



Feature Story | Pg. 03

Pallisa District Council Resolves Service Commission Leadership, Clears Path for Recruitment

THE EDITORS NOTE

This edition highlights the dynamic efforts driving development across Greater Bukedi. We celebrate Hon. Amb. NekesaBarbra, whose donation of a bus to Buhobe Primary School rewards civic participation and encourages community engagement.

In Busia, the 9th cohort of farmers graduated under the MelacAgriProject, enhancing food security and household incomes. Tororo District advances infrastructure development as the UCMID Project accelerates road acquisition, improving market access. Meanwhile, USSSA has strengthened school sports management in Pallisa, empowering educators and students.

These stories reflect our region's commitment to inclusive growth, youth empowerment, and community progress.

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Pallisa District Council Resolves Service Commission Leadership, Clears Path for Recruitment

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa -DLG

The Pallisa District Council has resolved the leadership of its District Service Commission, clearing the way for lawful recruitment and improved service delivery.

During an emergency sitting held on February 13, 2026 at the District Council Chambers in Pallisa District, councillors unanimously appointed Legesi Stephen Mwanika as Chairperson of the District Service Commission and renewed the term of Dorothy Otim as the representative of Urban Councils. Deputy Speaker Omugit Joshua chaired the session.

Council acted swiftly after concerns raised by the Inspectorate of Government led to the suspension of an earlier recruitment exercise over alleged unlawful conduct. Leaders said consultations with the Inspectorate guided the district on the correct legal path, including constituting the commission fully before resuming recruitment

or engaging another district's commission in line with the law.

District Chairperson Opakasi Clement welcomed the resolution after joint consultations between political and technical leaders, council agreed to proceed with recruitment once the Service Commission is lawfully constituted, describing it as a turning point for the district.

"This decision restores stability and strengthens service delivery for our people. Let us remain united and serve as ambassadors of hope for Pallisa," Opakasi said.

The Chief Administrative Officer confirmed that the decision will enable the district to absorb available wage allocations and minimise financial losses. He added that the administration will pursue re-voting of any unutilised funds in the 2026/2027 financial year.

The resolution demonstrates council's commitment to transparency, accountability and efficient public service, reinforcing

government's broader agenda for inclusive development.



Hon Opakasi Clement



Hon OmugitJoshua, the Deputy speaker

MelacAgri Project Graduates 9TH Cohort of Farmers Boosting Food Security and Incomes in Busia

By Moses Mangeni, communication Officer, Busia DLG

MelacAgri Project marked its 9th graduation ceremony by passing out 20 farmers from Ajuket Parish in Buteba Sub County as the district strives to promote and strengthen agriculture. The farmers were equipped with agronomy skills to enhance food security and household incomes amidst ongoing poverty challenges.

Speaking during the ceremony held on February 13, 2026, at its offices in Ndaiga, Jackline Masika, representing the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), urged the graduands to apply their newfound knowledge diligently. She further emphasized the ripple effect of knowledge sharing.

“Go and put into practice the acquired skills, and also train others in your communities as ambassadors of good farming,” said Masika.

Mary Suart Nakalembe, representing the District Production Officer, praised the initiative and encouraged expansion. She promised support

for fish farming ventures, calling on MelacAgri Project to explore this avenue.

“We will back the organization and any farmers ready to venture into fish farming,” said Nakalembe.

Project Director Lakitari Louis seized the moment to advocate for broader support. He appealed to the government to back such transformative programs aimed at lifting communities from poverty. During his remarks, Louis announced a new venture: the Busia Development Agri Cooperative Savings. He further encouraged members of the public to join and be part of our efforts to eradicate poverty in the district.

The graduands received certificates of completion, along with improved soybean and maize seeds to kickstart their practical application of skills. The ceremony drew district officials, Busitema Sub County leaders, representatives from the RDC’s office, farmers, and local leaders, underscoring community-wide

commitment to sustainable agriculture.

MelacAgri Project's ongoing role in fostering resilient farming practices, is viewed as promising brighter prospects for food security and economic upliftment in the district.



Graduands pose for a group photo with the Officials



Chairperson of the farmer (with cape) is handed seeds during the graduation

HON. AMB. Nekesa Barbra Donates Bus to Buhobe Primary School for Top NRM Voter Turnout

*By Moses Mangeni, Communication
Officer, Busia DLG*

Hon. Amb. Barbra Nekesa has fulfilled a key campaign promise by donating a brand new bus to Buhobe Primary school. The gesture serves as a reward for the sub county's outstanding performance in the previous national elections, where it emerged as the top supporter of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) with the highest voter turnout percentage.

The event drew hundreds of pupils, teachers, parents, and local leaders, who gathered at the school grounds in Buhobe, Bulumbi Sub-County to witness the historic moment on February 13, 2026. Hon. Nekesa reaffirmed her commitment to the community.

"During the campaigns, I pledged to reward the sub-county that



Hon. Amb. Nekesa Barbra (right) looks on as the driver starts the bus symbolically as she handed it over to the headteacher

voted NRM with the highest percentage. Today, Buhobe stands tall as the best, and this bus is my token of appreciation and a tool to boost education," declared Nekesa.

The bus, adorned with NRM colors and the school's name, will address long standing transport challenges, enabling safer and more reliable travel for learners attending events, sports, and academic trips.

Buhobe Primary School Headteacher, Ouma Clement, received the keys on behalf of the institution with profound

gratitude.

"We are deeply honored by this generous donation from Hon. Nekesa. Our learners have faced mobility hurdles for years, but this bus changes everything. We commit to protecting it as a cherished asset and ensuring it serves generations of pupils," said Ouma.

The donation shows the growing link between electoral support and community development initiatives in the region, promising enhanced educational opportunities for Buhobe's school going children.

Greater Bukedi Musicians Association Advances Financial Empowerment for Artists in Tororo

The Greater Bukedi Musicians Association (GBMA) trained musicians from across the Bukedi sub-region in Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCO) management to strengthen financial stability and promote sustainable livelihoods in the creative industry.

The training, held at Thunderbolt Bar in Tororo, brought together artists from Tororo, Busia, Butaleja, Budaka, Kibuku, Pallisa, and Butebo. GBMA organized the session in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Uganda National Musicians Federation (UNMF) to equip participants with practical skills in saving, borrowing, investment planning, and cooperative management.

GBMA Chairperson Owere Philip cautioned the association to deliberately prioritize financial literacy to help artists transition from informal earnings to structured economic growth.

“We want our musicians to think beyond the stage,” Owere said.

SACCO trainings equip members with the tools to save consistently, access affordable credit, and invest confidently in their talent. Financial empowerment is central to building a strong, organized, and respected music industry in Greater Bukedi.

Participants received training on forming accountable SACCO structures, promoting transparency, and accessing affordable loans to invest in music production, equipment, branding, and promotion. The sessions emphasized unity and collective responsibility as key pillars for long-term success.

Local media houses, including Rock City Radio and several television stations, mobilized artists and ensured strong attendance, reflecting growing interest in structured financial empowerment within the creative sector.

The initiative aligns with government programs that promote financial inclusion, cooperative development, and youth wealth creation, including the Parish Development Model and Emyooga. By organizing musicians into SACCO structures, GBMA supports national efforts to formalize the creative economy, reduce poverty, and monetize talent.

Participants described the training as timely and transformative, pledging to replicate SACCO models in their respective districts to secure long-term economic stability.



USSSA Strengthens School Sports Management Through Pallisa Training

The Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA) has strengthened school sports management in Pallisa District through a targeted capacity building training designed to enhance professionalism, coordination, and learner safety in secondary schools.

Participants were brought together in a workshop which attracted district sports coordinators, head teachers, and games masters from across the region. Facilitators equipped participants with practical skills in sports administration, competition planning, talent

identification, safeguarding of student-athletes, and adherence to national guidelines in the one day event which took place at District head quarters on February 17, 2026.

Speaking at the close of the training, Geoffrey Langa, Eastern Region Representative of USSSA, said the Association remains committed to building strong systems that support grassroots sports development.

"We are intentionally investing in our coordinators and games teachers because effective sports management starts with strong leadership at the district and



school level,” Langa said.

When capacity is built, discipline, fairness, safety, and structured competition are promoted and this allows learners to discover and grow their talents.

Participants welcomed the initiative and described it as timely and practical. District coordinators noted that the training clarified roles, improved communication channels, and strengthened accountability in organizing school competitions.

The Pallisa training forms part of USSSA’s broader national strategy

to professionalize school sports administration and promote inclusive participation across all regions. By strengthening governance and technical capacity, the Association aims to improve performance at regional and national competitions while nurturing teamwork, integrity, and holistic learner development.

Stakeholders expressed optimism that sustained capacity building efforts will continue elevating the standard of school sports and contributing to national talent development.



UCMID Project Gains Momentum as Tororo Advances Road Acquisition Process

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa DLG

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development has directed Tororo Municipal Council to fast track the acquisition of key roads under the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development Program, clearing the path for the tarmacking of nearly 14 kilometres of roads and construction of a six-kilometre drainage system.

Officials issued the call during a stakeholder meeting in Tororo as government moves to roll out the World Bank-funded urban infrastructure programme aimed at boosting connectivity, trade and service delivery.

The Ministry contracted Trio

Consultants Ltd to design the roads and drainage system. The firm estimates that the municipality will require about Shs57.1 billion to upgrade the roads and Shs3 billion for the drainage works. Consultants have identified 561 project-affected persons (PAPs), but only 161 have so far signed right of way consent forms—an essential requirement under World Bank guidelines.

Roads affected by right of way issues include Commercial Street, Juba Road, Church Chaminula Road and Chaminula Road. Without full consent, the project risks delays.

UCMID Coordinator Emmanuel Odongo said the municipality is actively engaging affected residents to ensure compliance and safeguard the project timeline.

“We are currently in talks with project-affected persons to comply with the guidelines and pave way for the implementation of this transformative project,” Odongo said.

“Apart from right of way, the municipality is ready to implement the project and ensure it delivers lasting impact,” he added.

Odongo urged the Municipal Development Forum and political leaders to mobilise communities to complete the consent process

by the end of the month to enable tendering.

Town Clerk Ayub Kisubi reaffirmed the council's commitment to removing bottlenecks. "We are working to address all barriers, including right of way, so that Tororo does not miss out on this important government

programme," Kisubi said.

The Ministry is in final negotiations with the World Bank to secure funds, signaling strong government commitment to modern urban infrastructure and inclusive development in Tororo.



Photos of Ministry and UCMID Project officials supervising the road works



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