BUNYORO POST

District Communicators' Newsletter

Date 12 March 2026

Weekly Edition

VOL. 14

Masindi Launches UGX 1.1 Bn Projects to Enhance Service Delivery

Inside Stories

Bunyoro Prime Minister Praises Gov't for Eradicating River Blindness Near Budongo Forest Pg 4

Kiryandongo Deputy CAO Deo Kabugo Hands Over Office After Transfer Pg 6

Hoima City, Masindi and Kagadi leading HIV/AIDs hotspots in Bunyoro Pg 7

Ndagano Faridah

Editor's Note

Editor-in-Chief
Bunyoro Post Magazine
Tel: +256 777410031
Email: bunyoropost@gmail.com

Welcome to the 14th edition of the Bunyoro Post Magazine, your reliable chronicle of life and progress in the Bunyoro sub-region.

This issue shines a light on the forces shaping our future. We examine Kikuube's ambitious development budget, a comprehensive plan set to accelerate infrastructure, health, education, and economic opportunities for its people. In Masindi, multibillion-shilling projects continue to drive job creation, better services, and long-term growth—clear signs of momentum across the region.

We do not shy away from the challenges. The edition presents updated statistics and stories from the region's HIV hotspot districts, highlighting both the scale of the issue and the ongoing efforts in prevention, treatment, and community support. We also track the weighbridges controversy in Masindi, where recent council decisions to relocate facilities aim to tackle persistent sugarcane theft—a problem that continues to hurt farmers, disrupt fair trade, and undermine the sugar industry.

The Bunyoro Post remains a platform built by and for the people of Bunyoro. We warmly invite your contributions—articles, opinions, personal stories, or photographs. Your voice helps tell the full story.

Businesses and organisations: advertising space is still available in future editions. Reach our engaged readership across the sub-region—contact us to discuss placement options.

Together we document, discuss, and drive Bunyoro's journey forward.

KEY CONTRIBUTERS

Faridah Ndagano
Communication Officer, Kikuube District

Alex Tumuhimbise
Communication officer, Hoima district

Brian Atuhura
Communication Officer, Masindi District

Hannington Tibaijuka
Communications Officer, Buliisa District

Emmanuel Murungi,
Communication Officer, Kiryandongo District

George Gulyetonda
Communication Officer, Kagadi District

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, let's continue to chronicle the rise of Bunyoro

Masindi District Launches UGX 1.1 Billion Projects to Enhance Service Delivery

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer, Masindi

The District team posing for a group photo at the In-patient Ward at Bwijanga HC IV that is set for renovation

Leaders in Masindi District have approved the commencement of capital development projects worth UGX 1.1 billion, aimed at improving public service delivery and infrastructure within communities.

The projects were cleared during a two-day multi-sectoral launch exercise held between Tuesday and Wednesday this week. The exercise was led by the Assistant Resident District Commissioner, Patrick Asiimwe, who officially flagged off 19 projects across different sectors in the district.

While addressing stakeholders during the launch, Asiimwe urged contractors to execute the works within the stipulated timelines so that communities can quickly benefit from the improved facilities.

"Contractors must ensure timely completion of these projects to enable the intended beneficiaries to access and utilize the services," he emphasized.

Among the key projects launched are the completion and renovation of a boys' dormitory at the Masindi Centre for the Handicapped valued at UGX 126,468,191, construction of a two-stance line latrine at Ikoba Health Center III worth UGX 21,977,028 and the renovation of the in-patient ward at Bwijanga Health Center IV.

Other works include the spot improvement of the Tura Kaikuku road,

budgeted at UGX

40 million, aimed at improving accessibility and transportation within the area.

Speaking at the same event, the Masindi District Chairperson, Cosmas Byaruhanga, called on contractors to deliver high quality work that will guarantee durability and value for public funds.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Jane Akiror,asked headteachers and health facility in-charges to take an active role in supervising projects within their respective institutions to ensure that works meet the required standards.

District leaders expressed optimism that the projects will significantly improve education, health and infrastructure services, thereby enhancing the well-being of residents across the district.

Bunyoro Prime Minister Praises Gov't for Eradicating River Blindness Near Budongo Forest

By Brian Atuhura, Communication offcier- Masindi

The Prime Minister (centre), posing for a group photo with the District Leadership

The Prime Minister of Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, Andrew Byakutaga Ateenyi,has commended the Government of Uganda,the Ministry of Health Uganda,and development partners for their efforts in combating Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), particularly River blindness in communities surrounding the Budongo Forest.

Byakutaga said the elimination of the

disease has restored productivity and improved the quality of life for residents in affected areas across Masindi, Bulisa and Hoima districts, where communities battled the condition for nearly two decades.

He made the remarks while officiating as Chief Guest during celebrations to mark World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day held at Nyantonzi Health Centre III on Thursday under the theme,"Unite, Act and Eliminate."

"The communities around Budongo forest suffered greatly from river blindness for many years, but through the commitment of the government and partners, the disease has now been eliminated. People can once again work productively and improve their livelihoods," Byakutaga said.

Masindi District Chairperson, Cosmas Byaruhanga, thanked the Ministry of Health for choosing Masindi to host the commemoration, noting that Nyantonzi Sub-County was among the areas most affected by the disease.

Byaruhanga said the river blindness elimination program not only improved community health but also exposed local leaders to international engagements and learning opportunities.

"This project even enabled me to obtain my first passport and travel by air for the first time as we engaged with international partners to work to eliminate the disease," he said.

The Deputy RDC for Masindi, Dhaala Sanon, praised the government's commitment to fighting both political and health challenges affecting Ugandans. However, he cautioned residents against misusing government development funds under the Emyooga program, warning that anyone found misappropriating the funds would face arrest.

Meanwhile, the Chief Administrative Officer of Masindi District, Samuel Ruhweza Kaija, said the elimination of river blindness has contributed to improved school enrolment, particularly in Nyantonzi Sub-County where many families had previously been affected by the disease.

He called on the Ministry of Health and partners to sustain surveillance efforts

The Chief Guest being briefed on the spread of NTDs, particularly river blindness

to address other Neglected Tropical Diseases that may still threaten communities around Budongo.

Masindi District Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Kwikiriza Magambo, explained that the elimination of river blindness was achieved through mass administration of ivermectin medicine, which helped control measures targeted the black flies that breed in fast flowing rivers.

He noted that continued monitoring and community awareness will be critical to ensuring the disease does not re-emerge in the region.

Kiryandongo Deputy CAO Deo Kabugo Hands Over Office After Transfer

By Emmanuel Murungi, Communication Officer, Kiryandongo District

Kiryandongo District staff pose for a group photo with Deo Kabugo the outgone Deputy CAO

The handover ceremony marked the end of Kabugo's tenure in Kiryandongo, where he served as Deputy CAO from December 2024 to February 2026.

During the brief ceremony attended by district officials and staff, Kabugo expressed appreciation to the leadership and technical team of the district for the cooperation and support they accorded him throughout his time in office.

In his remarks, Kabugo thanked the staff of Kiryandongo District Local Government for their commitment to duty and teamwork, noting that the support he received enabled him to execute his responsibilities effectively.

"I would like to sincerely thank the entire staff of Kiryandongo District for the cooperation and support you extended to me during my tenure. The teamwork

and dedication I witnessed here made it possible for us to serve the people of this district effectively," Kabugo said.

Kabugo encouraged staff to continue working together to strengthen service delivery and support the district leadership in implementing government programs aimed at improving the welfare of the community.

Following the handover, the Principal Assistant CAO, Denis Dacan, officially assumed responsibility for the office. Dacan commended Kabugo for accepting to serve in Kiryandongo and acknowledged his contribution to the district during his time in office.

Dacan described Kabugo as a dedicated and result-oriented administrator whose leadership style fostered teamwork and professionalism among staff.

"Mr. Kabugo has been a soft-spoken, sober, and result-oriented administrator. We appreciate the service he has rendered to Kiryandongo District and wish him success in his new assignment in Kisoro," Dacan said.

He assured staff and district leadership that the administration would continue to build on the progress made and maintain effective coordination of government programs and service delivery.

Kabugo is now moving to Kisoro District Local Government to take up his new assignment as part of the ongoing administrative transfers within the public service aimed at strengthening management and service delivery across the different districts across the country.

Hoima City, Masindi and Kagadi leading HIV/AIDs hotspots in Bunyoro

By Alex Tumuhimbise, Communication Officer- Hoima

Different stakeholders from Bunyoro region attended a one day engagement at Glory Summit Hotel in Hoima City on how use mass media to spread the messages on HIV prev

Stakeholders in Bunyoro Region have called for consorting efforts to avert the escalating trend of new HIV/AIDs infections among young people.

According to the HIV/AIDs status report for Bunyoro Region presented by Brian Masimbi the Data Manager at Uganda AIDs Commission during a stakeholder's engagement held at Glory Summit Hotel on Wednesday, Bunyoro HIV prevalence rate stands at 4.7% slightly below the national prevalence rate of 4.9% for the age category of 15-49 years.

Hoima City is leading with 7.7%, Masindi District with 6.1% and Kagadi District with 5.1%.

Others include Kikuube with 4.7%, Hoima District with 4.4%, Kibaale with 4.2%, Kiryandongo with 4.3%, Kakumiro district with 4% and Buliisa district with the lowest prevalence rate of 3.2%.

Kakumiro District is leading with new HIV infections among people aged 15 years and above with 466 cases, Masindi with 388,Kagadi with 382,Kikuube with 358, Hoima District with 222,Kiryandongo with 249,Kibaale-182 and Buliisa with 102 cases.

The Hoima Resident City Commission Member Badru Mugabi in his remarks appealed to all stakeholders to implement the Presidential First Track Initiative on averting HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by mainstreaming HIV fight in all activities across all government programs.

Mugabi says HIV/AIDs remains an issue of national concern more especially during this dynamic digital era that has exposed young people to the dangers of getting infected.

Hoima City Deputy Mayor Sylivia Nalumaga said the increasing new infections among young people calls for parents to wake up and fulfill their cardinal obligations of responsible parenting and also reminding young people of the dangers of the scourge.

During the engagement organized by Uganda AIDS Commission, different stakeholders who include the Local leaders, HIV/AIDS activists, Civil Society Organizations, HIV focal persons and media have been trained on how to educate the public on HIV prevention through mass media.

Masindi District Council Approves Relocation of Weighbridges to Curb Sugarcane Theft

By Brian Atuhura - Communication Officer- Masindi

Leaders in Masindi District have approved the relocation of weighbridges as part of new measures aimed at addressing the growing problem of sugarcane theft affecting farmers in the district.

The decision was reached during a council meeting held recently,

The Secretary for Production, Geoffrey Kiiza Bigabwa,seated on the left after tabling the motion of relocation of weighbridges

where councilors deliberated on a motion presented by the Secretary for Production, Geoffrey Kiiza Bigabwa, outlining a series of recommendations to strengthen regulation of the sugarcane trade.

While presenting the motion, the Secretary for Production tabled 13 recommendations intended to curb the theft of sugarcane and improve accountability in the transportation and marketing of the crop. The council approved the proposals with several amendments aimed at tightening enforcement.

Among the key resolutions adopted was a directive requiring all vehicles transporting sugarcane to be clearly labeled with the name or abbreviation of the company they represent, together with their number plates, to ease identification and traceability.

Council also resolved that weighbridges should be strategically located along major transportation routes and operated by licenced companies handling sugarcane. The move is intended to regulate the weighing process and ensure compliance with provisions of the Sugar Act, 2025 and its regulations.

In addition, council directed that all vehicles carrying sugarcane must obtain a weighbridge docket, with both the transporter and the farmer retaining copies for record and accountability purposes.

District leaders noted that the new measures are expected to enhance transparency in the sugarcane value chain, protect farmers from losses and restore confidence among growers who have repeatedly raised concerns about theft and irregular cane transportation.

The council emphasized that strict enforcement of the new guidelines will be key to safeguarding the livelihoods of sugarcane farmers across the district.

Rebuilding Hope in Kyangwali as New Environmental Project Takes Root

By Faridah Ndagano, Communication Officer- Kikuube

A new wave of environmental restoration is unfolding in the Kyangwali refugee settlement, where a major reforestation and clean energy initiative is beginning to transform both the landscape and the lives of the people who live there.

The Refugee Environment Fund—a collaborative effort led by Tree Aid, FARM, and partner organizations—is launching a series of projects aimed at reviving degraded land and expanding access to safer, more sustainable energy sources. The initiative is fully funded by UNHCR.

According to project leaders, the program is designed not only to rehabilitate the environment but also to equip both refugees and host communities with long term solutions

to daily challenges, particularly the growing scarcity of firewood.

At the center of the effort are new woodlots and the promotion of eco friendly cooking technologies. These interventions aim to reduce pressure on surrounding forests, curb fuelwood shortages, and help households transition to cleaner, healthier energy practices. Residents are receiving training in tree planting, land restoration, and the use of alternative fuel options.

"It's more than just trees," said one local beneficiary. "It's hope—a future where we coexist with nature."

As activities expand across the settlement, community members say the project is also strengthening social ties. Refugees and local residents are working side by side to cultivate seedlings, restore soil health, and foster a greener, more resilient environment.

With each newly planted tree, the initiative is laying the foundation for a future in which both people and nature can thrive.

Kikuube District Council Presents Ambitious UGX 35.9 Bn Budget for FY 2026/2027

By Faridah Ndagano, Communication Officer- Kikuube

The Kikuube District Council on Thursday tabled draft budget estimates, the Annual Work Plan, and the Revenue Enhancement Plan for the 2026/2027 financial year during a sitting held at the district headquarters. The session was chaired by the District Speaker, Hon. Christopher Nkalu.

Presenting the draft budget, the Secretary for Finance, Hon. Nyakahara Zulia Mbalirwa, announced that the district plans to spend UGX 35.9 Bn in the upcoming financial year. The figure reflects a slight increase compared to the budget for the previous financial year.

During the same sitting, the council approved a motion to recognize and reward top-performing health facilities under the ACE-Bunyoro Project, a program supported by Baylor Uganda. The awards were given to facilities that demonstrated exceptional performance in delivering health services within the district.

The recognized health facilities included Rwenyawawa Health Centre III, Nsozi Health Centre III, Kikuube Health Centre IV, and Kikuube District for its unwavering support throughout the project's implementation.

The ACE-Bunyoro Project was a five-year initiative that concluded in October 2025. It focused on strengthening comprehensive HIV and TB services across the district, including testing, treatment, and the enrollment of HIV/AIDS patients onto antiretroviral therapy.

GET FREE ADVERTISING WITH BUNYORO POST WEEKLY BULLETIN!

Get in touch with Bunyoro Post Magazine

Tel: +256 777410031 | **Email:** bunyoropost@gmail.com

Reach a dedicated audience in the Bunyoro region and beyond. Limited time offer, don't miss out!

Thank you for reading Bunyoro Post Weekly Bulletin! Stay informed, stay engaged!

Bunyoro Post is published by the District Communication Officers of Bunyoro Sub-Region.

BUNYORO POST