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Busia Commissions 55 UGIFT Irrigation Schemes to Boost Year-Round Farming

THE EDITORS NOTE

This week's Bukedi Post Vol. 11 spotlights decisive government action driving accountability, climate resilience, and inclusive growth across the sub-region.

Inside this edition:

- *Pallisa leaders and the Inspectorate safeguard transparent recruitment processes.*
- *Pallisa advances climate-smart interventions to combat land degradation.*
- *Busia commissions 55 UGIFT irrigation schemes to expand year-round farming.*
- *Busia strengthens oversight of DDEG infrastructure projects.*
- *Tororo verifies municipal groups for Special Grants while reinforcing financial discipline.*

These stories reflect a region focused on service delivery, productivity, and responsible public resource management. Many more updates await you inside.

Enjoy your reading



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Busia Commissions 55 UGIFT Irrigation Schemes to Boost Year-Round Farming

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer, Busia District

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Abdul Nasser Kisuyi Wandera has commissioned 55 micro-scale irrigation projects across Samia Bugwe North, Samia Bugwe Central and Samia Bugwe South constituencies under the Government of Uganda's Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Program (UGIFT) an irrigation programme, significantly expanding year-round agricultural production in the district.

Kisuyi presided over the commissioning exercises from February 17 to February 19, 2026, marking a major milestone in government efforts to reduce reliance on rainfall and strengthen household incomes through climate-smart agriculture.

The Government launched the programme in the 2022/2023 financial year and allocated Shs1.4 billion to Busia District. The installation of irrigation equipment for farmers was financed with Shs885.8 million while Shs570

million supported complementary activities including establishment of demonstration sites and farmer sensitization.

The initiative has directly supported 55 farmers, with Samia Bugwe North benefiting 28 installations. Farmers have contributed Shs256 million, enabling an additional nine beneficiaries, with three more installations expected before the close of the current financial year. District officials report that acreage under irrigation has increased by 545 percent, rising from 17 percent in 2022 to 109.7 percent currently.

Kisuyi urged farmers at Busabale Village in Dabani Sub-county, to maximize the investment.

"Farmers, move away from seasonal slumps. Increase production throughout the year and raise your yields," Kisuyi said.

He further encouraged proper maintenance of the systems in consultation with technical officers and advised farmers to

leverage other government programmes such as Emyooga to expand operations.

District Agricultural Officer Aggrey Mirembe, who serves as the programme focal point person, said Busia ranks among the best-performing districts nationally despite operating without a resident irrigation engineer. The district scored above 90 percent in the latest national assessment and has received two awards from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

“This micro-scale irrigation project is real and transformative. Farmers should shift to high-value crops for quicker returns,” Mirembe said.

District Production and Marketing Officer Dr. Patrick Baraza noted that the systems are reducing overdependence on rainfall and strengthening food security.

Beneficiary Ojambo Justine from Buyuni Village reported improved crop performance, citing thriving cocoa, papaya and banana plantations supported by the new irrigation system.

The programme underscores government’s commitment to modernizing agriculture and improving rural livelihoods through targeted, results-driven investment.



Deputy RDC, Abdul Nasser Kusuyi Wandera (in black suit) commissions on of the sites while stakeholders look on.

Inspectorate, District Leadership Engage Applicants to Safeguard Transparent Recruitment in Pallisa

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa -LG

The Inspectorate of Government has reaffirmed its commitment to a transparent and meritbased recruitment process in Pallisa District, engaging job applicants in an interactive meeting to address integrity concerns and provide clarity on delays.

The meeting organized by the Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO) office on February 16, 2026 brought together applicants who responded to a job advertisement published between November 17 and December 17, 2025. The engagement followed earlier discussions between district leadership and the Inspectorate after allegations of bribery surfaced in the recruitment process.

Chief Administrative Officer Alex Felix Majeme attributed the delay in concluding the recruitment to administrative changes within the District Service Commission.

He explained that the expiry of the term of office of the Commission's Chairperson and the representative for Persons with Disabilities had temporarily halted official business.

"Last week, the District Council approved a new Chairperson and a representative of the Urban Councils to the District Service Commission, and we are now awaiting approval from the Public Service Commission," Majeme said. He encouraged applicants to interact openly during the meeting to promote transparency and mutual understanding.

Regional Inspectorate Officer Fredrick Oketch urged applicants to trust in their qualifications and abilities rather than perceived influence.

"You do not need to know someone influential to secure a government job. If you meet the requirements, you will be shortlisted," Oketch said, adding that the Inspectorate had agreed with district leaders on clear modalities to address

the concerns raised.

He invited applicants to report any cases of bribery directly. None reported paying or being asked for a bribe.

The engagement highlighted government efforts to strengthen

accountability, rebuild public confidence, and ensure that qualified candidates are fairly considered for public service positions.

Mr Oketch Fredrick ,the regional Inspectorate Officer addressing the job applicants



Busia District Intensifies Oversight of DDEG Projects to Strengthen Local Governance

By Moses Mangeni Communication Officer, Busia DLG

Busia District leadership has intensified monitoring of District Development Equalization Grant (DDEG)-funded administration block projects in Tiira Town Council, Namungodi Town Council, and Lumino Sub-County to ensure quality, accountability, and timely completion aimed at strengthening local governance and reducing operational costs.

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Abdul Nassekisuyi led district officials in site meetings on February 20, 2026 around Busia to assess progress, verify compliance with approved Bills of Quantities (BOQs), and resolve emerging implementation challenges. The projects, launched on November 4, 2025, with immediate handover to contractors, are scheduled for completion and handover by May 4, 2026.

Kisuyi directed contractors to strictly adhere to agreed timelines and technical specifications to safeguard public resources and deliver value for money.

"Finishing these projects on time will reduce office rental costs for Tiira Town Council and Lumino Sub-County, freeing resources for other priority community needs," Kisuyi said.

The district allocated Shs 93,009,327 to Tiira Town Council, Shs 89,759,974 to Namungodi Town Council, and Shs 169,987,880 to Lumino Sub-County to facilitate construction of the new administration blocks.

Senior Civil Engineer Bwire Silver, who supervises the works, assured stakeholders that his office continues to provide technical guidance to contractors to ensure full compliance with standards.

"I have aligned all construction activities with the approved BOQs to guarantee required standards and quality outcomes across all sites," Silver said.

Senior Environment Officer Ngolobe Jimmy emphasized environmental sustainability, urging contractors to integrate greening measures into the projects. He pledged technical

guidance on appropriate tree species to improve the environmental footprint of the new facilities.

District Planner Wabwire Patrick expressed optimism over the visible progress, describing the administration blocks as critical

infrastructure that will enhance service delivery and institutional efficiency.

The monitoring exercise highlights government's commitment to prudent resource utilization and improved public service infrastructure at the grassroots.



Stakeholders in a site meeting



Lumino Administration Block under construction



Tiira Town council Administration block under construction

Government Launches Revamp of Tororo Central Market Day Care to Boost Women's Trade

By Okello Mathew Communication Officer Busia -DLG

The Government of Uganda has launched a program to revamp the day care centre at Tororo Central Market to promote uninterrupted trade among female vendors and strengthen women led enterprises.

The Ministries of Local Government and Gender, Labour and Social Development held an inaugural meeting with Tororo Municipal Council officials on February 23, 2026 to roll out the intervention under the GROW Project supported by the World Bank.

The day care centre was originally established in 2021 during the construction of Tororo Central Market to provide safe child care services for vendors and members of the public. The facility struggled to attract children until December 2025, when management reforms introduced new programs that began transforming its operations.

Senior Probation and Welfare Officer Rodgers Golooba from the

Ministry of Gender said Tororo is among 21 markets developed under the Markets and Agricultural Trade Improvement Programme (MATIP) selected to benefit from the revamp.

"The objective is to promote uninterrupted trade among female vendors by reducing the burden of childcare, providing safe learning spaces for children at low cost, and strengthening productivity within the market," Golooba said.

Under the program, government will retool the centre with equipment and build the capacity of existing staff to professionally manage early childhood services. Officials said the intervention will also create employment opportunities and enhance the overall efficiency of market operations.

Tororo Municipal Council Town Clerk Ayub Kisubi welcomed the initiative and pledged municipal support to ensure successful

implementation.

“Tororo Municipal Council fully welcomes this intervention because it directly supports our women traders. When mothers are assured that their children are safe and well cared for, they can concentrate on their businesses, increase productivity, and contribute more to the local economy. We are committed to working closely with the ministries to ensure the centre operates sustainably and serves its intended purpose,” Kisubi said.

The government says strengthening child care services in markets aligns with broader efforts to empower women entrepreneurs and improve inclusive economic participation across Uganda’s urban trading hubs.



Stake holders pause for a photo moment at the daycare

Tororo Verifies Eight Municipal Groups for Special Grants as Officials Warn Against Fund Diversion

By Okello Mathew Communication Officer Busia -DLG

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has verified eight groups in Tororo Municipality for government special grants and warned beneficiaries against diverting funds from approved projects as disbursement begins ahead of the March deadline.

Government officials conducted the verification exercise at the Mayor's Gardens on February 17, 2026 to confirm the existence, preparedness, and eligibility of six Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) groups and two older persons' groups set to benefit from the Special Grant programme.

The initiative aims to empower vulnerable groups economically, expand income-generating opportunities, and enhance their participation in national development.

The verified PWD groups include Agururu A1, Bison A, Amagoro B South, Railway Quarters, Mudakori, and Naluwerere, all

proposing local heifer enterprises. In addition, more than 30 other groups from Tororo District underwent verification for similar support.

Senior Development Officer for Tororo Municipal Council, Emmanuel Odongo Owino, urged beneficiaries to strictly implement approved project plans and use the funds strictly for the enterprises they proposed and consult the technical officers to avoid preventable mistakes.

"Do not divert this money to unplanned activities because that will kill the government's spirit of supporting this program," Owino cautioned.

Under the guidelines, groups must form legally recognized associations, identify viable projects, and submit application forms through the Municipal CommunityBased Services Office before ministry officials conduct a fact finding mission. The approved grants, which vary

depending on enterprise type, will not exceed Shs 5 million per group.

Senior Ministry official Stella Taaka commended the municipal groups for meeting all requirements.

“We are satisfied with the level of preparedness demonstrated

here, and funds will be transferred to the respective group accounts before the end of March,” Taaka confirmed.

The verification showcases government’s commitment to accountability and targeted support for vulnerable groups to drive inclusive local economic growth.



Some of the members of the verified PWDs groups gathered at mayor’s garden

Government Prioritizes Kameke for Climate Restoration Under National Smart Agriculture Project

By Akello Priscilla Communication Officer Pallisa- DLG

Pallisa District Local Government has prioritized Kameke Subcounty, Nyakoi Parish for targeted land restoration under the Uganda Climate Smart Agricultural Transformation Project, a government initiative aimed at restoring 153,000 hectares of degraded land

nationwide.

District leaders, led by Chief Administrative Officer Alex Felix Majeme and District Chairperson Hon. Duchu Patrick, convened the District Implementation Committee to review progress and identify high-impact intervention areas on February 23, 2026 at the District headquarters.

Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) John Robert Opus, Kanyenyeri Christine, and Atai Bennadette guided the team through a sustainable land management assessment, including ground truthing exercises to verify mapped data and accurately determine degradation levels.

Kameke was selected due to its severity of land degradation, community readiness, strategic location, land ownership arrangements, and exposure to land-use pressures.

The project will promote agroforestry, afforestation and reforestation, rehabilitation of degraded watersheds, positive land use change, and adoption of sustainable land management practices.

CAO Majeme emphasized environmental accountability in all development interventions while

thanking MAAIF for the technical support and urging political leaders to mobilize communities for active participation.

"Any activity that affects the environment must incorporate clear mitigation measures. If we manage environmental degradation properly, our communities will benefit socially and economically," Majeme said,

District Chairperson Hon. Duchu Patrick welcomed the intervention and called for collective responsibility.

"This project presents a real opportunity for our communities to embrace climate-smart practices and protect their land for future generations," he said.

The district's engagement under the national program reinforces government efforts to strengthen ecosystem restoration, enhance agricultural productivity, and build community resilience against climate change.

Pallisa District positions itself to contribute meaningfully to Uganda's broader climate mitigation and sustainable development agenda through coordinated leadership and technical guidance.



Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) John Robert Opus addressing the meeting



Dr. Okwalinga Michael, the District production officer addressing stakeholders

RDC Directs Contractors to Deliver Quality and Timely Government Projects in Budaka District

By Iliotu Grace Opio Communication Officer Budaka –DLG

Budaka District leaders have directed contractors to deliver high quality and timely government infrastructure projects to strengthen service delivery and ensure value for public investment. District officials handed over sites to enable contractors to begin implementing education and health infrastructure projects scheduled for completion by May 30, 2026.

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Mr. Steven Ogwang led the engagement which brought together key stakeholders, including the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, District Education Officer, District Health Officer, Acting District Engineer, procurement officials, security personnel, and contractors at Budaka District headquarters.

Ogwang emphasized that government expects contractors to deliver durable infrastructure that meets approved standards and serves communities

effectively. He warned that poor workmanship undermines service delivery and wastes public resources.

“We expect contractors to deliver quality work that reflects government’s commitment to improving services. Projects must meet the required standards and timelines because quality infrastructure strengthens communities and builds confidence in government programs,” Ogwang said.

He urged contractors to strictly follow the Bills of Quantities, cooperate with supervisors, and complete work within the agreed timelines. He also called for professionalism and integrity throughout project implementation to safeguard government’s development agenda.

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Anthony Egesa encouraged contractors to involve local residents in project implementation to create

employment opportunities and strengthen community ownership. He urged communities to support ongoing projects through vigilance and cooperation.

“Government is investing heavily in schools and health facilities to improve people’s welfare, and communities must support these projects by working closely with technical teams to ensure successful completion,” Egesa said.

District Education Officer Richard Waako congratulated contractors on successfully completing the procurement process and urged them to execute their assignments efficiently.

“These projects will improve learning conditions for our children and strengthen the education system in Budaka. Contractors must work closely with technical teams and ensure all work complies with approved specifications,” Waako said.

The district handed over several key projects, including construction of lined pit latrines at Namusita, Sekulo, and Gadumire primary schools, renovation of classroom blocks at Katira and Naboa primary schools, and construction of Phase VII of the district council chambers. Health sector projects include

construction of a ward at Budaka Health Centre IV, installation of incinerators, remodeling outpatient departments, and renovation of staff housing.

The Acting District Engineer Mr. Sam Dida reaffirmed the district’s commitment to supervision and technical support to ensure successful implementation. He emphasized teamwork and adherence to standards as essential to delivering sustainable infrastructure that improves education, healthcare, and livelihoods in Budaka District



DRDC addressing the contractors during a meeting on contract signing and handover of sites in the District Council Chambers.



RDC Budaka Kimbugwe Husairu handing over a site for the construction of a 5-stance lined pit latrine at Sekulo Primary school to the contractor.



Deputy RDC Budaka handing over a site for the renovation of a classroom Block at Naboa Primary School to the contractor.



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