using sustainable solar-powered technology.

The initiative aligns with the government’s broader push for renewable energy solutions in rural infrastructure, aiming to expand water coverage in underserved communities while promoting environmental sustainability.

Once operational, the system is expected to provide safe, reliable, and easily accessible water to thousands of residents in Lyantonde District.



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